



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.

- 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?

- 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.

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.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/new-guidance-for-parentsand-carers-as-ai-manipulated-images-of-children-become-a-growing-concern>

Childline have a separate area on their website for under 12s. The pages are written for primary school children. The area includes a section full of games and a Buddy Zone with tips, such as how to speak to a trusted adult and information on where to get extra support from.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/getsupport/u12-landing/>

Internet Matters asked online experts, Karl Hopwood and Richard Waite to share their advice on how to manage parental controls for different ages.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/question/managing-parentalcontrols-for-different-ages/>

A computer monitor with a silver base and bezel. The screen is white and displays two lines of blue, underlined text. The first line is the URL 'www.timestables.co.uk' and the second line is 'https://ttrockstars.com'. The monitor is centered against a white background.