

KINGS MEADOW SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

As the new term starts I would like to welcome new and existing parents and carers back to Kings Meadow and hope that you all had a safe and fun summer holiday.

As you are all probably aware whilst we tried to make the most of the sunshine, Pokémon Go swept the nation and hit the headlines with both positive and negative views. So I thought I would send out some information that will hopefully give a better understanding of the game, but more importantly help keep your children safe whilst playing it.

Firstly I would encourage that you remind your children of the two Golden Rules when using any on-line games, social media sites and webcams etc, which are:

- **We don't talk to strangers**
- **We also don't give out our personal information**

Below is some great advice from the NSPCC and the UK Safer Internet Centre all about Pokémon Go. Most of the information is aimed at parents so hopefully you will find it useful.

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/pokemon-go-parents-guide/>
- <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/news/pokemon-go-gaming-gone-mobile>

So what are the risks (from the NSPCC)

There are good things about the game, and there's a reason it's become so popular. But it's important to learn the risks involved:

- **Meeting people they don't know face-to-face**
The game is designed to bring people together. Usually strangers. So you never know who they might meet.
- **There's a physical risk**
It's easy to forget to look where you're going with this game, but they need to be careful of where they end up. There are already stories of people being lured to places that aren't safe for children.



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



- **It can cost a lot of money**

There are in-app purchases and other incentives which can cost up to £79.99 (14,500 Pokécoins). Make sure the app's set up without payment options

- **Access to personal data**

Pokémon Go asks for personal information like your child's birth date and email address, which they're asked to enter or receive through social media accounts. Parents have the right to contact the creators to stop them from using their personal information.

Pokémon Go is also causing the Police a headache as it is leading young people into unsafe areas such as building sites or derelict buildings so please keep reinforcing the safety message!

Can we help the Police?

Northamptonshire Police are seeking to identify uniforms within the county, so that they can identify any local school uniforms that may appear in digital images that they come into contact with as a result of their enquiries. Kings Meadow will be providing the local Police with a photograph of the Kings Meadow uniform to help with this process.

If you wish to discuss Pokémon Go or any other matters you may be concerned about, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks

Paula Jones

Family support worker

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