



SUBJECT: EXPLORING THE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI – SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026



Dear Parents and Guardians,

This week, our school joined others nationwide to celebrate Safer Internet Day 2026, the largest global online safety campaign. This year's theme, 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI,' focuses on teaching children and young people the skills to use AI technology safely and responsibly and highlights available support.

From voice assistants, to chatbots, to algorithms, AI technology is playing an increasingly large role in all our lives. It is important that we find time to discuss these tools and the impact they can have on our own and our families' online experiences, including:

- the news and content we see
- the way we work, including using AI for homework or studies
- the risk of misuse of AI, for example to create realistic scams or non-consensual nude images

As Safer Internet Day 2026 falls just before half term, we encourage you to join us in celebrating by continuing the conversation about AI technology at home. Here are some helpful resources:

- You can complete the [UK Safer Internet Centre's interactive quizzes](#) with your child.
- The UK Safer Internet Centre have created resources for use with children and young people about this year's theme. These were designed for learning settings but can be adapted to use with your child. You can find these [here](#).
- Read the UK Safer Internet Centre's top tips for parents and carers [here](#).
- You can share the UK Safer Internet Centre's [top tips for children and young people](#) with your child.
- You can visit the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland's [Online Safety Hub](#) website for lots of advice and support about how to keep your child safer online. It is split into two sections, one for adults and one for [young people](#). It signposts to local support if help is needed.



ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL GLENARIFF

Principal: Mr Mark Dinsmore



- The Department of Education also continues to fund the [Safer Schools NI App](#) which is available to all school communities and families to help them manage a wide range of safeguarding issues.

You may also like to use one of these prompts to start a conversation with your child:

- What's your favourite thing to do online?
- Have you ever used an AI tool? How did it make you feel?
- What do you like about AI technology?
- Do you have any worries about AI technology?
- What advice would you give to your friends about using AI?
- Who would you talk to if you saw something worrying online?
- What more can I do to help you feel safe online?

A key part of protecting children and young people from online harms is through preventative education. By talking about this in school and at home, we can all work towards keeping children safe when they are online. Celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for you to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year.

If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher or Mrs McAuley (myself) the Designated Safeguarding teacher.

Kind regards,

Mrs C McAuley

