



18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**URGENT – KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE**  
**OMEGLE – AN UNSAFE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN**

We have this afternoon been approached by a parent of a Year 6 child sharing with us the dangers of a website that they are aware that **many children in Year 6 are currently using**. The site is called **OmeGLE** and it's function is to simply put two strangers in a chat room together. Chat can take place through text or video.

**This website is not intended for the use of children under the age of 13 years of age**, and OmeGLE states that people under the age of 18 should only use the site with parental permission. **However the site does not ask people to verify their age.**

Given the dangers presented online, the prospect of your children entering a chat room with a stranger is something that you should rightly be concerned about – OmeGLE exists to provide such opportunities. **We would urge you to ensure that your child is not using this site.**

All child users are exposed to risk using this site.

We are grateful to the parents of one of our Year 6 children for making us aware of your children's potential use of this site. Fortunately they became aware of their child's use of the site in time to prevent significant harm being done – **but it was very close, and it was happening in their home**. They did the right thing in informing the police, who visited them and are clear about the dangers of this site – the police are expected to be in touch with us in school soon. Perpetrators of crime use this site and threaten children with information they gather from the website when they talk to them.

The parents talking to us would want you to know that they are very diligent and careful with their child's online activity – despite this significant danger still presented itself.

We would urge you to prevent your child's access to this site. As a parent of a Year 6 child myself I'm acutely aware of the challenges involved in keeping children safe online. I use the free protection offered by **Google's Family Link** to protect my daughter and allow me to help her when online challenges are faced (<https://families.google>). I also use **Qustodio** ([www.qustodio.com](http://www.qustodio.com)) which offers more significant oversight of my daughter's online world including sight of her text messages, search terms etc. Please look online or talk to us about these tools designed to protect children stepping out privately into the online world for the first time.

We wrote exclusively to parents of Year 6 children last term about children's use of WhatsApp and the inherent challenges that this presents. This letter has been sent to parents of children from every year group to share awareness of OmeGLE and to enable everyone to ensure that children are not accessing this online, via phone, tablet or PC.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Hampton, Co – Head Teacher