

Tender Heart High School, Sector 33-B, Chd..

Advisory

Dated : 13.10.2023

Dear Parents,

As most parents may already be aware that there was a serious incident yesterday in a Private School located in Sector 25, Chandigarh regarding and as per the News item titled – ‘**Morphed photos of students go viral, parents lodge plaint**’ in Chandigarh Tribune dated today i.e. 13.10.2023. Article attached below

As per the article - morphed photos of students were uploaded on a social media platform and thus the photos went viral on the internet.

Apparently the pre-morphed photos were obtained by mischief makers from the official website of the particular school and were loaded on Snapchat portal.

As an overdue advisory from the side of the school and because it is already known that social media platforms like Snapchat (among others) are grossly misused by children who are yet to gain maturity of the mind and hence also the required power of discretion and serve no educative purpose what-so-ever.

All parents of school are therefore advised as follows –

- (i) To get their children to shut down their account (where applicable) in the specific portal of ‘Snapchat’ immediately.
- (ii) The Snapchat account should not be activated ever again by your child.
- (iii) Parents may kindly ensure the above.

Thanking you for your kind co-operation in the matter.

Principal

Tender Heart High School

Morphed photos of students go viral, parents lodge complaint

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 12

A private school here has been embroiled in controversy after more than 24 students allegedly fell prey to the circulation of doctored and objectionable photos, all facilitated by the Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. The photos were uploaded on a social media platform.

The police have registered a case under Section 67-A of the IT Act and 13 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against unidentified persons at the Sector 11 station and started a thorough investigation.

According to the complaint, unidentified persons obtained these photos by downloading them from the official school portal. The affected students submitted a formal complaint

24 pupils fall prey to circulation of doctored photos facilitated by AI

to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP).

On October 10, a victim started crying before her father when he came to pick her up at the school. The student revealed that on the Snapchat portal, objectionable photos were circulated and it was not limited to her alone. Several others had also fallen victim to this act. Someone had extracted photos from the school portal and manipulated them into offensive content using the AI technology.

The parents reached out to a Police Control Room (PCR) vehicle on Wednesday. Subsequently, they sought assistance from SSP (UT) Kan-

wardeep Kaur at her office in Sector 9. After the incident came to light, the relevant accounts were hastily removed from the Internet. Parents, in their complaint, have suggested that the individual responsible for these actions likely had some connection to the school.

A delegation of the parents concerned met the SSP and discussed the issue.

In response to the allegations, the school has issued a statement asserting that no such incident occurred within the school premises based on internal investigations. The school maintains that it has provided support and a fair hearing to the affected students. It also pledges to cooperate with the authorities as needed, with the safety of its students remaining a top priority.