



27 February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been made aware of a recent social media challenge targeting children called the 'Momo Challenge,' and we feel we need to make you aware of this. The 'Momo Challenge' is appearing on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube Kids, WhatsApp and on children's games including Minecraft. It also seems to be appearing during harmless YouTube videos popular with young children such as Peppa Pig. The challenge features a frightening avatar who asks its viewers to perform various tasks and provide photos as proof. The 'Momo' threatens those who do not perform the tasks and in its extreme form, the character also tells the child to self-harm and in some cases commit suicide.

You can learn more about the 'Momo Challenge' by visiting the links below. Please be warned that some of the images and stories may be disturbing:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk

www.theweek.co.uk

www.devonlive.com

What parents should do:

- ☑ Talk to your child if they have heard about this challenge and let them know the dangers of it
- ☑ Tell your children to never be in touch with any strangers online
- ☑ Let them know that you are available for a chat if they ever find themselves in uncomfortable situations
- ☑ Discourage your children from being in social media or any platforms that enables them to be in contact with strangers.
- ☑ Let other parents know about this challenge so they are aware of what is happening in the online world.

What should parents do if your child is part of the Momo challenge?

- ☑ If your child has taken part in this challenge then don't panic.
- ☑ Talk to them about the challenges they have completed.
- ☑ Ask them about what information they have shared and how they got to know about challenge.
- ☑ If possible take a screenshot of all the messages sent to your child with regards to this challenge

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☑ Ask to speak to a member of the Designated Safeguarding Team (Mr Moss, Mrs Wilson, Miss Tonner, Mrs Watt) and let them know of this situation.

☑ Share this information with other parents and teachers so they are aware about this challenge.

☑ Don't take their phone away and cut off the internet connection immediately. Explain to them why you need to do this and that you are concerned about their personal safety. Let them know that once you think they are safe and understand the dangers of the online world then they will get the phone back.

Below is information with further advice on how to keep your child safe online.

www.internetmatters.org

www.gov.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk

We urge you to continue being vigilant and to monitor your child's use of social media and the internet.

Yours Sincerely,
Mr Moss.

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