



12 October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Dangerous Phone Apps

We have been made aware of certain phone apps that are currently in circulation, that are putting students at risk online, and in severe cases exploiting our young people.

I am sure many of you would have read the heart breaking story of Molly Russell who took her own life, with the coroner mentioning the impact of social media in her death.

Recently we have become aware of two specific apps:

- **Omegle:** A free online chat website that allows users to socialise with others without the need to register. The service randomly pairs users in one-on-one chat sessions where they chat anonymously using the names "You" and "Stranger" or "Stranger 1" and "Stranger 2" in the case of Spy mode. I'm sure, as parents, you would agree that young children/people being able to link up to strangers via cameras raises many red flags with families.
- **Monkey Game:** The platform markets itself as an alternative to Omegle, with a 'Tiktok' vibe, allowing users to have video calls with strangers. It has been found to contain large amounts of inappropriate and disturbing content, harmful to young people.

These apps present an environment of high risk, and we encourage parents to be alert. Despite what many of our young people think, the motives of many of the adults using these apps are there to exploit and manipulate young people, who feel they are ready to interact on an adult forum.

Please be vigilant, and we will provide you with any other updates of potentially harmful apps as we come across them.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Matt Wardle

Deputy Headteacher

Lead Designated Safeguarding Lead