



Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

School Number 840 3087

Westcroft

Stanhope

Bishop Auckland

Co Durham

DL13 2NU

Tel: 01388 528218

Email: admin@stanhopebarrington.org.uk

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

Dear Parent/Carer

20th January 2025

Re: Inappropriate WhatsApp Group activity

I am writing to all parents/carers in Key Stage Two to make you aware of a report I have received regarding a large WhatsApp group which a number of our children are part of.

Within this group chat there is some offensive language. Some children are using AI Insults to create these messages.

Children as young as 7 and 8 years old are in this group.

The legal age for using WhatsApp is currently 13+.

This unacceptable activity has been reported directly to WhatsApp.

Can I please ask all parents/carers to be aware of what their children are accessing and posting online.

We are now working incredibly hard to support those children affected by what they have seen and read as part of this group. Online safety is a huge part of our Character Development and Computing curriculums and it is really difficult to hear about our own children taking part in such activity and hurting other members of our school community in such a horrible way.

As well as supporting those affected, we will also redouble our efforts and prioritise work around the impact of posting such things on line with all children in Key Stage Two. I would ask that you support us in this work because these things are happening outside of school.

Here are two websites you may want to access which outlines the features and potential dangers of WhatsApp. Specific safety features are outlined from the NSPCC which can be used to ensure you are keeping your child safe, if you choose to allow them to use the app. The parent zone article outline new features such as 'View Once' messages and 'Editing' messages features which could mean children are more prone to sending hurtful messages if they feel the message will disappear or they can edit them quickly after sending.

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>

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- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/whatsapp>

Yours sincerely

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