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| **Safe to Learn** |  |  |
| **Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board**  **Northumberland Education and Skills Service**  Half termly bulletin for Governors, Headteachers/Principals and Designated Safeguarding Leads  in Schools, Academies and Alternative Providers  Issue 7: July 2016 | | |

**POKEMON GO: the risks to child safety**

The NSPCC has released a guide for parents to keep children safer whilst playing on the new and addictive Pokemon Go app. The guide can be found here:

[Pokemon Go](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/pokemon-go-parents-guide/)

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 about the risks involved. Risks include:

* **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.
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