



Darell Primary School

E-safety Newsletter September 2026



New guidance issued due to concern of AI-manipulated images

Photos of children that seem completely innocent can be manipulated using artificial intelligence (AI) to create sexualised or abusive images. There is a growing threat that children's images shared online are being manipulated by criminals into AI generated sexual abuse material. As concerns grow, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and the National Crime Agency (NCA) have issued new guidance to help you understand the risks around AI image manipulation and advice on how to speak to your child about AI and image consent.

The IWF states that child sexual abuse images or videos created or altered using AI may include:

- Everyday images of a child or young person that are manipulated into child sexual abuse imagery, including images taken from social media, websites or messaging apps, that are manipulated into sexualised or abusive imagery. These are sometimes known as 'deepfakes'.
- Images or videos that look like a real child but are completely artificial.
- AI technology that digitally removes clothing from existing images to create nude or semi-nude images, sometimes known as 'nudifying'.

What can I do?

The guidance provides practical advice about sharing photographs of your child online. Some useful things to consider are:

- Think before you share photographs online. The IWF suggest creating a 'close friends' group to share images.
- Check and adjust your privacy settings on all social media accounts.
- Understand the steps to take if you or your child has any concerns and the organisations you can contact.

Where can I find the new guidance?

The full guidance can be accessed at the link below. It also includes a video highlighting how everyday photos can be misused using AI tools.
<https://www.iwf.org.uk/resources/ai-child-abuse-imagery-parent-guide/>

Online Safety Quiz

The NSPCC have created this quiz to test your child's knowledge on how to stay safe online. It's a great way to start a conversation with your child about their online life. You can access the quiz here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping%ADchildren-safe/online-safety/quiz/>

Nex Playground

Nex Playground is a new video game console, which features games to get kids active. The games have no ads, no violence and no chat features, however it does rely on purchasing either a yearly or quarterly game subscription. You can find out more here:

<https://www.nexplayground.com/en-gb>

WhatsApp Usernames

WhatsApp is introducing the use of usernames, so people no longer have to share their phone number. Wayne Denner provides an overview of the new features, what you need to consider and steps you can take here:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/whatsapp-channels-what-parents-need-to-know/>

Social media to be banned for under-16s

The government has announced that social media platforms will be blocked from offering services to under-16s from next Spring. The ban will include platforms like Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X.

Furthermore, there will also be blocks on live streaming and communication with strangers (these restrictions will also apply to 16 and 17-year-olds) and the government will also be looking at overnight curfews and breaks in infinite scrolling.

You can read the Government's press release here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/social-media-to-be-banned-for-under-16s-in-landmark-government-move-to-givekids-their-childhood-back>

In addition, you can find some FAQs here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fact-sheet-new-rules-to-protect-children-online/fact-sheet-new-rules-to-protect-children-online>