

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email Twitter: @qegs_ashbourne

Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mrs H Baker



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27th February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Momo Challenge

You may have seen widespread reports in the news and on social media about 'The Momo Challenge', which encourages children to perform acts of self-harm. The challenge is played over WhatsApp where participants contact the character 'Momo' and are then told to do a series of challenges, including increasingly violent acts. Whilst the challenge is essentially a hoax, similar to the 'Blue Whale' challenge from a couple of years ago, a number of prominent YouTubers have created videos of themselves trying to contact Momo, which get many views from young people and are then shared on a variety of social media channels. Children may well be drawn into the challenge when they see their favourite YouTubers taking part in it in order to follow their example. It should be noted that the people making videos about this are attempting to capitalise on the hysteria surrounding the challenge and may well be deliberately exacerbating the problem to increase visitors to their channels.

Although a lot of the information about the Momo Challenge is rather concerning, the number of reported cases of children harming themselves because of the game is extremely low. Even in the small number of cases of harm that have been reported, there is no evidence that proves the game was the direct cause.

As always with events such as this, we can keep our children safe by reassuring them and communicating with them in a calm, non-judgemental manner. Please take the opportunity to discuss any fears or worries your child may have around the topic and remind them not to contact or accept contact from strangers via social media platforms and instant messaging apps.

For advice from Derbyshire Police on the Momo Challenge, please see this link:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=11098222999&story_fbid=10157235779838000

If you require any further information, please contact me using the email address below.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Illsley

Online Safety Coordinator and CEOP Ambassador

illsleyj@qegs.email