



## Online Safety Policy

### 1. Aims

Our Federation aims to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors.
- Deliver an effective approach to online safety which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as 'mobile phones').
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate.

### The 4 key categories of risk

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

- **Content** – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, radicalisation and extremism.
- **Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as peer-to-peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.
- **Conduct** – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, such as making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g., consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography), sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
- **Commerce** – risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams.

### 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), and its advice for schools on:

- [Teaching online safety in schools](#)
- [Preventing and tackling bullying](#) and [cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff](#)
- [Relationships and sex education](#) – remove if not applicable, see section 4
- [Searching, screening and confiscation](#)

It also refers to the DfE's guidance on [protecting children from radicalisation](#).

It reflects existing legislation, including but not limited to the [Education Act 1996](#) (as amended), the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#) and the [Equality Act 2010](#). In addition, it reflects the [Education Act 2011](#), which has given teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by, if necessary, searching for and deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

The policy also takes into account the National Curriculum computing programmes of study.

### 3. Roles and responsibilities

#### 3.1 The Governing Body

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Governing Body will co-ordinate regular meetings with appropriate staff to discuss online safety and monitor online safety logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

The governor who oversees online safety is the Chair of the Safeguarding Committee.

#### All governors will:

- Ensure they have read and understand this policy.
- Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (Appendix 3)
- Ensure that online safety is a running and interrelated theme while devising and implementing their whole school approach to safeguarding and related policies and/or procedures.
- Ensure that, where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, is adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This is because of the importance of recognising that a 'one size fits all' approach may not be appropriate for all children in all situations and a more personalised or contextualised approach may often be more suitable.

#### 3.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school.

#### 3.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead

Details of the schools' Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) and deputies are set out in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy as well as relevant job descriptions.

The DSL takes lead responsibility for online safety in school, in particular:

- Supporting the Headteacher in ensuring staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school.

- Working with the Headteacher, ICT manager and other staff as necessary to address any online safety issues or incidents.
- Managing all online safety issues and incidents in line with the school child protection policy
- Ensuring any online safety incidents are logged (see Appendix 5) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy.
- Ensuring any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy.
- Updating and delivering staff training on online safety (Appendix 4 contains a self-audit for staff on online safety training needs)
- Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary
- Providing regular reports on online safety in school to the Headteacher and/or Governing Body.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

### 3.4 The ICT manager

The ICT manager is responsible for:

- Putting in place an appropriate level of security protection procedures, such as filtering and monitoring systems, which are reviewed and updated on a regular basis to assess effectiveness and ensure pupils are kept safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material.
- Ensuring the school's ICT systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware, and that such safety mechanisms are updated regularly.
- Conducting a full security check and monitoring the school's ICT systems on a monthly basis.
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files.
- Ensuring any online safety incidents are logged (see Appendix 4) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy.
- Ensuring any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

### 3.5 All staff and volunteers

All staff, including contractors and agency staff and volunteers are responsible for:

- Maintaining an understanding of this policy
- Implementing this policy consistently
- Agreeing and adhering to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (Appendix 3), and ensuring that pupils follow the school's terms on acceptable use (Appendices 1 and 2)
- Working with the DSL to ensure any online safety incidents are logged (see Appendix 5) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy.

- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy.
- Responding appropriately to all reports and concerns about sexual violence and/or harassment, both online and offline and maintaining an attitude of 'it could happen here'.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

### 3.6 Parents

Parents are expected to:

- Notify a member of staff or the Headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding this policy.
- Ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet (Appendices 1 and 2).

Parents can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online from the following organisations and websites:

- What are the issues? – [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- Hot topics – [Childnet International](#)
- Parent resource sheet – [Childnet International](#)

### 3.7 Visitors and members of the community

Visitors and members of the community who use the school's ICT systems or internet will be made aware of this policy, when relevant, and expected to read and follow it. If appropriate, they will be expected to agree to the terms on acceptable use (Appendix 3).

## 4. Educating pupils about online safety

Pupils will be taught about online safety as part of the curriculum:

The text below is taken from the [National Curriculum computing programmes of study](#).

It is also taken from the [guidance on relationships education, relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education](#).

All schools have to teach:

- [Relationships education and health education](#) in primary schools
- [Relationships and sex education and health education](#) in secondary schools

In Key Stage 1, pupils will be taught to:

- Use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private.
- Identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies.

Pupils in Key Stage 2 will be taught to:

- Use technology safely, respectfully, and responsibly.

- Recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.
- Identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact.

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not.
- That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous.
- The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content, and contact, and how to report them.
- How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met.
- How information and data is shared and used online.
- What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context).
- How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know.

The safe use of social media and the internet will also be covered in other subjects where relevant.

Where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, will be adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with SEND.

## 5. Educating parents about online safety

The schools will raise parents' awareness of internet safety in letters or other communications home, and in information via our websites. This policy will also be shared with parents.

Online safety will also be covered during parents' evenings.

The schools will let parents know:

- What systems the schools use to filter and monitor online use
- What their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and who from their school (if anyone) their child will be interacting with online

If parents have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with the Headteacher and/or the DSL.

Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the Headteacher.

## 6. Cyber-bullying

### 6.1 Definition

Cyber-bullying takes place online such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites. Like other forms of bullying, it is the repetitive, intentional harming of a person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. (See also the school behaviour policy and anti-bullying policy.)

### 6.2 Preventing and addressing cyber-bullying.

To help prevent cyber-bullying, we will ensure pupils understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure pupils know how they can report any incidents and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim.

The school will actively discuss cyber-bullying with pupils, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. Class teachers will discuss cyber-bullying with children in their class.

Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the curriculum to cover cyber-bullying. This includes personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, and other subjects where appropriate.

All staff, governors and volunteers (where appropriate) receive training on cyber-bullying, its impact and ways to support pupils, as part of safeguarding training (see section 11 for more detail).

The schools also send information/leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents so they are aware of the signs, how to report it and how they can support children who may be affected.

In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, each school will follow the processes set out in the school behaviour policy. Where illegal, inappropriate, or harmful material has been spread among pupils, the school will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the incident is contained.

The DSL will report the incident and provide the relevant material to the Police as soon as is reasonably practicable, if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that possessing that material is illegal. They will also work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

### 6.3 Examining electronic devices.

The Headteacher, and any member of staff authorised to do so by the Headteacher, can carry out a search and confiscate any electronic device that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- Poses a risk to staff or pupils, and/or

- Is identified in the school rules as a banned item for which a search can be carried out, and/or
- Is evidence in relation to an offence.

Before a search, if the authorised staff member is satisfied that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting any of the above, they will also:

- Make an assessment of how urgent the search is and consider the risk to other pupils and staff. If the search is not urgent, they will seek advice from the Headteacher.
- Explain to the pupil why they are being searched, how the search will happen and give them the opportunity to ask questions about it.
- Seek the pupil's cooperation.

Authorised staff members may examine, and in exceptional circumstances erase, any data or files on an electronic device that they have confiscated, where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

When deciding whether there is a 'good reason' to examine data or files on an electronic device, the staff member should reasonably suspect that the device has, or could be used to:

- Cause harm, and/or
- Undermine the safe environment of the school or disrupt teaching, and/or
- Commit an offence.

If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the staff member in conjunction with the DSL /Headteacher/other member of the senior leadership team to decide on a suitable response. If there are images, data or files on the device that staff reasonably suspect are likely to put a person at risk, they will first consider the appropriate safeguarding response.

When deciding if there is a good reason to erase data or files from a device, staff members will consider if the material may constitute evidence relating to a suspected offence. In these instances they will not delete the material and the device will be handed to the Police as soon as reasonably practicable. If the material is not suspected to be evidence in relation to an offence, staff members may delete it if:

- They reasonably suspect that its continued existence is likely to cause harm to any person, and/or
- The pupil and/or the parent refuses to delete the material themselves.

If a staff member suspects a device may contain an indecent image of a child (also known as a nude or semi-nude image), they will:

- Not view the image
- Confiscate the device and report the incident to the DSL (or equivalent) immediately, who will decide what to do next. The DSL will make the decision in line with the DfE's latest guidance on [screening, searching and confiscation](#) and the UK Council for Internet Safety

(UKCIS) guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

Any searching of pupils will be carried out in line with:

- The DfE's latest guidance on [searching, screening and confiscation](#)
- UKCIS guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

Any complaints about searching for or deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices will be dealt with through the school complaints procedure.

## 7. Acceptable use of the internet in school

All pupils, parents, staff, volunteers and governors are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (Appendices 1 to 3). Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use if relevant.

Use of the school's internet must be for educational purposes only or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of an individual's role.

We will monitor the websites visited by pupils, staff, volunteers, governors and visitors (where relevant) to ensure they comply with the above.

More information is set out in the acceptable use agreements in Appendices 1 to 3.

## 7. Pupils using mobile devices in school

Pupils may bring mobile devices into school, but they must be handed to the school office for safe keeping at the start of the school day. Children are responsible for collecting their device from the school office once the school day is over.

Any use of mobile devices in school by pupils must be in line with the acceptable use agreement (see Appendices 1 and 2).

Any breach of the acceptable use agreement by a pupil may trigger disciplinary action in line with the school behaviour policy, which may result in the confiscation of their device.

## 8. Staff using work devices outside school

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Keeping the device password-protected – strong passwords are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters (e.g. asterisk or currency symbol)
- Ensuring their hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device.

- Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time.
- Not sharing the device among family or friends
- Installing anti-virus and anti-spyware software
- Keeping operating systems up to date by always installing the latest updates

Staff members must not use the device in any way which would violate the school's terms of acceptable use as set out in Appendix 3.

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device they must seek advice from the IT Manager.

### 9. How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a pupil misuses the school's ICT systems or internet we will follow the procedures set out in our policies on behaviour and ICT and internet acceptable use. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident and will be proportionate.

Where a staff member misuses the school's ICT systems or the internet or misuses a personal device where the action constitutes misconduct, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the staff disciplinary procedures. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident.

The school will consider whether incidents which involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the Police.

### 10. Training

All new staff members will receive training, as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation.

All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year as part of safeguarding training, as well as relevant updates as required.

By way of this training, all staff will be made aware that:

- Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues and that children are at risk of online abuse.
- Children can abuse their peers online through:
  - Abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages
  - Non-consensual sharing of indecent nude and semi-nude images and/or videos, especially around chat groups
  - Sharing of abusive images and pornography to those who don't want to receive such content.
  - Physical abuse, sexual violence and initiation/hazing type violence can all contain an online element.

Training will also help staff:

- Develop better awareness to assist in spotting the signs and symptoms of online abuse.
- Develop the ability to ensure pupils can recognise dangers and risks in online activity and can weigh up the risks.
- Develop the ability to influence pupils to make the healthiest long-term choices and keep them safe from harm in the short term.

The DSL and deputies will undertake child protection and safeguarding training, which will include online safety, at least every 2 years. They will also update their knowledge and skills on the subject of online safety at regular intervals, and at least annually.

Governors will receive training on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues as part of their safeguarding training.

Volunteers will receive appropriate training and updates, if applicable.

More information about safeguarding training is set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

## **11. Review:**

The DSL logs behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety. An incident report log can be found in Appendix 4.

The Governing Body first adopted this policy in September 2021. It will be reviewed annually as necessary.

The Children and Learning Committee is responsible for the review of this policy.

Date of last review: Summer 2023

Date for next review: Summer 2024



## Acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet agreement for pupils and parents/carers

Name of pupil:

When I use the school's computers and get onto the internet in school I will:

- Ask a school grown up if it is ok to use the computers.
- Only use websites that a school grown up has told me are safe for me to use.
- Tell my teacher quickly if:
  - I click on a website by mistake.
  - I get messages from people I don't know.
  - I find anything that may upset or harm me or my friends.
- Use school computers for schoolwork only.
- Be kind to others and not upset or be rude to them.
- Look after the school equipment and tell a teacher if something is broken or not working properly.
- Never give my personal information (my name, address, or telephone numbers) to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer.
- Check with my teacher before I print anything.

I agree that the school will check the websites I visit and that it is important that I follow the rules.

Signed (pupil):

Date:

Parent/carer agreement: I agree that my child can use the school's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for pupils using the school's ICT systems and internet and will make sure my child understands these.

**Signed  
(parent/carer):**

**Date:**



## Acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet: agreement for pupils and parents/carers

**Name of pupil:**

**When I use the school's ICT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in school I will:**

- Always use the school's ICT systems and the internet responsibly and for educational purposes only
- Only use them when a teacher is present, or with a teacher's permission.
- Keep my usernames and passwords safe and not share these with others.
- Keep my private information safe at all times and not give my name, address, or telephone number to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer.
- Tell a teacher (or sensible adult) immediately if I find any material which might upset, distress or harm me or others.
- Always log off or shut down a computer when I've finished working on it.

**I will not:**

- Access any inappropriate websites including social networking sites, chat rooms and gaming sites unless my teacher has expressly allowed this as part of a learning activity.
- Open any attachments in emails, or follow any links in emails, without first checking with a teacher.
- Use any inappropriate language when communicating online, including in emails.
- Create, link to or post any material that is pornographic, offensive, obscene or otherwise inappropriate.
- Log in to the school's network using someone else's details.
- Arrange to meet anyone offline without first consulting my parent/carer, or without adult supervision.

**If I bring a personal mobile phone or other personal electronic device into school:**

- I will not hand it to the school office for safe keeping. It is my responsibility to collect it from the school office once school has finished.

**I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don't follow the rules.**

**Signed (pupil):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/carer's agreement:** I agree that my child can use the school's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for pupils using the school's ICT systems and internet, and for using personal electronic devices in school, and will make sure my child understands these.

**Signed**  
**(parent/carer):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Appendix Three: Acceptable use agreement – workforce



#### ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR STAFF, GOVERNORS, VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

Name of staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor:

When using the school's ICT systems and accessing the internet in school, or outside school on a work device (if applicable), I will not:

- Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal, or pornographic nature (or create, share, link to or send such material)
- Use them in any way which could harm the school's reputation.
- Access social networking sites or chat rooms
- Use any improper language when communicating online, including in emails or other messaging services.
- Install any unauthorised software or connect unauthorised hardware or devices to the school's network.
- Share my password with others or log in to the school's network using someone else's details.
- Take photographs of pupils without checking with teachers first
- Share confidential information about the school, its pupils or staff, or other members of the community.
- Access, modify or share data I'm not authorised to access, modify or share.
- Promote private businesses, unless that business is directly related to the school

I will only use the school's ICT systems and access the internet in school, or outside school on a work device, for educational purposes or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of my role.

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the school's ICT facilities and systems.

I will take all reasonable steps to ensure that work devices are secure and password-protected when using them outside school, and keep all data securely stored in accordance with this policy and the school's data protection policy.

I will let the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and ICT manager know if a pupil informs me, they have found any material which might upset, distress or harm them or others, and will also do so if I encounter any such material.

I will always use the school's ICT systems and internet responsibly and ensure that pupils in my care do so too.

**Signed (staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor):**

**Date:**

#### Appendix Four: online safety incident report log

ONLINE SAFETY INCIDENT LOG				
Date	Where the incident took place	Description of the incident	Action taken	Name and signature of staff member recording the incident