

# PUPIL SPECIAL

REPORT ON

Pupils 2 Parliament

## TECHNOLOGY TO CHECK HOW OLD SOMEONE IS

Hi all you pupils of Kingsland!

Here's another Pupil Special report for you. This time, I am reporting back to you on what everyone at Kingsland, and at some other schools I visited, said about technology to check how old someone is – and sometimes to prove who you are as well.



Proving how old you are is important if you want to buy something that only people over a particular age are allowed to buy - like wine

or crackers that go bang



*Not those ones !*



*These ones !*

It is also important if you need to show that you are old enough to visit some places, or whether you need to pay a child price or a grown up price to get in somewhere.

Proving who you are is important when you do things like go on a ship or an aeroplane.

You had a brilliant discussion and came up with lots of really excellent ideas – and some very, very important messages for the Government!

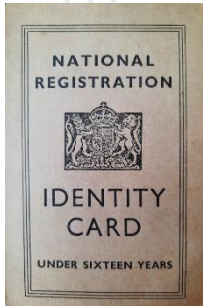


What you all said is on its way to the people in the Government who are making decisions about all this. They are going to read YOUR advice! That makes you real advisers to the Government!

*Roger*

## ID CARDS

You talked about people having Identity Cards (ID cards) to carry with them so that they can prove who they are, and how old they are, whenever they need to.



People in this country used to have ID cards, but we don't all have ID cards now in the UK. If people need to prove how old they are or who they are, they need to use something else – like a passport, or a driving licence.

*This is the sort of ID card that people have nowadays in Belgium.*



You know that lots of grown ups are against everyone having ID cards because they worry about privacy and say it is their right not to have to have an ID card to prove things about themselves.



So the vote YOU took part in is really important to tell the Government what CHILDREN nowadays think about people being given ID cards to carry with them.

Altogether 127 children voted on this, in Kingsland and in four other primary schools.

As far as I know, this is the only time children have ever voted about having ID cards.

**AND THE RESULT OF THE VOTE WAS ...**

**TWO THIRDS (66%) OF YOU VOTED**

**YES TO ID CARDS**

**A QUARTER OF YOU VOTED**

**NO TO ID CARDS**

**The Government believes that most people are against having ID cards.**

**BUT MOST OF YOU ARE **FOR** HAVING THEM !**

**I will make sure the Government gets to know that !**

**YOU SAID THESE VERY IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT HAVING ID CARDS ...**

### **Good things ...**

- **Carrying an ID card would be really easy and useful**
- **People often guess other people's ages wrong. An ID card would be good to prove how old you are – especially if you don't look your age**
- **An ID card would be good for everyone who doesn't have a passport or driving licence**
- **An ID card would help stop criminals from giving false information to the police**
- **If the police are hunting someone and mistake you for that person, you could prove your innocence with your ID card**
- **An ID card would be useful if someone gets lost**
- **You could have just one card to cover your ID and lots of other things people have different cards for these days**

## You had 6 worries about ID cards ...

- **ID cards could easily be lost or stolen, and your information could get used by someone**
- **You could have left your card at home when you need it**
- **With lots of information about you on it, it isn't very private**
- **ID cards could be faked**
- **We don't really need yet another thing to keep with us**
- **Parents could just give their own ID cards to their child to go and buy something for them that is age-restricted**



**You had some great ideas about ID cards ...**



## Your ideas ...

- **Children could have a new ID card each birthday, with an up to date photo and different colours for different ages**
- **An ID card could list the different ages you need to be for different things – so both you and shopkeepers would know**
- **You could have a new card if you change your name or your pronoun or if you ever have plastic surgery**
- **ID cards would need to be made of something very tough, be hard to forge, and not be easy to use if they are stolen**
- **You could have a special clip on your ID card to attach it securely to your clothing**
- **There could be a special area for age-restricted things in shops and supermarkets, where you would show their ID card to prove they are old enough to buy things they want**
- **Young carers could have a special card to use to buy things for the person they are looking after, even if they are not old enough to buy them just for themselves**

You thought that children over 8 could have their own ID card to carry with them.



Some of you thought children should get their own ID cards at the age of 10, which is the age of 'criminal responsibility' when you become responsible for the things you do. Some thought you should get your own ID card at 12 or 13, when different age limits for things begin.

## DIGITAL ID

This is where you register yourself with a company, then you can prove who you are and how old you are in places like supermarkets, just by being checked by a camera or using your fingerprint.

**LESS THAN HALF OF YOU (43% to be exact)  
VOTED YES TO DIGITAL ID  
YOU PREFERRED ID CARDS TO DIGITAL ID**

Some of you actually thought of the idea of Digital ID before you were told about it!

**"instead of a card, use information that is already logged online"**

**Some of you thought of using something like a tattooed barcode or an implanted chip to prove who you are.**

**IT IS BRILLIANT THAT SOME OF YOU THOUGHT OF DIGITAL ID FOR YOURSELVES!**

***IT'S TAKEN SCIENTISTS AGES TO WORK IT OUT!***

You liked the idea of using something about your body that is unique to you to prove who you are – like your face, your eyes, or your fingerprint

**Use "something you can't lose . Something unique to you, eg scan your eye"**

***Or your DNA, or the vein pattern in your legs***



Some of you preferred shops to check your fingerprints with the company you had registered with, rather than using a camera to photograph you ...

People might not want to be checked on by a camera in a shop ...

- you weren't sure that shops wouldn't keep a photo taken of you
- a camera in a crowded shop might be looking at more than one person
- people wouldn't like getting caught on a camera they are just passing



You said ...

"should be registered with a finger print and kept securely"

"you could lose an ID card, but fingers will always be with you"



BUT between you, you had 6 big worries about Digital ID ...

1. it could break down and have 'glitches' ...  
"I don't really trust technology" – and even the "cameras could break"

2. The system could get hacked:

"I just think it's not a good idea because if a company gets hacked they could have access to thousands of people's ID - and people could set up scam companies"

"there should be no door in to the internet"

3. People working in ID registration companies could end up selling your ID information – even if the companies are licensed:

"how do you know you can trust the people who work there?"

4. You have found out from using smartphones how easy it is to fool face recognition and fingerprint recognition systems ...

"there could be trust issues"





**The system could also be fooled by people using fake photos when they register, by people changing their appearance, and fingerprints can be spoiled by having dirty fingers**

**5. Digital ID may be difficult for older people to understand and use**

**6. If digital ID uses smartphone apps, it will be less secure and private than an ID card you carry with you**

**“there must be a better way than using a phone”**

**“these days there are lots of scammers – the government should add extra protection if ID on app or phone”**



**You had these ideas about Digital ID ...**

- It could be used only in those special aisles you had proposed, for buying age restricted things**
- To be more secure, Digital ID could use BOTH a face picture and a fingerprint together**

## **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO TELL HOW OLD YOU ARE**



**This is using a camera in shops, with AI (Artificial Intelligence) to measure things about your face to work out how old you are.**

Between you, you had ELEVEN worries about using AI systems to look at people to check their age ...

- **You don't really trust Artificial Intelligence:** "I don't trust AI with that responsibility"; "I prefer a human mind to be more responsible than AI"; "I don't want to be ruled by robots"



- **You don't believe people's ages can be properly worked out from their looks:** "people age differently"; many people don't look their age, and people can easily make themselves look older than they are"

- **All technology is glitchy and goes wrong:** "it could glitch and mess up"; "AI is smart but could go wrong" – and because we don't know how it makes its decisions, there is "potential for AI to become faulty without people realising it"

- **AI isn't good enough at working out people's ages yet:** like humans, so far, it can only really work out if someone is over or under 25 – "if it can't notice different ages before 24/25, then I'm happy with the current situation"; AI will probably improve in the future, BUT it's too early to change the law for it – though it "may work when it's finished"



- **"The cost factor":** "you'd need to make lots of AI machines"; "don't staff have to stand there anyway?"; "what is the point of AI if a staff member may have to check anyway? If human has final say, why invest all that money?"



- **You have already found that the face and fingerprint recognition systems on smartphones are very easy to fool, and AI age cameras could turn out the same – and people will learn to fool them**

- **Not everyone will be OK with it - some will not like machines guessing their age. Or being 'caught' by a camera looking at someone else. Working the machine and getting staff to sort out mistakes will cause delays. People might prefer shops without AI cameras.**



Photos of the genius Albert Einstein getting older

*"If I were in a supermarket, I don't think I would be happy with an AI decision on my age"*



- **AI can have human biases and errors** – AI systems are "made by humans with information from human knowledge"; "AI can learn – but from what?"

- **AI can learn for itself** – so it may incorporate its own mistakes without anyone realising

- **Though AI to estimate someone's age isn't the same as 'face recognition' to check who they are and where they are, it could soon get used for that as well** – that might be good to catch criminals, but not good for the privacy of the rest of us: "it's a worry that AI might go too far and be watching too much"
- **It's safer for age guessing to be done by lots of separate humans than by one big AI system** – where "a single mistake could disrupt the whole system without people there"

**You were definitely AGAINST using cameras with AI to check how old you are**

**ONLY 17% OF YOU (ABOUT ONE IN SIX) THOUGHT THIS IS A GOOD IDEA**

**"AI has too many risks for the amount it is being trusted"**



**If you had to prove your age in a shop ...**

**62% OF YOU WOULD PREFER TO DO IT BY HAVING AN ID CARD TO SHOW**

**just 24% would prefer to do it using a digital ID system and only 7% would prefer to do it using an AI camera**

When we asked some of you what you thought AFTER you had finished thinking about using technology to check how old you are ...

**YOU WERE EVEN MORE KEEN THAN BEFORE TO HAVE ID CARDS  
RATHER THAN USING NEW TECHNOLOGY**

**NATIONAL  
REGISTRATION**

## **LAST WORDS ...**

Finally, here are two of the brilliant things you said ...

*"We shouldn't need all this if society weren't so corrupt"*

and

*"Everything is just getting too digital,  
and we should just go back to identity cards"*

*Really well done, all of you –  
Thank you for your thinking,*

*And for your important and surprising  
messages to the Government !*

*Roger*

**UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS**