St Michael's
CofE Primary Academy

Principal: Mrs Kate Jackson
Lower Street
Tettenhall
Wolverhampton
WV6 9AF
01902 558845

23rd June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to raise awareness of a concerning app that has recently grown in popularity among young people — the Monkey app. Apps stores also offer Monkey Cool & Monkey Chat.
Monkey is a live video chat platform that connects users with strangers around the world. It has been described as a new alternative to Omegle, following its closure. While it may appear fun or harmless at first glance, Monkey poses serious risks to children and young people, and we want to ensure you have the information needed to help keep your child safe.

What You Need to Know:
- Minimum age is 18, but there is no age verification, meaning children can easily access the app despite the age restriction.
- Monkey allows users to engage in random video chats with strangers, often without any form of control or content filtering.
- Apple removed the app from its App Store due to safety concerns. However, it is still accessible through web browsers and the Google Play Store.
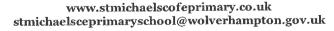
Key Dangers:
- Exposure to inappropriate or harmful content: Users can be exposed to adult material, including pornography, often without warning.
- Privacy risks: The app collects personal information and has the right to use any content users share — including images and videos — for any purpose.
- Potential grooming and exploitation: Strangers may attempt to build relationships with children for illegal or harmful reasons. Vulnerable users may not recognise the warning signs.
- Poor moderation: Although the app claims to use moderation tools, these are often reactive rather than preventative. Harmful content can be shown quickly and disappear before it can be reported

How to Help Protect Your Child:
- Talk regularly with your child about the apps and platforms they use, and encourage open, honest conversations about their online experiences.
- Explain why Monkey is unsafe and help them understand the risks of chatting with strangers online.
- Set up parental controls to filter content, block specific websites, and monitor screen time where appropriate.
- Encourage safer alternatives for online interaction, such as moderated message boards on platforms like Childline or Ditch the Label.

If you believe a child is at risk or has been harmed online, please contact the police or make a report to CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection command) immediately.

Your child's safety, both offline and online, is our top priority. Further advice can be found at https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/ or by using the QR code.

If you have any concerns or notice anything that may need further attention, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Dutton
Computing Lead