



CAVENDISH CLOSE JUNIOR SCHOOL

DEBORAH DRIVE

CHADDESSEN

DERBY DE21 4RJ

Telephone: 01332 672338

E-mail: admin@cavclosej.derby.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Field

E-mail: head@cavclosej.derby.sch.uk

Friday 22nd July

Dear Parents,

Please find below information for parents for Pokemon Go. The guidance is given so that you are able to keep your children safe this Summer.

Many thanks

S J Field Head teacher

Pokemon Go: Parental Guidance Pokémon Go is a game where you collect and trade cute creatures called Pokémon or pocket monsters.

Using the GPS and camera on your phone, the game makes it look like Pokémon appear in real places. This kind of gaming is known as Augmented Reality and is really popular in schools already, with many teachers using apps to make fairy tale creatures and dinosaurs appear in the classroom.

Below is some information about the game, and some guidance on how to keep children safe when playing Pokémon Go.

Pokémon (Pocket Monsters) are little creatures that can be captured by Pokémon Trainers using a small spherical device called a Poké Ball. Different Pokémon have different playing stats, moves and abilities. The aim of the game is to become the Pokémon Master by capturing as many Pokémon and to win as many 'gyms' as you can.

A Pokémon Trainer is a person who catches, trains, cares for and battles with Pokémon. The majority of people within the known Pokémon world are Trainers.

Pokémon Gyms are buildings located throughout the world where Pokémon Trainers can train and compete. Pokémon Gyms are usually located in public meeting spots, like parks or churches and memorials. This is done using an in-game map that shows you where the Pokémon and locations are in your real life location.

The Poké Ball is a spherical device used to capture Pokémon. The Poké Ball is thrown at Pokémon and when it hits them, the Pokémon are sucked inside.

Pokédex is an electronic device which stores the data of Pokémon once they have been captured. The Pokémon Trainer must attempt to fill the Pokédex by capturing the different types of Pokémon.

Pokestops - Landmarks and monuments where users can collect free Pokeballs and other items for the game.

The risks

For a game to become so popular, it must be lots of fun! And indeed there are plenty of fantastic things about the game which will no doubt make it a firm favourite with children young and old. But as with every online game, there are risks.

- * Meeting strangers face-to-face The game is designed to bring people together. Make sure that your child doesn't arrange to meet strangers from their gaming community, and talk to them about the risks of chatting with someone that they don't know in real life.
- * Data plan There is a possibility that the children may use up all of their data when going on their searches, and may roll over to extended data packages which may be expensive. Check their data regularly to ensure that they don't build up a large bill.
- * Battery life The camera function can be heavy on battery life so make sure that children charge up their phone before they leave the house.
- * Physical danger The game brings players together by placing Pokémon in locations in real life, and so there is a very real danger of children and young people being lured into places where they would not normally go. Nearby Pokéstops show up on the map, this may lead children to go to places that they are not familiar with to collect free items. Also, a feature on the app allows users to set "lures" at Pokéstops which attract more (and often rarer) Pokemon to that particular spot. When someone sets a lure it shows up on the map so everyone can go to that place and collect the Pokemon. Ensure that you know where your children are at all times and encourage them to play in pairs or in groups and ask that they stay together. Tell children to think first before going anywhere they are unfamiliar with or anywhere they would not normally go without an adult. Remind children to look where they are going, and not to focus on their screen.
- * Private property Remind your child that some areas may be on private property and so they need to be aware of trespassing, and being courteous to property owners such as shop keepers.
- * Walking long distances The Trainers are expected to walk at least 5000 steps before they can hatch an egg, so children may set off wanting to complete this task. It may be worth reminding your child to take a water bottle and sunscreen with them for their adventure.
- * It can cost a lot of money There are in-app purchases and other incentives which can cost a lot of money (disguised as Pokécoins). Ensure you set the app up without payment options or in-app purchase options.
- * Naming Pokémon If you win a gym, then you have the opportunity to name your Pokémon. This is then displayed publicly in the gym, so you need to tell your child to give their Pokémon an appropriate name which will not cause offence.
- * 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. Always be wary of providing personal information like this over the internet. Parents have the right to contact the creators to stop them from using their personal information.