

Westcroft

Stanhope

Bishop Auckland

Co Durham

Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

School Number 840 3087

**DL13 2NU** 

Tel: 01388 528218

Email: admin@stanhopebarrington.org.uk

Website: https://www.stanhopebarrington.org.uk/

11th February 2025 Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Safer Internet Day 2025

You may be aware that today is Safer Internet Day 2025! Across the school all of our children will be taking part in lessons around how to keep themselves safe whilst online.

The theme this year is: Too Good To Be True.

Learning Zone	Theme & Activities
Opal	Exploring how they would feel if something happened to them online.
Amethyst	What is personal information and what should we share and not share online?
Sapphire	Explore scenarios of situations children might find themselves in online and talk about how they would handle those situations.
Ruby	What is a scam and how to spot if something is a scam.
Emerald	To learn about Phishing, what information do people go phishing for and how do they do this?
Diamond	Learning about Protecting Your Profile and how to keep your data private.

All work on this subject is age appropriate to the Learning Zone your child is in.

In addition, we are updating our guidance for parents & carers on the school website. Go to the tab called Key Information and select 'online safety' from the drop down menu.

You will also be receiving a text message to vote for whether or not you would find it useful for us to offer a 'clinic' for parents/carers to bring along their child's devices and we can help to put Parental Controls in place for you.

Following Safer Internet Day the work completed by our children will be used to create a whole school display in the hall to reinforce learning and provide advice and support to children.

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I have recently attended a conference on Safer Digital Futures: Protecting Children from online harms which shared the details of the new Online Safety Act. It was very reassuring to find that we already have a huge amount of protection in place whilst children are in school.

The school Online Safety Policy is currently under review to ensure it captures any of the legal changes contained in the Act.

Unfortunately, most of the safeguarding issues which arise online occur when children are not in the safe school environment and can access a much wider range of potentially harmful content on their own devices.

It is an extremely challenging time to be a parent of young children who are now navigating the online world and often are more skilled and knowledgeable about that new world than some adults.

Parental controls are the key to ensuring you are aware of what your child is accessing so if this is something you feel would be beneficial please response to our text message survey.

From the Safer Digital Futures conference, the current risk and trends facing our young people are:

- Hentai
- Online Predators
- Cyber Bullying
- Sharing of nudes and semi-nudes
- Sextortion
- Grooming

Support for parents & carers can be found at the UK Safer Internet Centre at: https://saferinternet.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross

Mrs D Cross Head Teacher







