



27th February 2019

ONLINE SAFETY

The constantly evolving digital world means a steady influx of new apps and games and can be hard for parents/carers to keep track of. That's why it's important for parents to talk regularly with children about these apps and games and the potential risks they can be exposed to.

Momo Challenge: a game which is played on WhatsApp, Facebook, YouTube and other online platforms: The Momo Challenge is accompanied by a grotesque image of a girl with bulging eyes and a twisted smile, which is starting to pop-up in the middle of harmless, children-orientated YouTube programmes; it encourages children to take steps, progressively hurting and isolating themselves from the world and then threatened if they refuse to follow the game's 'orders'.

Serious concerns have been raised recently about children using the Tik Tok app on their telephones or devices. Parents need to be aware that the app allows children to participate in live chats in chatrooms where the children do not know who they are chatting with.

At Rosedale Infants, we take online safety very seriously and in order to promote this at home we also ask parents/carers to:

- Ensure they know what their children can access and is accessing online.
- Use parental controls to keep children safe.
- Ensure children understand the importance of not giving personal information to anyone they do not know.
- Tell their children no-one has the right to make them do anything they do not want to do.
- Talk with your children and emphasise that they can make their own choices and discuss ways of how to say no.
- Reassure children that they can still be accepted even if they don't go along with the crowd will help stop them doing something that could hurt them or make them uncomfortable.

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

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Children who are feeling worried about their activity on apps or online games can contact Childline 24 hours a day, online and over the phone, on 0800 11 11 or by visiting www.Childline.org.uk

How to check what your child is watching:

- Check the browser history on their phone/computer/tablet. Pressing Ctrl+H while the browser is open will bring up the history.
- **Windows PC:** If you create an account for a child you will get the option to enable Family Safety settings. This allows you to block certain sites and get weekly reports of activity.
- **Apple Mac:** You can share screens even if your child is on a different Mac computer/tablet. If you log on as an administrator on your child's Mac you can select sharing preferences and choose Screen Sharing, before clicking on Allow Access For and adding yourself as an admin. On your own Mac, click on network to see your child's activity.
- There are a myriad of free apps available to download that can monitor or block what your children can access online, with parental control settings so you can keep an eye on what they are doing. (www.xxxaware.co.uk
- www.net-aware.org.uk www.monqi.co/)
- Visit an O2 Guru in store - O2 online safety Gurus are NSPCC trained advisors based in O2 stores across the UK. They can help you to set up a device so that it is safe for your child, including enabling parental controls. The service is free of charge regardless of your network. Book your appointment with an O2 Guru today.
<https://guru.secure.force.com/O2DeskStoreLocator>

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to talk to me or Mrs Tibbitts.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs V Stephen
Head of School