



Stanbury Village School

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Safeguarding – Squishes – Parents to be Aware

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have received notification from Bradford Safeguarding Team about a safeguarding alert that I feel parents need to be aware of.

What You Need to Know

Children and young people are **microwaving squishy silicone toys** after seeing online videos claiming this makes the toys softer and more pliable. When the toy is squeezed afterwards, it bursts and sprays boiling material, which reportedly has **left children's hands and faces seriously burned**.

The toys are widely available in UK shops, and online stores including Amazon and TikTok Shop and are immensely popular for both children and young people. Often, the packaging for these toys provides a warning not to heat, freeze or microwave.

This Is Not an Isolated Incident

Children have been seriously injured by this trend in the UK and the United States since 2025. Most recently, a 10-year-old girl in Bristol was seriously hurt and left with facial burns on 4th May 2026 after supposedly **hearing about the trend from TikTok**. Likewise, in the US, a seven-year-old required a medically induced coma and a nine-year-old narrowly avoided permanent vision loss. Hospitals in Chicago and Indiana treated multiple cases in a single week in February 2026. These are only cases that have reached public attention but evidently this is an active online trend which appears as an innocent 'life hack' (a simple technique for making everyday things easier) for children but carries serious risk.

The Safeguarding Team at Bradford have advised **against searching for this challenge directly on platforms** as each search on those platforms feeds the algorithm, increases the content's reach, making the videos more visible to users.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and acknowledging it's importance. If you would like more information on this topic, please read:

<https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2026/05/07/safeguarding-alert-viral-online-trend-causing-burns/>

Kind regards

Mr A Robinson
Headteacher

