



Online Safety Policy 2025 – 27

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1. Aims

Our school 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, anti-Semitism, 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 scam

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE) 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
- Searching, screening and confiscation
- It also refers to the Department'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 board

The governing board has overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The governing board will make sure all staff undergo online safety training as part of child protection and safeguarding training, and ensure staff understand their expectations, roles and responsibilities around filtering and monitoring.

The governing board will also make sure all staff receive regular online safety updates (via email, e-bulletins and staff meetings), as required and at least annually, to ensure they are continually provided with the relevant skills and knowledge to effectively safeguard children.

The governing board will co-ordinate regular meetings with appropriate staff to discuss online safety, requirements for training, and monitor online safety logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

The governing board should ensure children are taught how to keep themselves and others safe, including keeping safe online.

The governing board must ensure the school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place on school devices and school networks, and will regularly review their effectiveness. The board will review the DfE filtering and monitoring standards, and discuss with IT staff and service providers what needs to be done to support the school in meeting those standards, which include:

Identifying and assigning roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems;

Reviewing filtering and monitoring provisions at least annually;

Blocking harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning;

Having effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs.

All governors will:

Ensure they have read and understand this policy

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 school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) [and/deputies] are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy, as well as relevant job descriptions. The DSL takes lead responsibility for online safety in school, in particular:

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

Working with the headteacher and governing board to review this policy annually and ensure the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly

Taking the lead on understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place on school devices and school networks

Working with the ICT manager to make sure the appropriate systems and processes are in place

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's child protection policy

Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged on cpoms and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy

Ensuring that 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

Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary

Providing regular reports on online safety in school to the headteacher and/or governing board

Undertaking annual risk assessments that consider and reflect the risks children face Providing regular safeguarding and child protection updates, including online safety, to al staff, at least annually, in order to continue to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard effectively

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.4 The ICT technician

The ICT technician 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 that 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 monthly

Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files. 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

Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged correctly 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

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 - Child net International

Parent factsheet - Child net 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.

4. Educating pupils about online safety

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

The school will use assemblies to raise pupils' awareness of the dangers that can be encountered online and may also invite speakers to talk to pupils about this.

5. Educating parents about online safety

The school will raise parents' awareness of internet safety in newsletter communications and via 'wake up Wednesday' posts on the school Facebook page as well as other communications as needed.

Our website has an online safety page for parents with advice, guidance and links to other organisations who can support keeping children safe online. This policy will also be shared with parents via the school website.

Online safety support will also be signposted to parents where needed/where workshops are available.

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.

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 one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. See also the school behaviour policy.

6.2 Preventing and addressing cyber-bullying

To help prevent cyber-bullying, we will ensure that pupils understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure that 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 their children, and the issue will be addressed in assemblies.

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 school also sends information/leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents so that 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, the 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 consider whether the incident should be reported to the police if it involves illegal material and will 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

in conjunction with the DSL / headteacher 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:

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 1-3). 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.

8. Pupils using mobile devices in school

Pupils may not use personal mobile devices in school. Where children need to bring a mobile device to school, it must be locked away by the class teacher at the beginning of the day for safe keeping.

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

9. Staff using work devices outside school

Staff members using a work device outside school must not install any unauthorised software on the device and must not use the device in any way which would violate the school's terms of acceptable use, as set out in appendix

10. 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 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/staff code of conduct].

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.

11. 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 (for example through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings). 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 the risks up
- 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.

12. Monitoring arrangements

The DSL logs behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety. An incident report log can be found in appendix 5 which applies to incidents in which it is not clear which children it relates to.

Where it is clear which individuals have been involved with an online safety concern, these will be recorded using CPOMS.

This online safety policy is linked to our:

Child protection and safeguarding policy
Behaviour policy
Staff disciplinary procedures
Data protection policy and privacy notices
Complaints procedure
ICT and internet acceptable use policy