

After young girl is 'attacked by several men' in online video game...

EXCLUSIVE

By Rebecca Camber Crime and Security Editor

POLICE are investigating the first case of rape in the metaverse after a child was 'attacked' in a virtual reality video game.

The girl under the age of 16 is said to have been left distraught after her avatar har digital character.

- her digital character - was gang raped by the online strangers.

The headset-wearing victim did not suffer any injuries as there was no physical attack.

But officers said she suffered the same psychological and emotional trauma as someone who has been raped in the real world as the 'VR' experience is designed to be completely immersive.

It is thought to be the first time in the UK that a virtual sexual offence has been investigated by police. Virtual reality headsets were expected to be a popular gift this Christmas, with the NSPCC estimating that 15 per cent of children aged between five and ten have used one and 6 per cent use one daily.

Led by Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg. tech giants have bet billions of pounds on drawing people – young and old – towards the

Mamma Miaat the races 0 **SEE PAGE 7**

Turn to Page 4