



## *Achieving, Caring, Enjoying*

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### Safeguarding issues and photographs

Governors and staff at St Catherine's take the safety of children very seriously. In all Primary schools there are serious safeguarding issues for which the Senior Leadership Team and school Governors are responsible, and of which parents are often, quite rightly unaware.

There are a number of very significant reasons why many primary schools discourage parents from taking photos in school. For example, some schools may have children attending who would be at risk if photographs were to reach the wider domain. If the school stated that general photographs were permitted one term, and then not the next, (for example, once a particular child had joined the school, or left the school) then clearly confidentiality would be breached. It is wrong for parents to ask other parents whether they object or, indeed, to ask staff which children can/cannot have their picture taken – there are a number of cases where this has put families in an incredibly awkward position, and again breaks confidentiality.

The key concern surrounds the ease in which photos are innocently added to social media sites. Specific examples of risk are: instances where estranged parents have found their children due to social networking sites and taken them from the school gate; and very upsetting and contentious incidents involving children naively using their own camera-phones to upload photos onto social network sites.

**Sadly, with this in mind, we must ask that for safeguarding reasons parents do not take photographs of children in school.** The school endeavours to send home photographs, sell photos taken at plays/nativities etc, or perhaps even compile short DVDs when possible, and also adds photos to the website.

In today's digital age, I understand that photographs can be the source of very precious memories; there are thousands of photos all over the world wide web that we have no control over, but to the best of my ability, I would like to ensure that ALL children are as safe as possible, during their time at St Catherine's.

Kind regards,  
Hazel Wing



Head Teacher: Mrs Hazel Wing

St Catherine's is a voluntary controlled Church of England School affiliated to St Mary's Church,  
Ware