

Dear Parents and Carers,

We want to make you aware of a current gaming app that the NSPCC are concerned about with regard to the safety of children. The app is called 'Pokemon Go' and it is available on Android and iPhone in the UK now. The app is free to download and it is currently very popular amongst adults and children.

The safety concerns do vary but the main being the games potential to be used to lure children to particular locations. The game lets players catch virtual animals on their phones as they wander around the real world. It is possible for others to exploit this aspect of the game amongst vulnerable youngsters. There have also been separate reports in the press about the app being used by criminals to rob individuals by luring them to remote locations.

Also individuals have been so focused on the game that they have not been aware of their general safety in the real world. This can be true of most mobile devices in general but this game has features that encourages users to look at their phone more frequently.

The main message for children is to be aware of how to keep themselves safe online (e-safety) and in the real world. They should ensure that they stay with friends at all times and do not go to remote or hidden locations. Effectively, they need to ensure they are in public locations so that they can easily get help if needed.

At Martin High School we want all our pupils to look after themselves this summer and we look forward to seeing them all next year.