

Safeguarding Snapshot – 21.06.24

Tips for helping children stay safe online - IWF / PIER

This week's safeguarding snapshot has been taken from the Andrew Hall weekly safeguarding newsletter. This contains information of a sexual nature and brings to light the dangers to children when images are shared online through social media.

'Self-generated' child sexual abuse material (CSAM) has been the subject of research that PIER (Policing Institute for the Eastern Region) have just finished on behalf of the Internet Watch Foundation.

'Self-generated' CSAM are images and videos which are taken by children and then shared either:

- willingly, usually with a boyfriend/girlfriend, or
- unwillingly, through coercion, or
- shared by a third party without their consent.

Some of these images end up being distributed, sometimes sold, on the open and dark web by those with a sexual interest in children.

Just over 300 children took part in the research and talked about their experiences of growing up in a digital world, where they talk to their friends, game and do their schoolwork online. Many described receiving unwanted sexual images and some commented that it has become normalised and part of their lives. The apps they use, such as Snapchat and TikTok are also used by perpetrators to talk to children and groom them into sharing sexual images. This is a serious safeguarding issue, with wide-reaching consequences that we all need to learn more about.

PIER and IWF have written a blog post for parents about how they can better understand their children's online world and its risks. The blog post can be found [\[here\]](#).

If you are concerned about a child or would like more information or support on this topic, please contact the safeguarding team via the school office by emailing office@vynersschool.org.uk.