



St. Wilfrid's R.C.V.A. Primary School

Murphy Crescent  
Bishop Auckland  
Co Durham  
DL14 6QH

Headteacher Mr S Rudd  
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19 January 2015

Dear Parents

**Incident of online grooming of primary school children in Co Durham**

We have been asked to bring parents' attention to an incident that has taken place in County Durham recently. Police and CID have been involved in a case of suspected online grooming of children of primary age. These unknown person/s have identified themselves as famous people, in particular members of One Direction on Skype. They have not, as yet, been caught.

Durham County have liaised closely with the police and would advise parents and carers to talk with their children and in particular to discuss their use of social media. We would advise you to view all conversation histories on Skype and to talk to your child about anyone that they may have had conversations with, to make sure they are only talking to people they know in real life. We would also ask you to check any conversation history on other social media network sites (e.g. Facetime, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, gaming sites, chat rooms etc). Please check all your children's devices including computers, laptops, tablets, phones, gaming devices, kindles etc. Please ensure parental controls are in place on all media devices. The children need to be aware they are not in trouble, and this is about keeping them safe. They should be encouraged to talk about anything that worries them or makes them feel uncomfortable. Unfortunately, although primary aged children are good at using technology, research shows they are trusting and not good at reading people and recognising dangers. That is why it is important to ensure their use of online devices and programmes/apps is monitored.

Our school website has a section on e-Safety, which we regularly update as new resources become available. There is also a page for children that reinforces the e-Safety lessons they have in school, which you can work through with them to discuss e-safety.

([www.st-wilfrids.durham.sch.uk](http://www.st-wilfrids.durham.sch.uk))

If you would like any further information about e-Safety and your devices, please do not hesitate to contact us in school (ask at the office) and we will do our best to help.

Yours sincerely

**S Rudd**



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