



## Grow Education Partners MOMO Online safety bulletin March 2019

Schools may have had children and parents asking about the Momo challenge. This does not appear to be dying down and has been in the news a lot.

It's worth reading and sharing the measured response from ParentZone who work closely with CEOP <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/three-minute-briefing-momo-challenge> but we do not think it is not worth mentioning it in an assembly or bringing it up unless individual children mention it, as the first thing they will do is google it!

However, if it has become an issue, and sadly it's mainly due to parents asking their children directly about it, this video from CBBC is great to show without actually mentioning the M word <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/its-personal/when-you-see-something-scary-online> no nasty pictures, just really good advice.

Key issues to reinforce to pupils are

- never give your own or anyone else's phone number to anyone you don't know,
- speak to a trusted adult if you have seen something that has scared you
- do not pass on any scary messages.

In their defence Facebook / YouTube / Instagram / Snapchat are removing references to it, but rely on it being reported to them, but obviously with WhatsApp being private and encrypted this is trickier to enforce.

So, although the actual "threat" is fake news, the fear is real.

**With our thanks to Mary Rebelo, Grow online safety consultant, and CEOP Ambassador, for this advice.**

Kind regards,

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