



Safeguarding & AI Chatbots

A Guide for Staff and Parents

What are AI Chatbots?

AI chatbots are digital tools that simulate human conversation using artificial intelligence. Examples include ChatGPT and AI companion-style apps. Many young people use them for homework help, advice, entertainment or emotional conversation.



Why This Matters

- AI can provide inaccurate or unsafe advice, particularly around health, wellbeing or relationships.
- Some children form emotional attachments and may describe chatbots as friends or confidants.
- Certain platforms have generated inappropriate or explicit content.
- Young people may share personal information without understanding data privacy risks.
- Media reports have highlighted cases where vulnerable teenagers received harmful responses from AI systems.

Signs to Be Aware Of...

- Referring to a chatbot as a trusted friend.
- Withdrawal from peers or increased secrecy around devices.
- Acting on advice given by an AI chatbot.
- Increased anxiety or distress linked to online interactions.

Practical Guidance for Staff & Parents

- Encourage open conversations about how AI tools are being used.
- Remind children that AI is not a friend, counsellor or safeguarding professional.
- Teach children to verify information with trusted adults.
- Avoid sharing personal, sensitive or identifiable information with public AI platforms.
- Follow school safeguarding procedures if concerns arise.

Statutory Context

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) makes clear that safeguarding includes online safety. Part Two highlights the importance of appropriate filtering and monitoring systems, and ensuring that children are protected from harmful online content. AI chatbot use falls within this wider online safety responsibility.

Blackpool CE Primary – Safeguarding Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Russell Pearson (Head of School)

Level 3 Trained Staff: Mr Luke Forbes, Mrs Laura Trayte, Mrs Abi Marshall, Mrs Rachel Early, Mrs Natalie Dugdall (Family Support Advisor).