



NANSTALLON SCHOOL



28 February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

I'm sure you are aware from the National news about the **MOMO challenge**.

Momo is a sinister 'challenge' that has been around for some time. It has recently resurfaced and once again has come to the attention of schools and children across the country. Dubbed the 'suicide killer game', Momo has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently (and most worryingly) YouTube Kids.

I attach the **National Online Safety Group guidance issued to help any parents** that are worried about their child unwittingly being subjected to the content.

It is completely understandable that some parents set parental control settings on devices and expect that their children will be safe, not able to access inappropriate content, not make in-app purchases etc. After all, that's how these products are sold to us; a solution. However, a technology tool is never a solution, there is no such thing, it's just marketing-speak. The only effective tool is you; the parents.

As a school, we have significant concern about the some of the apps and games your children are accessing. In particular, 'Fortnite', which is highly addictive and is full of violence. The game is rated above the age range of the pupils at our school so should not be accessed.

Whatever apps, devices or services (Xbox, YouTube etc.) you are allowing your children access to, particularly younger children it's imperative that you have checked them out yourself first.

We accept that there are some really unsavoury apps run by companies which don't seem to care about keeping children safe, and at the same time there are others with amazing 'safety by design' built in, plus a commitment to keeping children safe. But the point is, this can change from one day to the next, and keeping up with it is virtually impossible, whereas talking to your child about having fun but staying safe online, plus showing an interest and discussing how to behave and react is altogether more realistic and productive in the long-term, and more likely to keep them safe when bad things happen on good apps.

Please don't hesitate to talk to myself or Mrs Ellery should you require any further support.

Your faithfully,

Mr Stephenson (Headteacher)

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