

All Hallows RC High School

Specialising in Business, Enterprise & Sports

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Following on from my letter dated 22nd September 2022 regarding online safeguarding, I would like to bring to your attention the risks of a popular chat website called Omegle. The site has increased in popularity due to social media influencers posting videos using this website and on other social media platforms. A TikTok trend is a contributing factor to Omegle's growing prevalence in recent months.

Omegle is a virtual chat-room that video links users with random people all over the world. Its slogan is 'talk to strangers'. Although the website states it is for users aged 18+ and claims to be moderated, there is no registration or age verification process in place. Within seconds the user is matched with another random user who is online at the same time and you have no control over whom you talk to. This is a website that poses significant risks to young people including exposure to sexually explicit material, grooming and exploitation.

I have attached an information sheet to this letter regarding Omegle. I request that you read through this to increase your understanding and further equip you to safeguard your child whilst online.

If you have any concerns about grooming, sexual abuse or exploitation on Omegle or any online app or site, please report this to CEOP (the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection unit) at https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/

Having regular conversations with your child about their online lives is an important part of keeping them safe online. For further information about how best to start these conversations and guidance on other popular apps, you can visit Thinkuknow parents and carers website <u>https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/</u>

At All Hallows we teach our pupils about keeping safe online and the risks posed by various social media platforms through our PD and ICT curriculum, assemblies and tutor time. We wish to work with all our parents and carers to support you in keeping your child safe online.

Please email <u>studentservices@allhallowsrc.co.uk</u> if you feel you require further support.

Yours sincerely

MDare

Mrs Done (Designated safeguarding Lead)