

To: Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding
Lead (via e-mail)

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Dear Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead,

Safeguarding – Tackling Indecent Images of Children

School Uniform ID

The importance of tackling child sexual abuse is a priority for all partners involved with protecting children. Gloucestershire County Council recognises the consistent and unrelenting hard work you and your staff put in to ensure children are kept safe.

To tackle the threat of child sexual abuse, the UK have a National Child Abuse Image Database (CAID). This database was provided to all Police forces in 2015. This database assists investigators to effectively identify unknown victims of abuse and each year police identify growing numbers of child victims who are subsequently safeguarded.

Police investigators have highlighted the increasing numbers of children being identified wearing school uniform. Investigators make every attempt to identify children through their school uniform, however, due to the limitations of the available technology, a number of victims were not identified or identified within lengthy timeframes delaying the opportunity to intervene and safeguard.

In response, the Home Office worked with a company called Camera Forensics and a charity known as The Global Emancipation Network to develop the Uniform Intelligence Hub (UIH) which is a database containing images of UK school uniforms.

This database is now deployed in every UK police force and is used on a regular basis to identify child victims of abuse who are present in images and videos wearing a school uniform. Investigators can search logos/badges/school ties and combinations of pieces of uniform that are within the dataset. If a match is identified, officers can locate the school and liaise with school safeguarding leads to identify and subsequently safeguard the child.

Consequently, numerous victims have been identified, rescued, and safeguarded from further abuse. However, the database is only 85% complete and user feedback has confirmed that investigators need the missing images to now be included to maximise the opportunity to locate victims. In addition, some of the images that are present are of poor quality and require replacing.

The Minister for Safeguarding and Violence against Women and Girls, Jess Phillips MP, has informed all Local Authorities that local police forces and camera forensic teams could approach schools in Gloucestershire to discuss whether they would be able to work in partnership to update their data should it be required.

We hope that you can support this national initiative which will undoubtedly lead to the identification and safeguarding of an increasing number of child victims who are subjected to online sexual abuse.

Yours sincerely,



Robbie Foran
GCC Education Safeguarding Lead