

Dear Parent/Carers,

27th February 2019

Online safety - MoMo

It has come to our attention that some of our students are talking about 'MoMo' since this has been shared over social media and the news.

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 and it is understood that the child may need to create an account to access MoMo fully. Momo gives instructions to the players as part of the game and the game eventually results in the avatar suggesting that the person takes their own life. The real threat that MoMo possesses 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. You may have also heard of 'Blue Whale' which has been reported to be linked to over 100 deaths of young people in Russia.

We have a strict web filter in place which will prevent students from accessing 'MoMo' or any other concerning content at Oak Academy.

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.

In agreement with the NSPCC, we strongly recommend that you speak to your child about keeping themselves safe online and you may also want to check your parental controls and search histories. 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/>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Biles & Mrs J Philipps
Vice Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead & E Safety Champion

Oak Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT
Paul Holman, BSc (Hons), Director of Outcomes
Richard Burgas, BA(Hons), Principal

www.oak-academy.co.uk

E office@oak-academy.co.uk T 01202 774600
Duck Lane, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH11 9JJ