

# Glazebury CE Primary School & Nursery

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27<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parent's and Carers

It has come to our attention that many parents are concerned that pupils may be exposed to the "suicide game", called "Momo" or "The Momo Challenge". The "game" is **believed** to have been received by a seven-year-old boy in Manchester and targets young people on social media. The doll encourages them to add a contact on WhatsApp, Facebook and You-tube at which point they are inundated with violent images and dares. It encourages them to self-harm, threatening the player if they refuse to follow orders and, the ultimate post tells them to take their own lives.

A statement on the National Online Safety website said: "There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', unboxing videos and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. ([nationalonlinesafety.com](http://nationalonlinesafety.com))

**If adults are concerned or have any questions on how to approach the subject with their children, they can contact the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 or visit the NSPCC website.**

**Children who are worried about their activity on apps or online games can contact Childline 24 hours a day, online and over the phone on 0800 1111.**

## Helpful tips:

- **Tell them it's not real:** Just like any **urban legend** or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that Momo is not a real person and cannot directly harm them. Also, tell your child to not go openly searching for this content online as it may only cause more distress.
- **Be Present:** It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online. This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in.
- **Talk regularly:** As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you discuss it with them too. Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but those honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.
- **Device settings and Parental control:** Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home. This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view. In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety.

For example, on YouTube you can turn off 'suggested auto-play' on videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

- **Peer pressure:** Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they seem. Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to

peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

- **Real or Hoax:** As a parent it is natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child. However, not everything you see online is true. Check the validity of the source and be mindful of what you share as it may only cause more worry.
- **Report and block:** You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material. People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material. Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it. You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it.

**In this ever developing world of technological advancement we would not necessarily expect our children to stop using technology BUT we do need to teach them how to remain safe. I hope this information helps in some small way to do that. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact school.**

Kind Regards

Mrs Mowbray  
Head Teacher