

KHI/JCR/Keeping-safe-online-AI

2nd June 2026



**Feeling Safe at Barr Beacon School
Online Safety – Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

At Barr Beacon School, safeguarding will always remain our highest priority. We continue to educate pupils about online safety through our curriculum, assemblies, pastoral support, and wider safeguarding work, including the monitoring of pupil's IT usage. We are committed to helping pupils develop the knowledge and skills needed to use technology safely and responsibly.

As technology continues to develop, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming an increasingly common part of children's daily lives. Many pupils are now using AI-powered tools for learning, entertainment, communication, and online searches. While AI can offer many benefits, it is important that parents and schools work together to ensure children use these technologies safely, responsibly, and appropriately.

Recent guidance from the Department for Education has highlighted several safeguarding considerations linked to AI:

- **Over-reliance on AI** – Young people may become too dependent on AI tools rather than developing their own thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills.
- **Emotional Attachment to AI Chatbots** – Some children may begin to view AI chatbots as a source of emotional support instead of speaking to trusted adults, family members, or friends.
- **Deepfakes and Misleading Content** – AI can create realistic fake images, videos, and audio that may spread misinformation, cause distress, or damage reputations.
- **Online Grooming and Exploitation** – AI tools can be misused to manipulate or exploit young people. Children should never share personal information online and should report any concerns.
- **Harmful or Extremist Content** – AI may generate inaccurate, inappropriate, or harmful content. Young people should be encouraged to question information and seek advice from trusted adults.

We encourage you to maintain oversight of your child's online activity and take an interest in the AI tools and apps they are using. Regular conversations about how AI works can help children understand that information generated by AI may not always be accurate and that personal information should never be shared online. **AI should never replace seeking advice, support, or guidance from trusted adults.**

If you have any concerns about your child's online activity or would like further advice, please do not hesitate to contact us via postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep children safe.

Yours sincerely,

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