



E P COLLIER
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nurture Discover Achieve

17th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Last December we sent out the alert below regarding the “tap out Challenge” and we have been made aware today of two children attempting it in the playground. Please can you reiterate to your children that holding someone in a choke hold is NEVER ok even with the other persons consent.

Safeguarding alert

Schools have been alerted to a TikTok trend call the "Tap out" challenge, which we would like to share with parents and carers. There are reports of young people taking part nationally and your children may have seen it online. It's not new, though has resurfaced recently.

What is the “Tap out” out challenge?

This trend often involves a group of teens where one child places another child in a chokehold (forearm is placed around the other child's neck and throat), the child performing the chokehold would then apply pressure/squeeze the neck until the child in the chokehold taps them out on their arm in which at this point the chokehold should be released. This can also involve another child “tapping in” to join the chain. Whilst there can be no physical signs of injury following this trend it is important to be aware that this type of strangulation can lead to serious health implications in the future, including fatalities.

The challenge is presented in a way that downplays the risks, showing participants laughing or walking away unscathed. What they don't show are the serious risks—like brain damage or even death—that can result from asphyxiation.

Children and young people are not aware of how easily these actions can cause serious harm. Trends such as this can change names quickly so, please be alert, talk to children and young people about it and report anything you see.

Signs and injuries to look out for include;

- Head injuries (as can fall when losing consciousness)
- Possible loss of memory - feeling confused or disoriented after being alone
- Marks or bruises on the neck

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- Blood shot eyes (conjunctival haemorrhage)
- Scratches or small red spots (petechiae) to neck/eyelids/cheeks and behind ears.
- Raspy or hoarse voice
- Severe headache

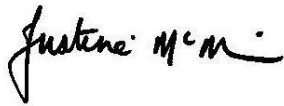
Other names given/similar challenges

Fainting game, Hangman, Elevator, and Blackout

Information on a similar trend “TikTok blackout challenging can be found here [The TikTok Blackout Challenge: How to Protect Children](#) which includes [What Parents Need to Know. How Safe is TikTok for Children?](#)

I think you in advance for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justine McMinn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justine McMinn
Head teacher