**Pokémon Go –**

**advice and guidance**

Pokémon Go is a game where you collect and trade Pokémon (small ‘pocket’ monsters)

The game works by using the devices GPS and camera capabilities, to make the Pokémon ‘appear’ in real life. In computing we call this ‘augmented’ reality.

If you are not familiar with the game, here are some terms explained.

**The risks**

There are loads of 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.
* **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.

**Top tips for staying safe**

Explore together – with younger children you might want to play the game together and explore how it works. Older children may want to play alone but it is important to let them know the risks.

Set some ground rules – Talk to your children about the risks of meeting strangers and ending up in areas they don’t know. Set boundaries such as:

* Take a battery pack, the game drains the phone battery (incredibly fast) and this will avoid them being without a phone to call home.
* Stay with friends
* Watch out for others. The competitive nature of the game means it is open to verbal abuse.
* Agree with your child where they will be playing and the time you expect them home.

**Turn off in-app purchasing** –

To avoid unexpected bills, check that your child’s app permissions are set are set correctly.

Apple: Set up [Family sharing](https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201060) and [Ask to Buy](https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201089), which allows your child to request to purchase so that you can approve spending money.

You can then find this in: Settings > iCloud > Family Sharing. Tap your family member’s name (e.g. Rory), then click Ask to Buy.

Android: Set up a family group which includes adding a payment method with your chosen payee. Find this on Subscribe > Family > Set up family> Get started

**Protect your child’s personal data –**

In order to sign up, your child has to enter their date of birth and their email address. However, parents can request that these details are kept safe. Details on this are on their [privacy policy](https://www.nianticlabs.com/privacy/pokemongo/en).

If you have any questions please contact Mrs Birtchnell – Computing Lead.

**Quick overview**