

Newshounds - Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Response
Who is Newshounds made for?	Newshounds has been designed as a classroom resource - a multi-modal program created by teachers, for teachers. Specifically designed for Grades 3 - 6 (primary/elementary school students) it can be completely by students individually or in groups. That said: if you're a home educator or parent and motivated to get involved, be our guest!
Is Newshounds free?	Yes. Newshounds is a free resource, teaching primary school kids to spot misinformation when they come across it online. It's part of our stated mission at Squiz Kids to prepare kids for the online world before they get a smartphone in their hands (and while they're still young enough to listen to the adults in their life....)
When should I teach Newshounds in my classroom?	Newshounds is flexible and can be integrated into your existing schedule. You can teach one lesson per week over nine weeks or condense it into a shorter unit of work with multiple lessons each week. It can be completed as a ready-to-teach end-of-term activity, making it perfect for the last weeks of school when other curriculum requirements may have been met.
How long will the lessons take?	Each Newshounds lesson is designed to fit within a standard 45-60-minute class period. This includes time for listening to the podcast, participating in activities, and engaging in group discussions. Some lessons may have optional extension activities that can be completed in additional time or as homework.
How does the game board work?	Students journey through 'the murky maze of The Internet' with Squiz-E, a detective dog, helping them develop media literacy skills and sniff out misinformation online. At the successful completion of each lesson, they win a new item for their detective kit. By the end of the nine lessons, students earn a detective badge, becoming fully-fledged Newshounds. The game board is available both online and as a printable version, allowing students to add items to their kit after each lesson, making the experience engaging and interactive.
Is Newshounds safe and appropriate for kids?	Absolutely. Newshounds is developed with age-appropriate content and language, ensuring that the material is safe and suitable for students in grades 3-6. The program also emphasises responsible and ethical use of media, teaching students how to navigate online environments safely. Additionally, the activities are designed to be authentic and meaningful to this age group, using real-world examples and scenarios that resonate with their experiences, making learning both engaging and relevant.
How does Newshounds align with the curriculum?	Newshounds aligns with key curriculum areas such as English, Media Arts, Health, Social Studies, and Technology. It supports critical thinking, analysis of texts, understanding of media bias, and the ethical use of technology. The program is mapped to the Australian and New Zealand curriculums but can be used by students anywhere around the world. We are currently updating a curriculum map for Australia, New South Wales, and New Zealand . Newshounds closely follows the Australia Media Literacy Alliance's guidelines , ensuring that students develop skills and knowledge that are both relevant and applicable.
Can Newshounds be integrated into other subjects or activities?	Yes, Newshounds is versatile and can be integrated into other subjects such as Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, English, and ICT. Teachers can use the media literacy themes as a springboard for cross-curricular projects, such as creating news reports in English class or studying the impact of media on society in Social Studies .
How can parents support their children's learning with Newshounds?	Parents can support their children by listening to the podcasts together and discussing the topics at home. They can also encourage critical thinking by asking questions about media content they encounter in daily life. Providing a supportive environment where children feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and questions will enhance the learning experience .
Can Newshounds be used with adults?	While Newshounds is specifically designed for grades 3-6, the fundamental concepts of media literacy are relevant for all age groups. The program's principles can be adapted for adult learners, especially in contexts where understanding misinformation and media manipulation is essential.
Can I just teach one or two lessons?	Yes, you can teach individual lessons from the Newshounds program if that suits your needs. Each lesson is designed to stand alone and covers specific topics related to media literacy. Whether you want to introduce students to a particular theme or supplement other media literacy activities, you can select the lessons that are most relevant for your class. However, for a comprehensive understanding, it is recommended to complete all nine lessons in chronological order.
How do the podcasts work?	The podcasts and accompanying videos serve as the primary content delivery method for Newshounds. The podcasts live on the Squiz Kids website. You can use an interactive whiteboard to play the podcasts and their accompanying videos. Each episode covers a specific theme related to media literacy, using engaging storytelling and examples that are relevant to students . Teachers and

	parents can play the podcasts in class or at home, and each episode is complemented by activities and discussion prompts in the lesson plans.
Do students need internet access to use Newshounds?	Internet access is helpful but not strictly necessary. While the podcasts and some interactive components are online, printed transcripts and offline activities are available. Teachers can download podcasts and materials in advance, ensuring that all students can participate, even in low-connectivity environments.
If I have connectivity issues, can I do Newshounds offline?	Yes. Newshounds has been designed to suit all connectivity scenarios. The podcasts can be streamed or downloaded in advance. Likewise the classroom workbook, teacher manual and board game assets.
How much screen time does Newshounds involve?	Newshounds is primarily an audio resource - featuring video enhancement designed to balance screen time with hands-on activities and discussions. The podcasts are audio-based, allowing students to listen without being glued to a screen. Many of the activities are paper-based or involve group interaction, encouraging students to engage with each other rather than just with a device.
Are there paper-based resources available for Newshounds?	Yes, Newshounds includes a range of printable resources, including worksheets, activity guides, and discussion prompts. These materials complement the digital components and provide a variety of ways for students to engage with the content, catering to different learning styles and classroom needs.
Can I assign the resources digitally?	Yes. The Newshounds classroom workbook has been designed to either be printed off and distributed in hard copy, or assigned digitally - either as a form-fillable PDF or via Google Classroom.
Can my students have their own account?	No. Due to strict privacy regulations, we're unable to host student accounts. The program is designed to be moderated by a teacher or parent/carer.
How can I encourage my kids' school to do Newshounds?	Download and print off/email to your child's teacher or principal this PDF explainer of what Newshounds is, how it works, and how they can join our crusade to arm kids in the fight against mis- and disinformation.
Who created Newshounds?	Newshounds was created by a team of journalists, educators and media literacy experts with input from academic researchers. The program is designed to be both educational and engaging, providing students with the tools they need to navigate today's media landscape confidently. For more about us, click here .
I am a member of the media and am keen to learn more.	We'd love to hear from you. Get in touch with us here .
If your question hasn't been answered, or you're having technical issues...	... get in touch with us here and we'll get back to you as soon as we can (read: as soon our limited resources allow.) Thank you in advance for your patience...