



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

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Keeping Children Safe in the Age of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming an increasingly familiar part of children's lives. AI can be used positively for creativity, learning and entertainment, but it is also important that we understand some of the safeguarding risks that come with increasingly powerful image-editing technology.

Images shared online can be copied, downloaded, screenshotted or altered by other people. New AI tools can make it possible to manipulate photographs in increasingly convincing ways.

For example, an ordinary photograph of a child could potentially be:

- altered to change their appearance or clothing
- used to create a completely fictional image with an altered background
- turned into a realistic-looking video or animation
- manipulated in ways that are embarrassing, upsetting or harmful.

A few simple steps can make a difference

As parents and carers, there are some practical things we can do to help protect our children's images:

- Think before you post. Ask yourself: Does this photograph need to be online? Who can see it? Could it identify where my child lives, goes to school or spends time?
- Check your privacy settings. Private accounts can reduce who can access photographs, although it is important to remember that anything shared online can potentially be copied or reshared.
- Be careful about school uniforms and locations. Photographs showing school logos, names, addresses, street signs or regular locations can potentially provide information about a child's whereabouts.
- Talk to your child. Help children understand that photographs and videos can be copied and shared, and that they should tell a trusted adult if someone asks them for photographs or if something online makes them uncomfortable.

Most importantly... Talk to your child.

Children don't need to understand all the technology behind AI. They do need to know:

**"If something happens online that makes you worried, embarrassed or uncomfortable, you can always tell me.
You won't be in trouble."**



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At Hindon School, we take a proactive approach to safeguarding, including managing risks associated with AI and the use of photographs. As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping children safe, we are changing our approach to photography. From now on, we will:

- Reduce the use of close-up photographs of children
- Focus more on images showing the backs of heads, children's work, or wider group shots taken from further away
- Continue to celebrate your child's achievements whilst prioritising their safety and privacy

These changes help us protect children in an increasingly digital world, where images can be manipulated or shared in ways we cannot control.

Your rights regarding photographs

If at any point you wish to withdraw permission for your child's photograph to be used in school or on our social media channels, please let us know in writing. We will respect your wishes and update our records immediately.

If you have any questions about our photography policy or safeguarding practices, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Useful links NSPCC - Talking to children about AI Helping you protect your child online