



E-Safety - MOMO

Dear Parents,

Following on from the information I circulated regarding YouTube this week, we have received a number of emails regarding the MOMO challenge, which is being widely publicised at present. This is a social media phenomenon which is going viral at the moment, where a creepy face challenges people to do horrific things, such as self harm, culminating in committing suicide. The videos, which target children, have been spliced into YouTube videos - including YouTube Kids - Minecraft, and Fortnite and encourage children to contact 'MOMO' via WhatsApp, which leads to them being sent the 'challenges'. I have attached a number of reports, to provide a broad view of what is occurring, and a guide with information and support for parents in dealing with this issue.

<https://2j39y52a62gm1afygb3g1xbu-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/MOMO-Online-Safety-Guide-for-Parents-FEB-2019.pdf>

<https://www.theweek.co.uk/96248/what-is-the-momo-suicide-challenge-and-is-it-dangerous>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47359623>

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/three-minute-briefing-momo-challenge>

Whilst we have no evidence that any of our children have encountered this, we feel that it is important that parents are fully aware of dangers which children could be exposed to while using various types of social media. I would like to reiterate that WhatsApp has an age restriction of 16 years and children should not be using it, plus, it is imperative that parents monitor their children's online habits at all times to ensure they remain safe when.

Kind regards

Mr Tavender

Deputy Headteacher