

Newshounds - Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Response
Who is Newshounds made for?	Newshounds has been designed as a classroom resource - a multimodal program created by teachers, for teachers. Specifically designed for students in Years 3-6, it can be completed by students individually or in groups. That said, if you're a home educator, parent or carer and motivated to get involved, be our guest!
Is Newshounds free?	If you're in the great state of South Australia - yes indeed, it is! That's thanks to the investment made by the South Australian Government in its 2026 Budget, which has made Newshounds freely available to every school in the state. If you're located outside South Australia and would like your child or school to have the same free access to this world-first classroom resource, we urge you to join our Media Literacy Mission. Write to the decision-makers in your state or territory and ask them to follow South Australia's lead. Visit our Media Literacy Mission page for the contact details you need and a suggested letter you can copy, personalise and send.
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 also be used as a ready-to-teach end-of-term activity, making it perfect for the final 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 include 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, an internet detective dog, helping them develop media literacy skills and sniff out misinformation and disinformation 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 and become fully fledged Newshounds. The game board is available online and as a printable version, allowing students to add items to their kit after each lesson and making the experience engaging and interactive.
Is Newshounds safe and appropriate for kids?	Absolutely. Newshounds is developed using age-appropriate content and language, ensuring the material is safe and suitable for students in Years 3-6. The program also emphasises responsible and ethical media use and teaches students how to navigate online environments safely. Activities use authentic, real-world examples and scenarios that are meaningful and relevant to this age group.

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How does Newshounds align with the curriculum?	Newshounds supports learning across English, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, Media Arts and Digital Technologies. It develops students' critical thinking, media-analysis and digital-literacy skills, including their ability to recognise misinformation, disinformation, bias, persuasion and AI-generated content. The program has been mapped to relevant Australian Curriculum, NSW syllabus and New Zealand Curriculum outcomes. It also draws on the key concepts and learning outcomes developed by the Australian Media Literacy Alliance.
Can Newshounds be integrated into other subjects or activities?	Yes. Newshounds can be integrated into learning areas including Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, English, Media Arts and Digital Technologies. Teachers can use its media literacy themes as a springboard for cross-curricular projects, such as creating news reports in English or studying the impact of media on society in Humanities and Social Sciences.
How can parents and carers support children's learning with Newshounds?	Parents and carers can listen to the podcasts with their children and discuss the topics at home. They can also encourage critical thinking by asking questions about the media content they encounter in daily life. Providing a supportive environment in which 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 students in Years 3-6, the fundamental concepts of media literacy are relevant to all age groups. The program's principles can be adapted for adult learners, especially in contexts in which understanding misinformation, disinformation 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. You can select lessons that introduce a particular theme or supplement other media literacy activities. However, for a comprehensive understanding, we recommend completing all nine lessons in chronological order.
How do the podcasts work?	The podcasts and accompanying videos are the primary content-delivery method for Newshounds. They are available through the Newshounds platform and can be played on an interactive whiteboard. Each episode explores a specific media literacy theme using engaging storytelling and examples that are relevant to students. Teachers, parents and carers 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 so 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 a range of connectivity scenarios. Podcasts can be streamed or downloaded in advance, as can the classroom workbook, teacher manual and game-board assets.

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How much screen time does Newshounds involve?	Newshounds is primarily an audio resource, with video enhancements designed to balance screen time with hands-on activities and discussions. Students can listen to the audio without being glued to a screen. Many activities are paper-based or involve group interaction, encouraging students to engage with each other rather than only 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 different ways for students to engage with the content, catering to a range of learning needs and classroom contexts.
Can I assign the resources digitally?	Yes. The Newshounds classroom workbook has been designed to be printed and distributed in hard copy or assigned digitally, either as a form-fillable PDF or through Google Classroom.
Can my students have their own account?	No. Due to strict privacy requirements, we're unable to host student accounts. The program is designed to be moderated by a teacher, parent or carer.
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. Find out more about the Squiz Kids team.
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.
What if my question hasn't been answered, or I'm having technical issues?	Get in touch with us and we'll get back to you as soon as our limited resources allow. Thank you in advance for your patience.