



**THE ST. MARY'S
PARTNERSHIP**

**S A F E G U A R D I N G
I N S C H O O L S**

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025

September 2025



Department
for Education

Keeping children safe in education 2025

Statutory guidance for schools
and colleges

September 2025

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025

What's New?



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What's New?

No significant changes



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What's New?

No significant changes

From 1st September 2026* there will be revised guidance for:

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

**Schools can use the new RSHE curriculum from September 2025, if they wish.*



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What's New?

No significant changes

From 1st September 2026* there will be revised guidance for:

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

Added to the list of safeguarding harms is **misinformation; disinformation; and conspiracy theories.**

**Schools can use the new RSHE curriculum from September 2025, if they wish.*



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September 2025

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Misinformation

This is false or misleading information that is shared by someone who believes it to be true. They are not trying to cause harm, but what they pass on is still wrong and can mislead others.

Example: A parent shares an inaccurate health claim on social media, thinking it will help others.



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Statutory guidance for schools
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September 2025

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025

Disinformation

This is false information that is deliberately created and spread to cause harm, mislead, or manipulate people. It is intentional.

Example: A fake news story is published online to influence how people vote or to stir up fear about a group of people.



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Statutory guidance for schools
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September 2025

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025

Conspiracy Theories

These are stories or ideas that claim events are secretly being controlled by powerful groups, often without evidence. They can make children fearful, mistrustful of adults or authorities, and vulnerable to harmful influence.

***Example:** A child comes across online claims that world leaders are secretly working together in dangerous ways, even though there is no evidence.*



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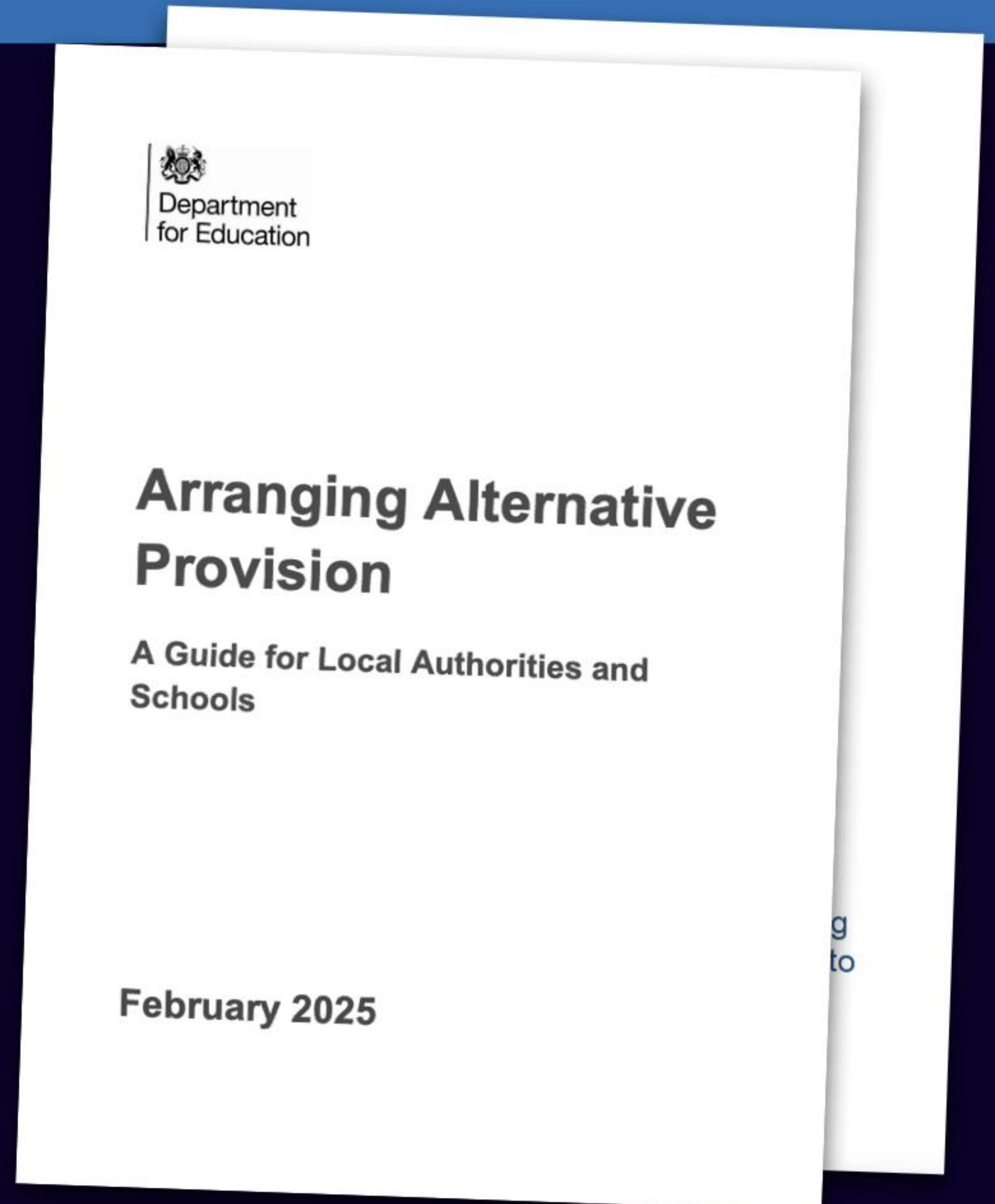
September 2025

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025

What's New?

Incorporated safeguarding guidance from:
'Arranging Alternative Provision'
(DfE, February 2025)

Schools remain responsible for the safeguarding of their students, even when placed with an alternative provider.



Online Safety Act 2023

Key Requirement

Mandatory Age Verification on Pornographic Websites

From 25 July 2025, all pornographic websites accessible in the UK must have effective age verification systems in place (such as ID checks or facial age estimation).

Age verification also in places for other harmful content, for example, eating disorders or self-harm.

Online Safety Act 2023


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Zach's Law: West Yorkshire boy hails victory over online trolls

© 20 September 2023



Zach Eagling is celebrating that Zach's Law is now official and trolls could face prison

By PA Media
BBC News

A 12-year-old boy with epilepsy has welcomed an anti-trolling law passed after bullies targeted his condition.

Zach Eagling, from Liversedge, is "over the moon" now Zach's Law means it is illegal for trolls to maliciously send flashing images to epilepsy sufferers.

He began campaigning after he was targeted during a charity challenge he undertook during Covid.

Zach's mother Claire Keer said: "Zach was deeply upset at the online trolling and was determined to make it stop."

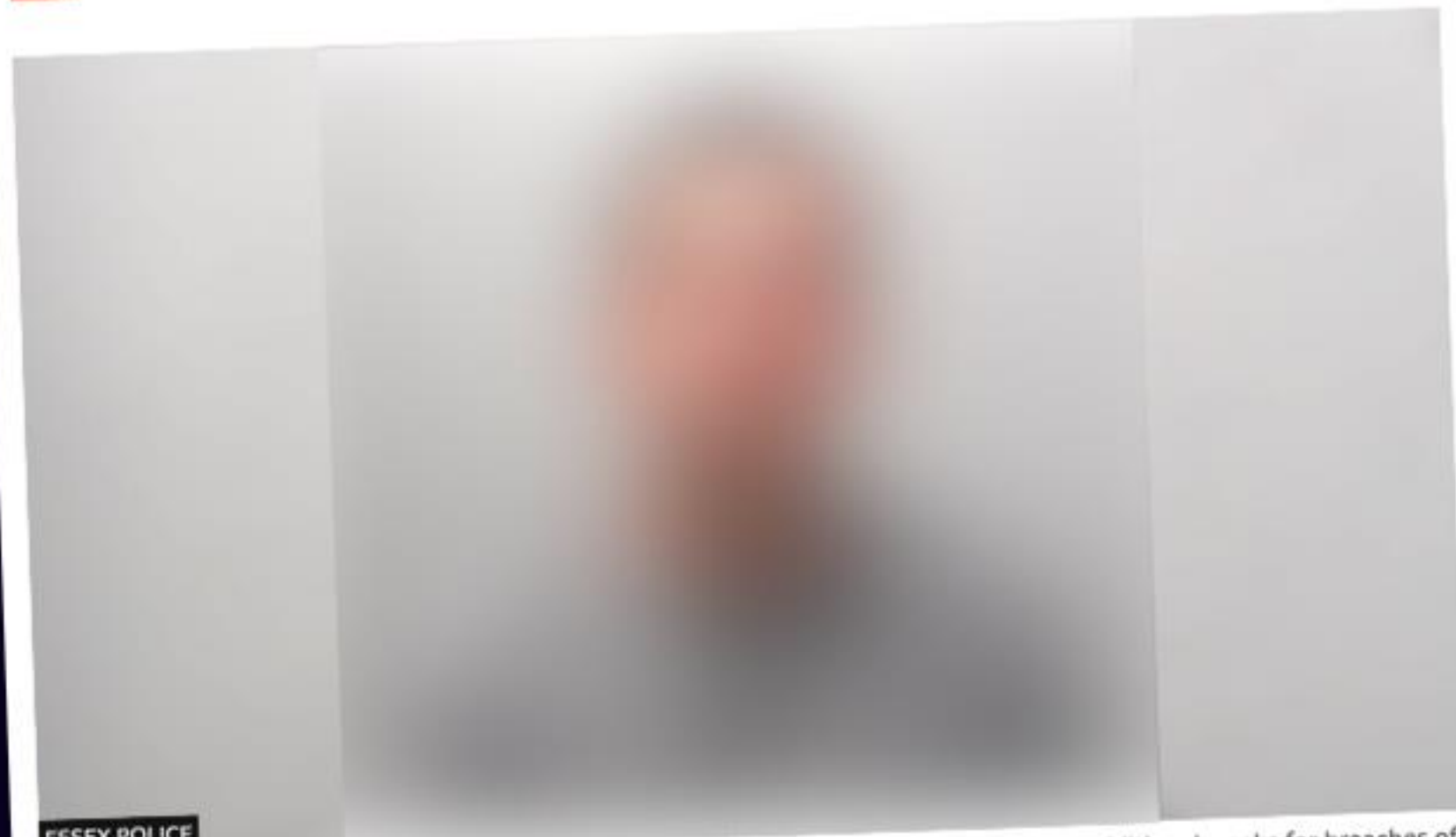
NEWS

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Cyber-flashing convict is first to be jailed under new law

19 March 2024



ESSEX POLICE

Nicholas Hawkes was sentenced to 52 weeks in jail for the cyber-flashing offences and 14 additional weeks for breaches of previous court orders

By Lewis Adams

BBC News, Essex

A registered sex offender who sent a picture of his erect penis to a 15-year-old girl has become the first person to be jailed for cyber-flashing in England and Wales.

Nicholas Hawkes, 39, of Basildon, Essex, also sent unsolicited photos to a woman.

The woman took screenshots of the WhatsApp image sent on 9 February and reported it to police the same day.

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England | Local News | Leicestershire

Man who encouraged woman to kill herself sentenced



LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE

Tyler Webb was sentenced at Leicester Crown Court on Friday

Dan Hunt

BBC News, Leicester

4 July 2025

A man has been sentenced after he "repeatedly and persistently" encouraged a vulnerable woman he met online to kill herself.

Tyler Webb, 23, connected with his victim on social media before asking the woman, who cannot be named, to harm herself for his own "sexual gratification".

Police said the victim's bravery was "profound" in reporting the offence, which led to Webb being the first person in the country to be charged with encouraging serious self-harm online under section 184 of the Online Safety Act 2023.

Webb was given a hybrid order of nine years and four months, which will see

Online Safety Act 2023

New Offences

Cyberflashing

Illegal to send unsolicited sexual images intended to alarm or distress.

Epilepsy trolling

Criminal to send flashing images aiming to trigger seizures or cause distress.

Threatening communications

Sending threats of serious harm, death, or violence is a standalone offence.

Encouraging serious self-harm

Offence to promote or encourage serious self-harm online, even if harm doesn't occur.

Sharing intimate images (including deepfakes)

Offence to share or threaten to share sexual images without consent, including AI-generated content.

Artificial Intelligence

Published June 2025

This screenshot shows the GOV.UK page for 'Using AI in education: support for school and college leaders'. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home > Education, training and skills > Running and managing a school'. The page title is 'Using AI in education: support for school and college leaders'. The content includes a sub-header 'Guidance' and a description: 'Free support materials for school and college leaders about using AI (artificial intelligence) effectively and safely.' It is attributed to the 'Department for Education' and published on '10 June 2025'. There is a 'Get emails about this page' button and a note that it 'Applies to England'. Under the 'Documents' section, a 'Leadership presentation: Using AI in education' is listed as an MS PowerPoint file.

This screenshot shows the Chartered College of Teaching page for 'Safe and Effective Use of AI in Education'. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home > Education, training and skills > Running and managing a school'. The page title is 'Safe and Effective Use of AI in Education'. The content includes a sub-header 'Guidance' and a description: 'The following video and audio case studies explore the use of artificial intelligence (AI) across a range of different educational settings and phases. Teachers and leaders discuss how they are using AI to reduce teachers' workload, support inclusion, improve the accessibility of learning materials, boost teacher and student wellbeing, and deliver effective teaching and learning. They also delve into some of the challenges engaging with AI involves and how to implement it safely and ethically.' Below the text are four case study video interview thumbnails: 'AI in schools: Leadership and strategy', 'AI in schools: Reducing workload', 'AI in schools: What students need to know', and 'AI in schools: Training staff'.





This screenshot shows the 'About the free certified assessment' page. The text states: 'Extend your learning and demonstrate that you have developed your expertise around the safe and effective use of AI technology with this free certified assessment. The assessment is focused on the DfE's AI training programme, developed by Chiltern Learning Trust and free to access via the DfE's website. Successful candidates will also receive five credits towards Chartered Status. Our short and free-to-access certified assessment will allow teachers, leaders and other school and college staff to evidence their understanding of AI in practice, based on the following areas:'. A bulleted list follows: 'Understanding AI in education', 'Interacting with generative AI in education', 'Developing the safe use of generative AI in education', and 'Use cases of generative AI in education.' At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Already a member? Take the assessment here' and 'Not a member of the Chartered College? Make a free guest account to take the assessment here'.

safeguardingschools.co.uk/dfeai

Artificial Intelligence

Published June 2025

Not covered in the guidance

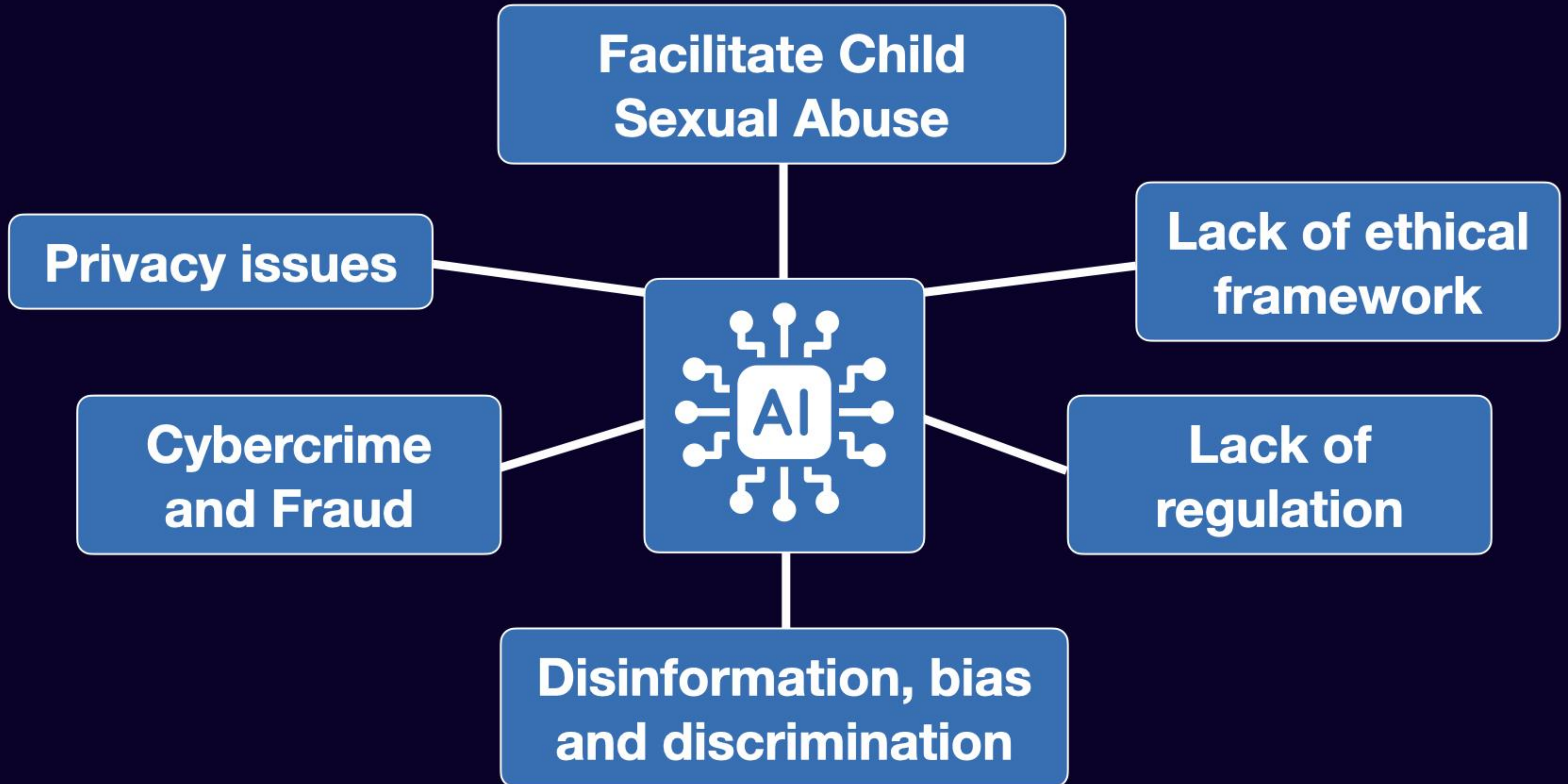
-  No clarity on age restrictions or platform terms of service
-  No list of recommended or unsuitable AI tools
-  No practical safeguarding procedures
-  No policy templates or Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) examples

What schools will need to do

-  Check age limits and terms of service
-  Choose enterprise-grade tools with organisational control
-  Create interim guidance for staff and students
-  Update key policies and complete a DPIA

Artificial Intelligence

Some potential harms



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