



# Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

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## Online Safety

Dear parents and carers,

**Hampshire Police Constabulary are advising parents DO NOT discuss the following information with children, as this is not the best way to keep them safe. They have stressed the importance of not fuelling a recent craze by giving it publicity.**

Some of you may be aware of a new online threat that has been spoken of in the media recently. The Momo challenge is a form of cyberbullying where Momo asks to be contacted through a social media site such as Whatsapp and then asks a person to perform a series of dangerous tasks including self-harm.

YouTube has currently got a wide selection of videos showing this sinister character and there is a danger that children who see their favourite You-Tuber doing the challenge might be drawn to trying it themselves in order to follow their example.

Please also be aware that many of these videos are linked with Minecraft and are not stopped through parental controls or the use of YouTube Kids.

### **What to do:**

It is important not to focus solely on Momo but to:

- Ensure you know what your children can access online
- Ensure children understand the importance of not giving personal information to anyone they do not know
- Tell your children that no-one has the right to make them do anything they do not want to do
- Use parental controls to keep children safe

Websites such as Net Aware, the NSPCC and ParentZone all have up-to-date information and guidance about keeping children safe online.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://parentzone.org.uk/>

### **Common signs:**

Common signs to look out for are children who:

- Become very secretive, especially about what they are doing online
- Are spending a lot of time on the internet and social media
- Are switching screens on their devices when approached
- Are withdrawn or angry after using the internet or sending text messages

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will endeavour to help and support you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L. Cain

Head of School

