



9 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over recent weeks we have been alerted to an increasing number of incidents in schools across the country where children's images from websites and social media platforms have been manipulated using AI and shared without consent. There have been instances where these images have then been used to blackmail schools and families.

Please note that we have no reason to think that this has happened using images from our school.

Safeguarding is our highest priority at Ashford CE and we have reviewed how we use children's images to minimise the risks of this happening within our school.

In carrying out this review, we have identified the following areas where we will be making changes to ensure that these risks are minimised.

- We will be using lower resolution images of our children as this reduces the chance of them being misused.
- On our website and Facebook page, we will be replacing images of children that show a full-face picture and instead use different angles to take the photos such as a side view.
- We will limit the public access to photos and will share these as part of closed groups rather than posting on open platforms such as Facebook. This will mean that we e mail photos to groups of parents rather than share more widely.
- We will continue to regularly update parental consent for the use of children's images within school, on the website and online platforms.

We want to continue to share our children's achievements and special events using photos and trust that you will agree with the controls we are putting in place to manage the risks faced in our ever-changing digital world.

I would like to again stress that we have no reason to think that any images from our school have been used inappropriately.

If you have any questions please speak to the school office and a member of the senior team will happily answer these.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'L. Bailey'.

Mrs Bailey
Headteacher