Safeguarding Newsletter

Term 4 2024

Witham St Hughs Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy

WITHAM St. HUGHS ACADEMY

Welcome!

Welcome to Witham St Hughs Academy's Safeguarding Newsletter. Keeping children safe is of course, our key priority here at school. Safeguarding takes many forms including: Protecting children from harm; preventing impairment of children's health and development; enabling safe and effective parenting and giving children equal opportunities in life. We do many things every day in school to ensure pupils are safe including: ensuring all staff are trained in safeguarding; having clear policies and procedures in place to keep children safe; monitoring pupil attendance; ensuring a safe and healthy site; ensuring the behaviour of pupils is in line with the Academy behaviour policy and using our curriculum to teach children about risk taking, diversity, healthy lifestyles, managing relationships, online safety and much more. Our safeguarding policy is always available to view via our website.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Focus on: Assessing Smartphone Readiness

"Is my child old enough to have a phone?" It's a common, understandable question that is asked by parents, but it's also one that is very difficult to answer as there are so many factors involved. For younger children it's often peer pressure; with older children, social isolation is very common. Often, advice has to be given in context, to that child/family, rather than a one-size-fits-all solution.

The Institute for Digital Media and Child Development have put together some tip sheets for parents which are really useful. There are 3 parts:

- Assessing readiness.
- Preparing for healthy use.
- What now?

You can view all the tip sheets

Smartphones: Assessing Readiness - Children and Screens

Focus on: Professional curiosity

Children and young people rarely disclose information about abuse and neglect directly to practitioners. If they do, it will often be through unusual behaviour or comments. This makes identifying abuse and neglect difficult for professionals across agencies. We know that it is better to help as early as possible, before issues get worse. The first step is to be professionally curious about any signs or disclosures.

Everyone in the academy understands that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that we all have a duty of care to be curious and follow up any concerns. Therefore, any signs or disclosures that are unusual in nature or lend themselves to safeguarding concerns will be questioned, challenged and followed up.

By law, if anyone has any knowledge (through disclosures, comments or observations) that a child has been harmed or is likely to be harmed, they need to report this to the appropriate authority. Additionally, staff members may seek advice to form the right course of action.

Whilst it is not our job investigate allegations or form any judgements, it is our job to share information with other relevant agencies.

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Who can help?

Every school has a 'Designated Safeguarding Lead'. At Witham St Hughs Academy, these are: Richard Stock, Emily Broadley, Steve Ross, Hannah Younger and Michelle Dexter. Our safeguarding governor is Marcus Capell. If you have any concerns in relation to a safeguarding, please feel free to speak to a safeguarding lead at any time.

Useful phone numbers

Social Services: 01522 782111

ChildLine: 0800 1111

Lincolnshire Prevent Team: 020 7340 7264

Young Carers Helpline: 01522 553275

NSPCC whistle blowing helpline: 08088 005000

FGM helpline: 08000 283550

Samaritans: 01522 528282

Family Services Directory: 0800 195 1635

Online Safety: AI Fake Images - How to Spot them.

AI (artificial intelligence) technology has taken such a leap forward over the last 2 years that it can be difficult to spot real from fake. AI fake images have been used for a multitude of different things from personal photo editing to serious disinformation, so understanding how to spot a 'fake' can be useful for all ages.
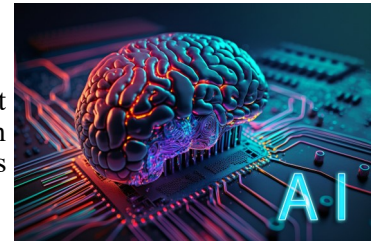
Here are some steps to be able to spot fake AI images:

Zoom in and look carefully
Many images generated by AI look real at first glance. That's why our first suggestion is to look closely at the picture. To do this, search for the image in the highest-possible resolution and then zoom in on the details. Enlarging the picture will reveal inconsistencies and errors that may have gone undetected at first glance.

Find the image source
If you're unsure whether an image is real or generated by AI, try to find its source. You may be able to see some information on where the image was first posted by reading comments published by other users below the picture

Pay attention to body proportions
It's not uncommon for AI-generated images to show discrepancies when it comes to proportions, with hands being too small or fingers too long, for example. Or the head and feet don't match the rest of the body.

Watch out for typical AI errors
Hands are currently the main source of errors in AI image programs. People frequently have a sixth finger. Other common errors in AI-generated images include people with far too many teeth, or glasses frames that are oddly deformed, or ears that have unrealistic shapes,

Does the image look artificial and smoothed out?
Follow your gut feeling here: Can such a perfect image with flawless people really be real? People's skin in many AI images is often smooth and free of any irritation, and even their hair and teeth are flawless. This is usually not the case in real life.

Examine the background
The background of an image can often reveal whether it was manipulated. Here, too, objects can appear deformed; for example, street lamps. In a few cases, AI programs clone people and objects and use them twice. And it's not uncommon for the background of AI images to be blurred.