



JHU/SDA

Dear Parents and Carers,

Subject: A Small Change to How We Use Student Photographs

I am writing to share an update to our approach to using student photographs. Recently, there has been national media coverage, including reporting in *The Guardian*, about a new and emerging online risk linked to artificial intelligence (AI). In a small number of cases, criminals have taken publicly available images of children and used AI tools to manipulate them in harmful ways, including attempts to blackmail schools.

I want to reassure you that **these incidents are still rare**, and there is no specific concern relating to our school. However, as with all aspects of safeguarding, we believe it is always better to take early, sensible steps to protect our pupils. The UK Safer Internet Centre has shared with schools guidance on best practice and considerations for education settings and organisations working with children and young people on the use of photos and videos across their online platforms, to address the risk of AI image manipulation. The senior leadership team and governors have discussed the current update on AI and this letter is being sent as an update on our new approach to student images.

What we are doing

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping children safe, we are gently adapting how we use images:

- We will **reduce the use of identifiable, full-face photographs** of students on public platforms such as our website and social media
- Where we do share images, they are more likely to be **group shots or taken in ways that do not identify individual pupils**
- We will continue to celebrate pupil achievements, but in ways that are **safe, secure and appropriate in an AI world**

This follows guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre, which we will keep up to date with on how images are shared online considering new technology risks.

Reassurance for families

We understand that photographs are a valued part of school life, and we want to reassure you that:

- This change is a **precautionary step**, not a response to any issue within our community
- We will still celebrate successes, trips, and achievements—just in a slightly more careful way

Our aim is simply to ensure that we stay **one step ahead of emerging risks**, while continuing to provide a positive and enriching school experience.



Working together

As always, we value working in partnership with families. You may also wish to review how images are shared on personal social media accounts, as the same general advice applies beyond schools.

AI update

In September 2025 we launched our school AI Protocol enabling staff to use Copilot to assist with their work and teaching staff could use Oak National's ALLA to support with lesson planning. Our staff working party have been reviewing the ethics behind our use of AI in school and looking at how schools can use it to enhance learning. We have joined the Big AI Project and will be running training for staff and students using their materials as well as working our way through the AI Quality Mark with the Good Future Foundation. Please find a copy of our newly ratified AI policy that has just been approved by governors.

The world of artificial intelligence is moving rapidly and as a school we are partnering with leading organisations to ensure that our approach is relevant and appropriate. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Hunter
Headteacher

