



20th May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been made aware of a website that is currently being used by Passmores students, that is marketed with the phrase "Talk to Strangers!". This is obviously a concerning matter, potentially putting predatory adults in video communication with children. I do not wish to name the site, as this might give it more exposure, but will happily email the name directly to you if requested.

Here is some information about the site in question.

#1. You are supposed to be over 13 to use the site

However, there's no date of birth input (not that that would stop a tween or teen). If you are under 18 you are supposed to use it only with a parent/guardian's permission.

#2. It encourages chatting to strangers

The very objective of the site is to encourage chat with strangers. Though chats start out anonymous, there's nothing stopping people from sharing their personal information.

#3. The video chat allows people to see each other

I'm sure we can all see the risks and concerns associated with this – most prominent is, of course, the risk of indecent exposure.

#4. Moderation is imperfect

The chat is moderated; however, the website says itself "moderation is not perfect. You may still encounter people who misbehave. They are solely responsible for their own behaviour."

Please be vigilant and ensure that your child knows not to chat with strangers on an anonymous website, particularly via video.

Yours faithfully

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