



Blandford St. Mary
CE Primary School

'Let all that you do be done in love'

'Love, Hope, Respect, Perseverance, Responsibility'

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Continuing Our Collaborative Work on Digital Wellbeing

As part of our ongoing Digital Excellence Strategy, all DSAT schools in Blandford are continuing to work together to support children and families in navigating the challenges of screen use in today's digital world.

This is a collaborative effort—not about blame or judgement—but about responding to the very real and complex issues that many young people are facing in the digital age. We want to ensure that our children are safe, informed, and supported as they grow up in an increasingly online world.

Recent research and national surveys have highlighted some deeply concerning trends:

- By age 9, around 10% of children have already been exposed to pornography. This rises to 27% by age 11, and half of those who have seen such content have done so by age 13.
- Frequent exposure to pornography has been linked to an increased likelihood of engaging in physically aggressive sexual behaviours.
- 60% of children reported witnessing real-world acts of violence on social media in the past year.

In a recent Children's Commissioner survey, 75% of teenagers said they had seen a beheading online. Due to algorithms, the typical content targeted at our children online and the typical content targeted at adults online vary significantly.

These statistics are difficult to read—but they reflect the reality that many children are encountering harmful content online, often without warning or context. This is why we believe it is so important to work together—schools, parents, and communities—to better understand and respond to these challenges.

After the half term holiday, we will be inviting you to share your views through a Parent Smartphone Survey. Your insights will help shape how we support children both in school and at home, and how we can collectively promote safer, healthier digital habits.

We are committed to ensuring that every child's wellbeing is protected, and we believe that by taking a united approach, we can make a real difference.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.



Mrs Rosaleen Beaver

Headteacher

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