



Ralph Butterfield Primary School

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Dangerous Online App



Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you today to alert you to the dangers of the app 'Monkey App' in case you have not come across it previously. It has been brought to our attention by the Local Authority as part of their education safeguarding updates with the request that we share their concerns with all parents/carers.

The Monkey App is a video chat and social networking app that randomly matches strangers for a 15 second face to face video call. Once the video chat begins, users have 15 seconds to decide what to do next. They can request more time to chat or end the chat and match with another person. Sexually explicit content on the app is common place. It has been assessed as not safe for children due to lax age verification policies, privacy concerns and persistent issues with harmful and sexual content.

The UK based Safer Schools Safeguarding App released an alert calling the 'Monkey App' extremely dangerous. There is no age verification process in place which means adults can manipulate their profiles to make themselves appear much younger. It is an app centred around the sharing of personal information and the lowering of privacy barriers. Users cannot use the app without allowing access to their camera or microphone.

Please continue to very closely monitor your child's online activity, daily if possible, and advice is to not have devices in the bedroom. Please also ensure that parental settings are effectively blocking inappropriate sites. It may be, depending on your provider, that you need to separately block the Monkey App.

Making parents/carers aware that there are currently issues and requesting that parents/carers check search histories and communications, helps ensure children are not breaking the trust invested in them by parents/carers when they are permitted access to technology. However, this is not a fool proof science, and children will make mistakes and need guidance, both from parents/carers and school. Thank you for your support with this.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Stephenson
Acting Headteacher