



2 May 2017

Dear Parents

The Blue Whale Game – concerns over self-harm and Suicide

We have recently been made aware of a new computer game that is causing concerns across Europe and also now in the UK. Schools across southern England are warning parents about the dangers of the game, which some people claim has led to the suicides of 130 teenagers in Russia. Thames Valley Police have had three suicides recently that are believed linked to this game.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/39718654/police-warn-parents-about-blue-whale-game-targeting-vulnerable-people>

The Blue Whale Game asks teenagers to take part in an escalating series of self-harm challenges, culminating in suicide. Players of the game are given a “master”, who sets them 50 tasks over 50 days. The tasks start off innocently: for example, a player might be asked to wake up in the middle of the night. Gradually, however, they build up to **acts of self-harm**, such as carving the image of a whale into their skin. On the fiftieth day, the masters behind the game instruct the young people to commit suicide, and sadly across the world some have done this.

Online concerns and abuse can be reported to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection <https://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> and they will be able to respond and support you.

Please continue to support us in **keeping all our young people safe**, and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mr N Honey
Deputy Headteacher

Designated Safeguarding Lead.