



Online Safety News

Summer T5 2019

Viral Challenges and What to do!

In response to the recent Momo Challenge hoax, I have collated this advice for parents if a similar situation arises in the future.

It is a sad reality that children are going to see things online that they don't want to see, and we don't want them to see it. You can put as many technical restrictions, blocks, anti-virus and other so-called solutions on your devices and lock your house down like Fort Knox, but these things will sometimes get through. It isn't right, it isn't fair, but it's true.

If you see something being shared by other parents, or if your child reports something, check your facts first. A simple Google search e.g. "Momo hoax" will give you plenty of information. Websites such as That's Nonsense (<https://www.thatnsonsense.com/>) can also be a good source of information.

If your child has seen something like this, it's completely

natural to be shocked, but try not to show that shock. Where did it come from? If on a WhatsApp message is that person known or unknown? If unknown block them. If they have seen it in a game such as Minecraft or Roblox, block and report the user. Make sure you and your child know how to block/report on the apps/games they are using.

If your children are not using the YouTube Kids app, but rather the main YouTube service, ensure you have Restricted Mode set (see below for more information).

Ensure your child knows that he/she can come and talk to you about anything. They won't get into trouble, they won't be judged, you won't take their devices away for something that was completely out of their control.

In order to reduce the risk of children seeing inappropriate content, turn on Restricted Mode. YouTube offers a filter called Restricted Mode that limits the 'iffy' stuff. Go to your account settings page and toggle on Restricted Mode. If you search for information on how to set parental controls on YouTube, you will find lots of information.

**NSPCC/O2 Online
Safety
Helpline**

Miss Marriott would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that a collaboration has taken place between O2 and the NSPCC.

Sometimes it's easier to talk about a problem. That's why O2 have set up their helpline, to answer any questions you or your child might have about staying safe online.

Whether you're after techy advice on things like:

information about an app or service in general, privacy setting on apps, parental controls on your wifi or want help with more personal matters such as: how to stop online bullying, what to do about who your child's messaging, how to talk about sexting, O2 are here to help.

Whatever you're worried about, big or small, give them a call on 0808 800 5002 for free, Mon – Fri 9am – 7pm . If your child's worried about you talking to them, you can call them together, and they'll reassure you both. ***Please look at regular Online Safety tips on the school facebook page.***