



# HIGH VIEW SCHOOL



## **E-SAFETY PARENT INFORMATION LEAFLET** **Pokémon Go**

*What are key concerns for children, and how can you keep them safe while playing **Pokémon Go**?*

### **Stranger danger**

Using location-based (GPS) technology, app actively encourages users to have social interactions in the real world, and there have been reports that teens in the US have been using it as a dating app like Tinder to meet up in real life. With this in mind, it is important to reinforce to children that they should never meet someone they don't know offline and to avoid going to dangerous locations.

### **Safety outdoors (i.e. crossing roads, other people's property)**

As the app requires you to focus on your phone to play the game there is the potential that players may be distracted when crossing roads or put themselves in harm's way to capture Pokémon in different areas.

Simply dimming the screen and using the vibrate option to alert players to the presence of other Pokémon will help them keep themselves safe while playing the game on the go.

### **In-app purchases**

Although the game is free, like many other games it features in-app purchases to purchase 'Pokécoins'. To make sure you don't receive an unexpected bill at the end of the month review your app permissions. See our step-by-step and downloadable guides for parents on setting up Apple iPhones and Android phones.

### **Mobile data use**

As you're the likely bill payer, it's important you understand that the app requires constant GPS tracking, and it may eat up mobile data quite quickly, which can be expensive. If your child is on a pay-as-you-go (PAYG) pre-pay system, you can regulate and limit how much your child is using the phone. If your child is on a contract it might be easier for your child to run up high bills. Although most network providers will set limits on usage if you asked them to, so your child won't run up high bills.

For more information, visit: <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/expert-opinion/pokemon-go-mobile-game-what-parents-need-to-know/>