

Dear Parents,

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE APPS and SOCIAL MEDIA SITES YOUR CHILDREN ARE ACCESSING?

IF NOT, PLEASE LOOK AT AND DISCUSS WHAT THEY ARE USING AND HOW THEY ARE USING THEM

Your children have been doing e safety computing sessions this term and the importance of safe practice and age- appropriate use of APPs and social media. We have been made aware of a number of sites and APPs **some** of your children are using including TikTok (Age 13 with parental permission), Whatsap (Age 16 with parental permission), Omegle (Age 13 with parental permission). I strongly advice you check your child's phone regularly and discuss the APPs and social media sites they are using. Sites state parental permission and age- appropriate content for a reason. As a school every class completes e safety sessions annually, but it is vital you also discuss e safety regularly, an ideal time to do this is every month when the e safety newsletter alert is sent out and put on the website.

Please read the information below on Omegle and the attached e safety newsletter on TikTok (Jan 2022). **I am sure you will support school in keeping your child safe on-line.**

Miss Hegarty

Omegle

You must be 18+ to use or 13+ with parental permission. Omegle is a social networking/chat website that **connects two strangers** together for either a text or a video chat. Chats are anonymous unless a user provides this information within their text or video chat. Omegle states that "Omegle video chat is moderated. However, moderation is not perfect. You may still encounter people who misbehave."

What should I be aware of?

- No registration is required to access Omegle (therefore no age verification) and there are no reporting facilities.
- Users are given an option to save the chat's log and share the link. It is always possible for other users to take screenshots of text and video chats.

We recommend that Omegle is not used by children due to the potential imagery shared and language used which can be particularly explicit.

This blog from UK Safer Internet Centre features further information including how to talk to your child about Omegle:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/what-omegle-key-things-parents-and-carers-need-know>

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/>

Online Safety Newsletter

<http://ravenscroftcp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Online-Safety-Newsletter-January-2022-2.pdf>