



If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or a family, please

contact us:

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFEGUARDING & DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL) –

MRS HEATH, HEADTEACHER

DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD -MISS NOLAN, DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

FGM HELPLINE 0800 028 355

PREVENT HELPLINE 020 7340 7264



Mrs I Heath



Miss B Nolan

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the November safeguarding newsletter.

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly this term goes. With the evenings drawing in and the various autumnal festivals in full swing, I'm sure many minds will soon be turning towards Christmas (if they haven't already with the shops getting their displays up and starting to sell lots of goodies!). Whilst this time of year can be exciting, we know that for many it can also be challenging for many reasons.

Please remember that we are here to support all of our families but particularly those who may find the coming months difficult. Do get in touch with Mrs Heath or Miss Nolan if there is anything we can do to make it easier. From financial assistance with shopping vouchers or food bank referrals to a bit of moral support and or a listening ear, we will be available. Equally, if there is anything we can do to support any children who are struggling, please let us know.

We live to love, learn and respect and follow Jesus who says, "Love one another as I have loved you."

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Working together to keep our young people safe

**Why do we need to have the conversation?**

OpenAI's Sam Altman: 'AI could surpass human intelligence by 2030'

'A million jobs in London could be changed by AI'

'Very scary': Mark Zuckerberg's pledge to build advanced AI alarms experts

Will AI make work burnout worse?

Meta CEO accused of being 'irresponsible' by considering making tools on par with human intelligence open source

While the benefits of AI cannot be dismissed or disputed, there are significant concerns about the negative impacts that go alongside this as with much of the technology that has become so integral to our everyday lives, particularly when it comes to safeguarding our children. The fact that AI is evolving so rapidly can be quite daunting and we are all having to learn very quickly.

Here are some key things to remember:

What are Deepfakes?

Deepfakes are manipulated digital content using advanced AI-based machine learning techniques to create convincing images, videos and audio where the content subject is not real or present. They are used to propagate disinformation and fake news or for entertainment purposes.

Which image is fake? (answer at the end of this newsletter)

**Types of Deepfakes**

Face-swapping is a type of deepfake that involves replacing a person's face in an existing video or image with someone else's face.



Voice cloning is a type of deepfake that involves creating a synthetic voice that sounds like a real person's voice. It is used to create fake audio and video recordings.

Synthetic media is a type of deepfake that involves creating completely new content using AI and machine learning. It is used to create realistic-looking but completely fake images and videos.

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So what?

Personal and emotional damage

Deepfakes can cause significant personal and emotional damage, leading to reputational harm, trauma and loss of privacy. Victims of deepfakes may experience anxiety, depression and social isolation.

Political and misinformation risks

Deepfakes pose a severe threat to democracy and political stability, allowing malicious actors to spread misinformation and manipulate public opinion. This can lead to the erosion of trust in institutions and undermine the democratic process.

Privacy and Digital Footprints



The cuddly chatbot Grem is designed to 'learn' your child's personality, while every conversation they have is recorded, then transcribed by a third party. It wasn't long before I wanted this experiment to be over ...



Why is confiding in chatbots so tempting for children?

- Always available
- Does not require social skills such as confidence, eye contact or interaction
- Never judges
- Adapts to be 'the voice you want to hear' to please you
- Will discuss any subject
- Will never tell your secrets to others



[‘I love you too!’ My family’s creepy, unsettling week with an AI toy | Artificial intelligence \(AI\) | The Guardian](#)

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Some statistics

64% of UK children (aged 9- 17) have used an AI chatbot with use rapidly increasing over the last 18 months.”

The most popular are ChatGPT (43%), Google Gemini (32%) and Snapchat’s My AI (31%).

Vulnerable children (those with SEN, EHCPs or mental/physical health conditions) use them even more frequently (71%).

12% of users overall, and 23% of vulnerable children, use chatbots because they have no-one else to talk to.

Some refer to chatbots with gendered pronouns and treat them like friends.

Emotional attachment to chatbots can lead to:

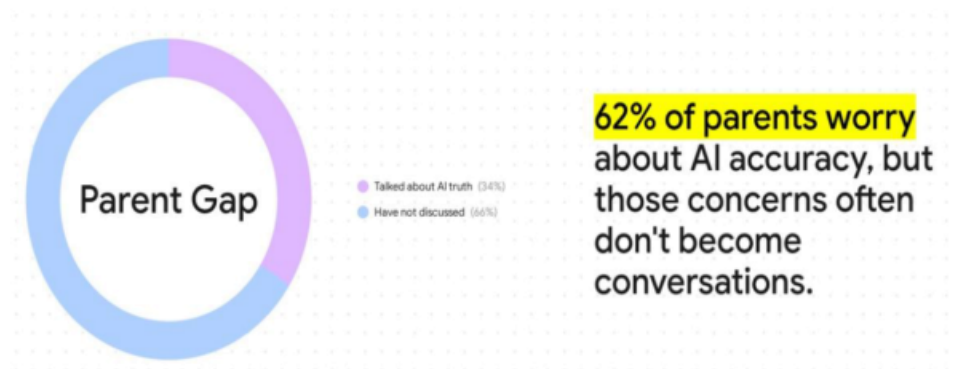
- Reduced real-world help seeking
- Greater exposure to harmful or misleading content
- Blurred boundaries between real and artificial relationships

Many Chatbot experiences are not age-appropriate

58% of 9-12 year olds use AI chatbots despite most platforms setting a minimum age of 13

Age checks are minimal or easily bypassed, often just self-declaration

In user testing, chatbots exposed under-18 accounts to explicit sexualised or misogynistic content during sign up or conversations



So, which picture is the deepfake? ‘A’

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BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN!

Did you know?

New analysis of road casualty data by 'Brake' revealed that every 19 days the equivalent of a whole class of young children is killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads.

We are always mindful for the safety of our children near roads and conscious of how vulnerable they can be.

At this time of year, with reduced visibility for drivers your child is even more vulnerable near roads. With new bikes and scooters arriving at Christmas for some, the temptation to go out in the evening will be even stronger so I have included some safety tips below so that you can discuss with your child/ren how important it is to be visible when near roads.

These tips emphasise how wearing brightly coloured clothing shows up well in daylight but, as it gets dark, reflective clothing and accessories are far more effective in signalling pedestrians or cyclists to drivers.

If you're a driver, remember it will be more difficult for you to see pedestrians and cyclists when it's dark. Unlike this image, not everyone will be dressed in bright colours or reflective clothing. Children and others often wear dark coloured school uniform, winter coats or blazers.

For more information and activities to do around this topic with your child(ren) please visit:

<https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/be-bright-be-seen-game/>

**5 top tips on how to
BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN**

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip-on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safer. If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code.

For more road safety tips, games and videos, visit the Tales of the Road website at www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad

