

Hamsey Community Primary School Cooksbridge

Skylark Federation
Executive Headteacher
Mr Stewart James BA (Hons).QTS

Advisory Headteacher
Ms Caitlin Yapp

Head Of School
Gemma Roxburgh BA (Hons).QTS, MA
East Sussex County Council



Cooksbridge
Lewes
East Sussex
BN8 4SJ

Tel: 01273 400370

Fax: 01273 400370

Email : office@hamsey.e-sussex.sch.uk

Website : www.hamsey.e-sussex.sch.uk

Dear Parents & Carers,

6 March 2019

SKYLARK ONLINE SAFEGUARDING UPDATE – MOMO HOAX AND TIK-TOK

We are aware of a number of emerging online safeguarding issues which have caught national attention recently and have also affected our pupils here at Hamsey School.

This letter serves as an update on how we will respond to these emerging issues and also provides you with advice and guidance (derived from sources such as National Online Safety), and addresses, in particular, the pervasiveness of the MOMO 'challenge', now reported as a hoax, and of the TikTok app.

WHAT WE WILL BE DOING AT HAMSEY SCHOOL TO EDUCATE OUR PUPILS –

- continuing to embed pupils' understanding of this year's Safer Internet theme '**Be Smart, Be Safe, Be Kind**'. Using National Online Safety materials, we will focus our Computing lesson time this term further developing pupils' understanding of staying safe and speaking out when necessary.
- updating our online safety and behaviour policies to reflect the emerging threats of these applications.
- talking to children in Badgers & Owls Class (for whom these issues are most prevalent) about the two e-issues mentioned above.
- discussing the dangers presented by the Tik-Tok app: the reality that anyone, irrespective of whether they hold an account, can view content uploaded; the fact that Tik-Tok's terms and conditions state that their minimum age requirement is 13; and that, by default, all accounts are public, meaning that content presumed to be kept in a small circle of friends may have a considerably wider audience.
- the importance of discussing any worries or fears relating to the MOMO 'challenge' with trusted adults (parents, teachers and school staff). Reiterating that this character is not real and that pupils should not discuss it on the school playground (for fear of worrying younger peers) but with a trusted adult.

There are more details about using different online platforms that can be found at:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/>.

TOP TIPS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- ✓ Review your child's mobile device settings: remove '**auto-play**' feature (particularly to combat MOMO) and switch to '**private**' mode if using any apps like Tik-Tok.
- ✓ **Be present:** when children are using YouTube, Tik-Tok (or other related apps), ensure you are aware of what they're viewing and have a dialogue afterwards about what they've viewed.
- ✓ Encourage them to be open and discuss with their teachers or with you any concerns they may have.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Wishes,

Ms Caitlin Yapp

Advisory Headteacher

Working Together ~ Learning Together ~ Aiming High

