

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Unsafe website - Omegle

We are aware that a number of students are using an unsafe website, **www.omegle.com**. You may be unaware of this website and I wish to bring to your attention the dangers Omegle poses to our young people.

Please note the following:

- No user registration is required;
- Small print suggests that users should only use Omegle if over 18 or over 13 with parents' permission. However, there are no checks to stop anyone of any age from starting a chat with a stranger;
- Users are randomly paired with a stranger to chat/video within seconds of logging onto the website;
- The website has a highly adult content. For example, it is not uncommon for images of masturbation, nakedness and substance abuse to be seen on video feeds;
- It is possible for users to take 'screen shots' of other people's display pictures or videos to be shared with others;
- Omegle implemented a "monitored" video chat, to monitor misbehaviour and protect people under the age of 18 from potentially harmful content, including nudity or sexual content but also an "unmonitored" video chat that is not monitored for sexual content;
- When images or videos are shared on Omegle, it is possible to find out the exact location of where the picture was taken, or the video was filmed. This potentially means other users, including adult users can pinpoint where a child is when they access the site.

See this link for reviews and comments of the site:

<https://www.common sense media.org/website-reviews/omegle/user-reviews>

In addition to Omegle there are a number of sites which have unknown risks such as those listed above. Sites include **Yellow, Chat roulette, Tynychat, and Whisper**.

For further guidance on our E-Safety policy and advice for parents/carers, please see the guidance on the school website: <http://www.walthamstow-academy.org/Students/Safeguarding/E-Safety>

As a school we will be carrying out class sessions highlighting the risks to our young people, and hope that you as parents/carers will also take the opportunity to ensure your children are kept informed of the risks.