



# LONDON COLNEY PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

'DEVELOPING LIFE-LONG LEARNERS AND A PERSEVERANCE TO SUCCEED'

Alexander Road, London Colney  
Hertfordshire, AL2 1JG  
Telephone: 01727 823283

E-mail: [admin@londoncolney.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@londoncolney.herts.sch.uk)

Website: [www.londoncolney.herts.sch.uk](http://www.londoncolney.herts.sch.uk)

14<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

## 'Momo' Challenge & Online Safety

We are committed to safeguarding the physical and emotional well-being of our pupils here at London Colney Primary School and this is particularly important in the area of online safety.

Recent media reports have suggested the social media trend, the 'Momo' challenge encourages participants to commit acts of self-harm. It is supposedly a form of cyberbullying prevalent on platforms such as WhatsApp and YouTube, where children get anonymous threatening messages. Over the past few months, the game has been in the news frequently due to alleged links to three cases of teenagers committing suicide in South America and Asia, such allegations have not been confirmed by the authorities. The charity Samaritans said it was 'not aware of any verified evidence in this country or beyond' linking the momo meme to self-harm.

It is important, however, that parents and carers take the opportunity to talk with their children about internet safety and have open conversations about what their children are accessing.

It is recommended that parents/carers:

- Enable the privacy settings on all app and games young people are using
- Disable live locations settings
- Ensure children understand the importance of not giving personal information to anyone they do not know
- Remind children not to get in touch with people they do not know on social media or gaming sites
- Talk with children about the importance of not feeling pressurised at any time to respond to an online dare from either someone they know or a stranger and to tell a trusted adult about the request
- Remind children no-one has the right to make them do anything they do not want to do

BBC news have released an article that suggests the online game is a hoax and details can be found here:

[www.bbc.co.uk/uk/news/technology-47393510](http://www.bbc.co.uk/uk/news/technology-47393510)

The PSHE Association have also made a really useful response outlining the challenge is a hoax:

[www.phse-association.org.uk/news/momo-challenge-hoax-potentially-distressing?fbclid=IwAR2si8OEucTtbYREt1UVu0ng06e3MIGGwuUNFrKxxzqJAEU\\_52f1bQrut9M](http://www.phse-association.org.uk/news/momo-challenge-hoax-potentially-distressing?fbclid=IwAR2si8OEucTtbYREt1UVu0ng06e3MIGGwuUNFrKxxzqJAEU_52f1bQrut9M)

This is a useful opportunity to remind you about the potential risks of some internet use, particularly social media, apps and gaming sites, and remind you to be aware of your child's online activity and the potential distress that can be caused.

I also attach some helpful guidelines from Childnet.

Kind regards

Sarah Joyce  
Head Teacher

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Head Teacher: Ms S Joyce