



DURRINGTON INFANT AND JUNIOR FEDERATED SCHOOLS

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27th February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Line Safety Alert

At Durrington we view the safety of our children as a priority, particularly when it comes to their online safety. In school we have many filters and blocks that prevent children accessing inappropriate or harmful material while using the internet.

It has come to our attention that some of our children are talking about 'MoMo'. This has come from a small group of children in KS2 but may affect others. The 'game' is called 'MoMo' and can be accessed via websites or apps such as Whatsapp. Whatsapp is currently only allowed for those over the age of 16 years old. Facebook is for those over 13 years old.

MoMo is a sinister looking female avatar that is part of a game. Momo gives instructions to the players as part of the game. The game eventually results in the avatar suggesting that the person takes their own life. The real threat that MoMo poses to the mental health and wellbeing of our children is unclear, which is why we need to be vigilant. There is much reported information in the media, however the actual risk is hard to gauge.

Even without the game downloaded, MoMo references and images can be found on sites such as YouTube and through search engines, so an awareness of what your child is doing online is essential in protecting them. We strongly recommend that you speak to your children about keeping themselves safe online without talking directly about Momo in case it arouses curiosity. You may also want to check your parental controls, search histories and closely monitor what children are using and playing.

Many excellent tips and guidance can be found on the NSPCC's website on how to do this. These can be accessed at www.nspcc.org. On Facebook, there is also a resource 'EST E-Safety' which can give you, as parents, excellent tips to keep your child safe online. Finally, CEOP has many superb resources to help your child understand e-safety in a fun, interactive way and there is also a section with advice for parents <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Further information, including parental guides to most social media platforms can be found on the new "wellbeing" page of the school's website, under parent information section.

We thank you for your on-going support in this matter

Mr M Lewis

Deputy Headteacher

