

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Online Safety**

As you may be aware, there have been reports about the “Momo Challenge” in the news and across many social media platforms this week. This has now been identified as a hoax and fake news - a story to cause alarm, which has had the desired reaction.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-47393510>

It has also been reported that highly inappropriate videos are circulating online and being viewed by some children. These video clips are often edited and are not from the official sites.

**In order to keep your children safe online it is essential that you closely monitor what your child/ren are accessing and adhere to the age restrictions for particular sites.** Make sure you encourage your child/ren to engage in other activities, such as reading a book or going outdoors, as well as being on the internet.

At Forest Academy we always have the pupils’ safety and wellbeing at the forefront of our minds. There have been additional assemblies this week on e-safety and class teachers will remind pupils of the “Acceptable Use Agreement” and what to do if they have any concerns.

Below are some useful links about keeping children safe online at home that you might find helpful to discuss with your children, especially if you choose to allow them to access the most popular social media platforms, most of which have an age restriction of 13 years.

NSPCC have a link to keeping children safe online:

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

Internet matters also have some very good information about keeping children safe online, especially social media sites:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/social-networking/>

Childnet international has some useful links on a variety of topics regarding keeping children safe online:

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics>

Yours sincerely,

Mr. W Cooper  
Principal