



### **School statement regarding internet safety**

There have been many reports in the press and local media over the last few days about an internet 'game' called Momo. Although it originates from another country, it is now becoming common on sites such as Youtube, Twitter as well as sites aimed at younger children such as Peppa Pig. There have also been reports that it has shown up on WhatsApp and on games such as Fortnite.

We do not wish to alarm parents unnecessarily but it is very concerning. This is a good time to remind ourselves that whilst the internet is a wonderful resource, it can contain many hidden dangers for both adults and children alike. Please ensure that your child can only access sites which are age-appropriate and that their activity online is monitored closely. Your internet provider should be able to advise you about parental controls and filters although some of these have failed to block inappropriate sites. At school, we also encourage children to tell an adult immediately if they see something online which makes them feel uncomfortable. We also have filters but these are never 100% secure.

#### Minimum Ages

Youtube and Twitter - no minimum age

Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and Snapchat - 13 years old

WhatsApp - 16 years old

The internet is changing all the time and new sites are appearing regularly. For more advice, please have a look at the following:

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

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Internet safety is part of the National Curriculum but it is vital that we work together to ensure our children are protected.

Many thanks

Mr Priestley

Head of School

27<sup>th</sup> February 2019