



Brindle St James' CE Primary School

Online Safety Policy

Updated January 2026

This policy applies to all members of the school community (including staff, learners, volunteers, parents and carers, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of school digital systems, both in and out of the school. It also applies to the use of personal digital technology on the school site (where allowed).

Scope of the Online Safety Policy

This Online Safety Policy outlines the commitment of Brindle St James' CE Primary School to safeguard members of our school community online in accordance with statutory guidance and best practice.

This Online Safety Policy applies to all members of the school community (including staff, learners, governors, volunteers, parents and carers, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of school digital systems, both in and out of the school. It also applies to the use of personal digital technology on the school site (where allowed).

Brindle St James' CE Primary School will deal with such incidents within this policy and associated behaviour and anti-bullying policies and will, where known, inform parents/carers of incidents of inappropriate online safety behaviour that take place out of school. This policy is implemented in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) statutory guidance and supports delivery of the National Curriculum requirements for safeguarding and digital literacy.

Policy development, monitoring and review

This Online Safety Policy has been developed by:

- *headteacher*
- *Designated safeguarding lead (DSL) & Online Safety Lead*
- *staff – including teachers/ support staff/ technical staff*
- *governors*
- *parents and carers*
- *community users*

Process for monitoring the impact of the Online Safety Policy

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- *logs of reported incidents*
- *Filtering and monitoring logs*
- *internal monitoring data for network activity*
- *surveys/questionnaires of:*
 - *learners*
 - *parents and carers*
 - *staff.*

Policy and leadership

Responsibilities

To ensure the online safeguarding of members of our school community it is important that all members of that community work together to develop safe and responsible online behaviours, learning from each other and from good practice elsewhere, reporting inappropriate online behaviours, concerns, and misuse as soon as these become apparent. While this will be a team effort, the following sections outline the online safety roles and responsibilities of individuals¹ and groups within the school.

Headteacher and senior leaders

- The headteacher has a duty of care for ensuring the safety (including online safety) of members of the school community and fostering a culture of safeguarding, though the day-to-day responsibility for online safety is held by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, as defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- The headteacher/ DSL & Deputy DSL are aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safety allegation being made against a member of staff².
- The headteacher/senior leaders are responsible for ensuring that the Designated Safeguarding Lead / Online Safety Lead, IT provider/technical staff, and other relevant staff carry out their responsibilities effectively and receive suitable training to enable them to carry out their roles and train other colleagues, as relevant.
- The headteacher/senior leaders will ensure that there is a system in place to allow for monitoring and support of those in school who carry out the internal online safety monitoring role.
- The headteacher/senior leaders will work with the responsible Governor and IT service providers in all aspects of filtering and monitoring.

Governors

Governors are responsible for the approval of the Online Safety Policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy.

This review will be carried out by the curriculum and standards committee whose members will receive regular information about online safety incidents and monitoring reports. A member of the governing body will take on the role of Online Safety Governor to include:

- **regular meetings with the Designated Safeguarding Lead / Online Safety Lead**

- **regularly receiving (collated and anonymised) reports of online safety incidents**
- **checking that provision outlined in the Online Safety Policy (e.g. online safety education provision and staff training is taking place as intended)**
- **Ensuring that the filtering and monitoring provision is reviewed and recorded, at least annually.** (The review will be conducted by members of the SLT, the DSL, and the IT service provider and involve the responsible governor) - in-line with the DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards
- **reporting to relevant *governors group/meeting***
- Receiving (at least) basic cyber-security training to enable the governors to check that the school meets the DfE Cyber-Security Standards

The governing body will also support the school in encouraging parents/carers and the wider community to become engaged in online safety activities.

Designated Safety Lead (DSL)

The DSL will:

- hold the lead responsibility for online safety, within their safeguarding role.
- Receive relevant and regularly updated training in online safety to enable them to understand the risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online
- meet regularly with the online safety governor to discuss current issues, review (anonymised) incidents and filtering and monitoring logs and ensuring that annual (at least) filtering and monitoring checks are carried out
- attend relevant governing body meetings/groups
- report regularly to headteacher/senior leadership team
- be responsible for receiving reports of online safety incidents and handling them, and deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies, ensuring that all incidents are recorded.
- liaise with staff and IT providers on matters of safety and safeguarding and welfare (including online and digital safety)

Online Safety Lead

The Online Safety Lead will:

- work closely on a day-to-day basis with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- receive reports of online safety issues, being aware of the potential for serious child protection concerns and ensure that these are logged to inform future online safety developments
- have a leading role in establishing and reviewing the school online safety policies/documents
- promote an awareness of and commitment to online safety education / awareness raising across the school and beyond
- liaise with curriculum leaders to ensure that the online safety curriculum is planned, mapped, embedded and evaluated
- ensure that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident taking place and the need to immediately report those incidents

- provide (or identify sources of) training and advice for staff/governors/parents/carers/learners
- liaise with technical staff and support staff (as relevant)
- receive regularly updated training to allow them to understand how digital technologies are used and are developing (particularly by learners) with regard to the areas defined In Keeping Children Safe in Education:
 - content
 - contact
 - conduct
 - commerce

Curriculum Leads

Curriculum Leads will work with the DSL/OSL to develop a planned and coordinated online safety education programme.

This will be provided through:

- a discrete programme
- PHSE and SRE programmes
- A mapped cross-curricular programme
- assemblies and pastoral programmes
- through relevant national initiatives and opportunities e.g. [Safer Internet Day](#) and [Anti-bullying week](#).

Teaching and support staff

School staff are responsible for ensuring that:

- they have an awareness of current online safety matters/trends and of the current school Online Safety Policy and practices
- they understand that online safety is a core part of safeguarding
- they have read, understood, and signed the staff acceptable use agreement (AUA)
- they immediately report any suspected misuse or problem to the OSL for investigation/action, in line with the school safeguarding procedures
- all digital communications with learners and parents/carers are on a professional level *and only carried out using official school systems*
- online safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other activities
- ensure learners understand and follow the Online Safety Policy and acceptable use agreements, have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations
- they supervise and monitor the use of digital technologies, mobile devices, cameras, etc., in lessons and other school activities (where allowed) and implement current policies regarding these devices
- in lessons where internet use is pre-planned learners are guided to sites checked as suitable for their use *and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches*

- where lessons take place using live-streaming or video-conferencing, there is regard to national safeguarding guidance and local safeguarding policies ([n.b. the guidance contained in the SWGfL Safe Remote Learning Resource](#))
- there is a zero-tolerance approach to incidents of online-bullying, sexual harassment, discrimination, hatred etc
- they model safe, responsible, and professional online behaviours in their own use of technology, including out of school and in their use of social media.

IT Provider

If the school has a technology service provided by an outside contractor, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the provider carries out all the online safety measures that the school's obligations and responsibilities require. It is also important that the provider follows and implements school Online Safety Policy and procedures.

The IT Provider is responsible for ensuring that:

- they are aware of and follow the school Online Safety Policy and Technical Security Policy to carry out their work effectively in line with school policy
- the school technical infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack
- the school meets (as a minimum) the required online safety technical requirements as identified by the [DfE Meeting Digital and Technology Standards in Schools & Colleges](#) and guidance from local authority / MAT or other relevant body
- there is clear, safe, and managed control of user access to networks and devices
- they keep up to date with online safety technical information in order to effectively carry out their online safety role and to inform and update others as relevant
- the use of technology is regularly and effectively monitored in order that any misuse/attempted misuse can be reported to the OSL for investigation and action
- the filtering policy is applied and updated on a regular basis and its implementation is not the sole responsibility of any single person
- *monitoring systems are implemented and regularly updated as agreed in school policies*

Learners

- are responsible for using the school digital technology systems in accordance with the learner acceptable use agreement and Online Safety Policy (this should include personal devices – where allowed)
- should understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and know how to do so
- should know what to do if they or someone they know feels vulnerable when using online technology.
- should understand the importance of adopting good online safety practice when using digital technologies out of school and realise that the school's Online Safety Policy covers their actions out of school, if related to their membership of the school.

Parents and carers

The school will take every opportunity to help parents and carers understand these issues through:

- publishing the school Online Safety Policy on the school website
- providing them with a copy of the learners' acceptable use agreement
- publish information about appropriate use of social media relating to posts concerning the school.
- seeking their permissions concerning digital images, cloud services etc
- parents'/carers' evenings, newsletters, website, social media and information about national/local online safety campaigns and literature.

Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the school in:

- *reinforcing the online safety messages provided to learners in school.*
- *the safe and responsible use of their children's personal devices in the school (where this is allowed)*

Community users

Community users who access school systems/website/learning platform as part of the wider school provision will be expected to sign a community user AUA before being provided with access to school systems.

The school encourages the engagement of agencies/members of the community who can provide valuable contributions to the online safety provision and actively seeks to share its knowledge and good practice with other schools and the community.

Professional Standards

There is an expectation that required professional standards will be applied to online safety as in other aspects of school life i.e., policies and protocols are in place for the use of online communication technology between the staff and other members of the school and wider community, using officially sanctioned school mechanisms.

Acceptable use

The school has defined what it regards as acceptable/unacceptable use and this is shown in the tables below.

Acceptable use agreements

The Online Safety Policy and acceptable use agreements define acceptable use at the school. The acceptable use agreements will be communicated/re-enforced through:

- staff induction and handbook
- posters/notices around where technology is used
- communication with parents/carers

- built into education sessions
- school website
- peer support.

User actions		Acceptable	Acceptable at certain times	Acceptable for nominated users	Unacceptable	Unacceptable and illegal
Users shall not access online content (including apps, games, sites) to make, post, download, upload, data transfer, communicate or pass on, material, remarks, proposals or comments that contain or relate to:	Any illegal activity for example: • Child sexual abuse imagery* • Child sexual abuse/exploitation/grooming • Terrorism • Encouraging or assisting suicide • Offences relating to sexual images i.e., revenge and extreme pornography • Incitement to and threats of violence • Hate crime • Public order offences - harassment and stalking • Drug-related offences • Weapons / firearms offences • Fraud and financial crime including money laundering N.B. Schools should refer to guidance about dealing with self-generated images/sexting – UKSIC Responding to and managing sexting incidents and UKCIS – Sexting in schools and colleges					X
Users shall not undertake activities that might be classed as cyber-crime under the Computer Misuse Act (1990)	• Using another individual's username or ID and password to access data, a program, or parts of a system that the user is not authorised to access (even if the initial access is authorised) • Gaining unauthorised access to school networks, data and files, through the use of computers/devices • Creating or propagating computer viruses or other harmful files • Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (e.g., financial / personal information, databases, computer / network access codes and passwords) • Disable/Impair/Disrupt network functionality through the use of computers/devices • Using penetration testing equipment (without relevant permission) N.B. Schools will need to decide whether these should be dealt with internally or by the police.					X

User actions		Acceptable	Acceptable at certain times	Acceptable for nominated users	Unacceptable	Unacceptable and illegal
	Serious or repeat offences should be reported to the police. The National Crime Agency has a remit to prevent learners becoming involved in cyber-crime and harness their activity in positive ways– further information here					
Users shall not undertake activities that are not illegal but are classed as unacceptable in school policies:	Accessing inappropriate material/activities online in a school setting including pornography, gambling, drugs. (Informed by the school's filtering practices and/or AUAs)			X	X	
	Promotion of any kind of discrimination				X	
	Using school systems to run a private business				X	
	Using systems, applications, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering/monitoring or other safeguards employed by the school				X	
	Infringing copyright				X	
	Unfair usage (downloading/uploading large files that hinders others in their use of the internet)			X	X	
	Any other information which may be offensive to others or breaches the integrity of the ethos of the school or brings the school into disrepute				X	

	Staff and other adults	Learners
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Consideration should be given for the following activities when undertaken for non-educational purposes:

Schools may wish to add further activities to this list.

	Not allowed	Allowed	Allowed at certain times	Allowed for selected staff	Not allowed	Allowed	Allowed at certain times	Allowed with staff permission/awareness
Online gaming			X				X	
Online shopping/commerce		X						X
File sharing		X				X		
Social media		X			X			
Messaging/chat		X			X			
Entertainment streaming e.g. Netflix, Disney+		X						X
Use of video broadcasting, e.g. YouTube, Twitch, TikTok		X						X
Mobile phones may be brought to school		X			X			
Use of mobile phones for learning at school					x			
Use of mobile phones in social time at school		X			X			
Taking photos on mobile phones/cameras					X			
Use of other personal devices, e.g. tablets, gaming devices		X			X			
Use of personal e-mail in school, or on school network/wi-fi		X			X			

Use of school e-mail for personal e-mails					X			
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When using communication technologies, the school considers the following as good practice:

- **when communicating in a professional capacity, staff should ensure that the technologies they use are officially sanctioned by the school.**
- **any digital communication between staff and learners or parents/carers (e-mail, social media, learning platform, etc.) must be professional in tone and content. *Personal e-mail addresses, text messaging or social media must not be used for these communications.***
- **staff should be expected to follow good practice when using personal social media regarding their own professional reputation and that of the school and its community**
- **users should immediately report to a nominated person – in accordance with the school policy – the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication.**
- *relevant policies and permissions should be followed when posting information online e.g., school website and social media. Only school e-mail addresses should be used to identify members of staff and learners.*

Reporting and responding

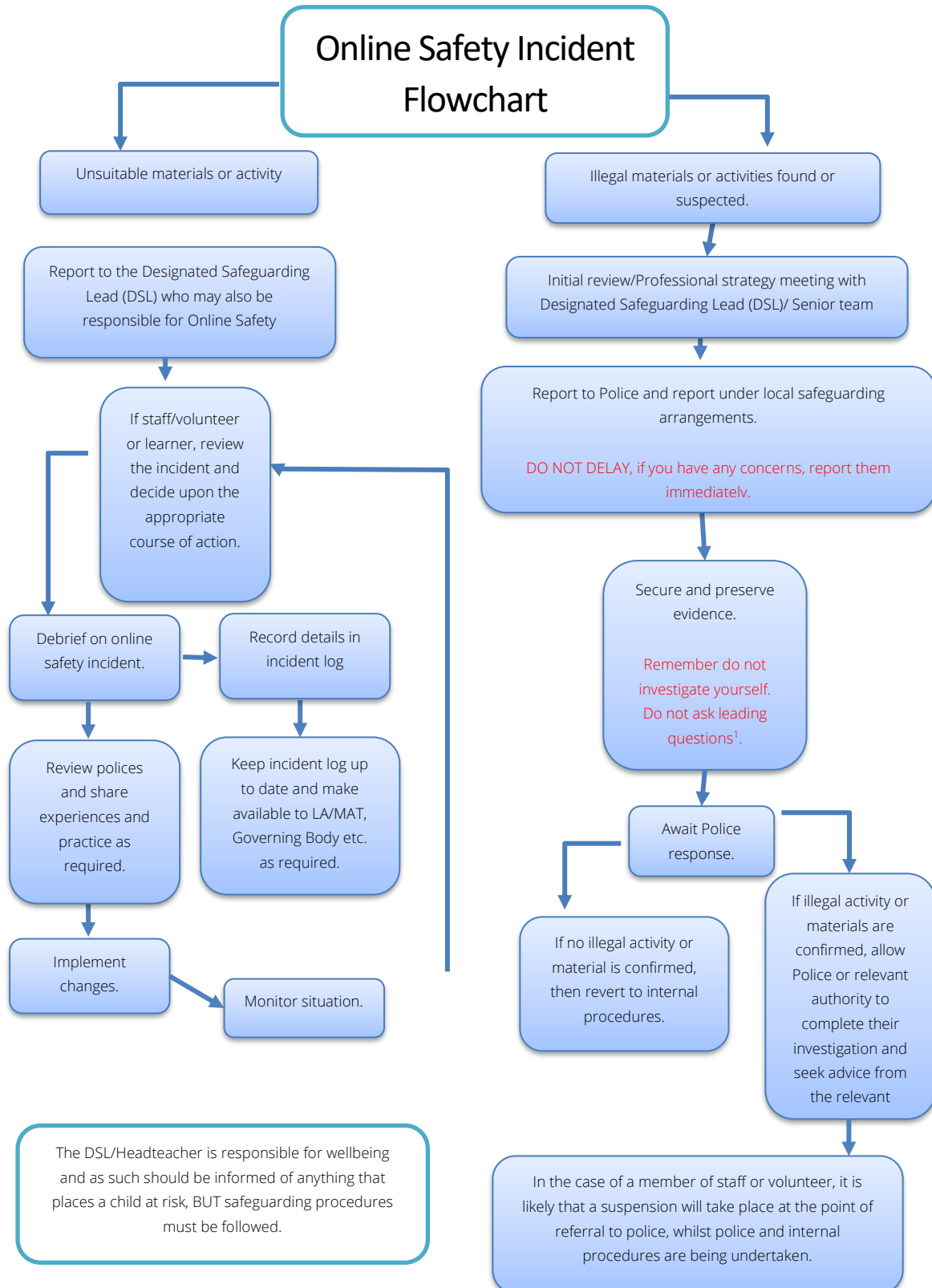
The school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure online safety for all school users but recognises that incidents may occur inside and outside of the school (with impact on the school) which will need intervention. The school will ensure:

- **there are clear reporting routes which are understood and followed by all members of the school community which are consistent with the school safeguarding procedures, and with the whistleblowing, complaints and managing allegations policies.**
- **all members of the school community will be made aware of the need to report online safety issues/incidents**
- **reports will be dealt with as soon as is practically possible once they are received**
- **the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Online Safety Lead and other responsible staff have appropriate skills and training to deal with online safety risks.**
- **All online safety concerns are managed in line with KCSIE procedures for safeguarding and child protection, including referral to external agencies where appropriate.**
- **if there is any suspicion that the incident involves any illegal activity or the potential for serious harm ([see flowchart and user actions chart in the appendix](#)), the incident must be escalated through the agreed school safeguarding procedures, this may include**
 - Non-consensual images
 - Self-generated images
 - Terrorism/extremism
 - Hate crime/ Abuse
 - Fraud and extortion
 - Harassment/stalking
 - Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)
 - Child Sexual Exploitation Grooming

- Extreme Pornography
 - Sale of illegal materials/substances
 - Cyber or hacking [offences under the Computer Misuse Act](#)
 - Copyright theft or piracy
- any concern about staff misuse will be reported to the Headteacher, unless the concern involves the Headteacher, in which case the complaint is referred to the Chair of Governors and the local authority / MAT
- where there is no suspected illegal activity, devices may be checked using the following procedures:
 - one or more senior members of staff should be involved in this process. This is vital to protect individuals if accusations are subsequently reported.
 - conduct the procedure using a designated device that will not be used by learners and, if necessary, can be taken off site by the police should the need arise (should illegal activity be subsequently suspected). Use the same device for the duration of the procedure.
 - ensure that the relevant staff have appropriate internet access to conduct the procedure, but also that the sites and content visited are closely monitored and recorded (to provide further protection).
 - record the URL of any site containing the alleged misuse and describe the nature of the content causing concern. It may also be necessary to record and store screenshots of the content on the machine being used for investigation. These may be printed, signed, and attached to the form
 - once this has been completed and fully investigated the group will need to judge whether this concern has substance or not. If it does, then appropriate action will be required and could include the following:
 - internal response or discipline procedures
 - involvement by local authority / MAT (as relevant)
 - police involvement and/or action
- it is important that those reporting an online safety incident have confidence that the report will be treated seriously and dealt with effectively
- there are support strategies in place e.g., peer support for those reporting or affected by an online safety incident
- incidents should be logged
- relevant staff are aware of external sources of support and guidance in dealing with online safety issues, e.g. local authority; police; [Professionals Online Safety Helpline](#); [Reporting Harmful Content](#); [CEOP](#).
- those involved in the incident will be provided with feedback about the outcome of the investigation and follow up actions
- learning from the incident (or pattern of incidents) will be provided to:
 - *staff, through regular briefings*
 - *learners, through assemblies/lessons*
 - *parents/carers, through newsletters, school social media, website*
 - *governors, through regular safeguarding updates*

- *local authority/external agencies, as*

The school will make the flowchart below available to staff to support the decision-making process for dealing with online safety incidents.



School actions

It is more likely that the school will need to deal with incidents that involve inappropriate rather than illegal misuse. It is important that any incidents are dealt with as soon as possible in a proportionate manner, and that members of the school community are aware that incidents have been dealt with. It is intended that incidents of misuse will be dealt with through normal behaviour/disciplinary procedures.

Online Safety Education Programme

Online safety should be a focus in all areas of the curriculum and staff should reinforce online safety messages across the curriculum. The online safety curriculum should be broad, relevant and provide progression, with opportunities for creative activities and will be provided in the following ways. **A planned online safety curriculum for all year groups matched against a nationally agreed framework and regularly taught in a variety of contexts.**

- **Lessons are matched to need; are age-related and build on prior learning**
- **Lessons are context-relevant with agreed objectives leading to clear and evidenced outcomes**
- **Learner need and progress are addressed through effective planning and assessment**
- **Digital competency is planned and effectively threaded through the appropriate digital pillars in other curriculum areas e.g. PHSE; SRE; Literacy etc**
- **it incorporates/makes use of relevant national initiatives and opportunities e.g. [Safer Internet Day](#) and [Anti-bullying week](#)**
- **the programme will be accessible to learners at different ages and abilities such as those with additional learning needs or those with English as an additional language.**
- *vulnerability is actively addressed as part of a personalised online safety curriculum e.g., for victims of abuse and SEND.*
- *learners should be helped to understand the need for the learner acceptable use agreement and encouraged to adopt safe and responsible use both within and outside school. Acceptable use is reinforced across the curriculum, with opportunities to discuss how to act within moral and legal boundaries online, with reference to the Computer Misuse Act 1990. Lessons and further resources are available on the [CyberChoices](#) site.*
- *staff should act as good role models in their use of digital technologies the internet and mobile devices*
- *in lessons where internet use is pre-planned, it is best practice that learners should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches*
- *where learners are allowed to freely search the internet, staff should be vigilant in supervising the learners and monitoring the content of the websites the young people visit*
- *it is accepted that from time to time, for good educational reasons, students may need to research topics, (e.g. racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff should be able to request the temporary*

removal of those sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Any request to do so, should be auditable, with clear reasons for the need

- **the online safety education programme should be relevant and up to date to ensure the quality of learning and outcomes.**
- **Online safety education will be embedded across the National Curriculum subjects, including Computing and PSHE, , ensuring progression and age-appropriate coverage."**
- **"Curriculum planning will reference the Education for a Connected World framework and ProjectEVOLVE resources.**
- **Provision is adapted for SEND and vulnerable learners, ensuring accessibility and personalised support in line with KCSIE guidance.**
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Contribution of Learners

The school acknowledges, learns from, and uses the skills and knowledge of learners in the use of digital technologies. We recognise the potential for this to shape the online safety strategy for the school community and how this contributes positively to the personal development of young people. Their contribution is recognised through:

- *mechanisms to canvass learner feedback and opinion.*
- *appointment of digital leaders/anti-bullying ambassadors/peer mentors*
- *the Online Safety Group has learner representation*
- *learners contribute to the online safety education programme e.g. peer education, digital leaders leading lessons for younger learners, online safety campaigns*
- *learners designing/updating acceptable use agreements*
- *contributing to online safety events with the wider school community e.g. parents' evenings, family learning programmes etc.*

Staff/volunteers

All staff will receive online safety training and understand their responsibilities, as outlined in this policy. Training will be offered as follows:

- **a planned programme of formal online safety and data protection training will be made available to all staff. This will be regularly updated and reinforced. An audit of the online safety training needs of all staff will be carried out regularly.**
- **the training will be an integral part of the school's annual safeguarding and data protection training for all staff**
- **all new staff will receive online safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the school online safety policy and acceptable use agreements. It includes explicit reference to classroom management, professional conduct, online reputation and the need to model positive online behaviours.**
- *the Online Safety Lead and Designated Safeguarding Lead (or other nominated person) will receive regular updates through attendance at external training events, (e.g. UKSIC / SWGfL*

/ MAT / LA / other relevant organisations) and by reviewing guidance documents released by relevant organisations

- *this Online Safety Policy and its updates will be presented to and discussed by staff in staff/team meetings/INSET days*
- *the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Online Safety Lead (or other nominated person) will provide advice/guidance/training to individuals as required.*
- All staff receive annual safeguarding training that includes online safety, as required by KCSIE, and understand their responsibility to teach and model safe online behaviours.
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Governors

Governors should take part in online safety training/awareness sessions, with particular importance for those who are members of any sub-committee/group involved in technology/online safety/health and safety/safeguarding. This may be offered in several ways such as:

- attendance at training provided by the local authority/MAT or other relevant organisation
- participation in school training / information sessions for staff or parents

A higher level of training will be made available to (at least) the Online Safety Governor. This will include:

- Cyber-security training (at least at a basic level)
- Training to allow the governor to understand the school's filtering and monitoring provision, in order that they can participate in the required checks and review.

Families

The school will seek to provide information and awareness to parents and carers through: (

- *regular communication, awareness-raising and engagement on online safety issues, curriculum activities and reporting routes*
- *regular opportunities for engagement with parents/carers on online safety issues through awareness workshops / parent/carers evenings etc*
- *the learners – who are encouraged to pass on to parents the online safety messages they have learned in lessons and by learners leading sessions at parent/carers evenings.*
- *letters, newsletters, website, learning platform,*
- *high profile events / campaigns e.g. [Safer Internet Day](#)*
- *reference to the relevant web sites/publications, e.g. [SWGfL](#); www.saferinternet.org.uk/; www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers (see Appendix for further links/resources).*
- *Sharing good practice with other schools in clusters and or the local authority/MAT*

Adults and Agencies

The school will provide opportunities for local community groups and members of the wider community to gain from the school's online safety knowledge and experience. This may be offered through the following:

- online safety messages targeted towards families and relatives.
- *providing family learning courses in use of digital technologies and online safety*
- *providing online safety information via their website and social media for the wider community*
- *supporting community groups, e.g. early years settings, childminders, youth/sports/voluntary groups to enhance their online safety provision*

Technology

The school is responsible for ensuring that the school infrastructure/network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible and that policies and procedures approved within this policy are implemented. The school should ensure that all staff are made aware of policies and procedures in place on a regular basis and explain that everyone is responsible for online safety and data protection.

Filtering & Monitoring

The school filtering and monitoring provision is agreed by senior leaders, governors and the IT Service Provider and is regularly reviewed (weekly) and updated in response to changes in technology and patterns of online safety incidents/behaviours

Day to day management of filtering and monitoring systems requires the specialist knowledge of both safeguarding and IT staff to be effective. The DSL will have lead responsibility for safeguarding and online safety and the IT service provider will have technical responsibility

The filtering and monitoring provision is reviewed (at least annually) by senior leaders, the Designated Safeguarding Lead and a governor with the involvement of the IT Service Provider.

- **checks on the filtering and monitoring system are carried out by the IT Service Provider with the involvement of a senior leader, the Designated Safeguarding Lead and a governor, in particular when** a safeguarding risk is identified, there is a change in working practice, e.g. remote access or BYOD or new technology is introduced
- Filtering and monitoring systems meet the standards set out in KCSIE and DfE guidance, and checks are documented as part of safeguarding audits.

Filtering

- the school manages access to content across its systems for all users and on all devices using the schools internet provision. The filtering provided meets the standards defined in the DfE [Filtering standards for schools and colleges](#) and the guidance provided in the UK Safer Internet Centre [Appropriate filtering](#).
- illegal content (e.g., child sexual abuse images) is filtered by the broadband or filtering provider by actively employing the Internet Watch Foundation URL list and the police assessed list of unlawful terrorist content, produced on behalf of the Home Office. Content lists are regularly updated
- there are established and effective routes for users to report inappropriate content, recognising that no system can be 100% effective
- there is a clear process in place to deal with, and log, requests/approvals for filtering changes
- filtering logs are regularly reviewed and alert the Designated Safeguarding Lead to breaches of the filtering policy, which are then acted upon.

If necessary, the school will seek advice from, and report issues to, the SWGfL [Report Harmful Content](#) site.

Monitoring

The school has monitoring systems in place to protect the school, systems and users:

- The school monitors all network use across all its devices and services.
- monitoring reports are urgently picked up, acted on and outcomes are recorded by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, all users are aware that the network (and devices) are monitored.
- There are effective protocols in place to report abuse/misuse. There is a clear process for prioritising response to alerts that require rapid safeguarding intervention.
- Management of serious safeguarding alerts is consistent with safeguarding policy and practice.

The school follows the UK Safer Internet Centre [Appropriate Monitoring](#) guidance and protects users and school systems through the use of the appropriate blend of strategies informed by the school's risk assessment. [These may include:](#)

- physical monitoring (adult supervision in the classroom)
- internet use is logged, regularly monitored and reviewed
- filtering logs are regularly analysed and breaches are reported to senior leaders
- *pro-active alerts inform the school of breaches to the filtering policy, allowing effective intervention.*

- *where possible, school technical staff regularly monitor and record the activity of users on the school technical systems*
- *use of a third-party assisted monitoring service to review monitoring logs and report issues to school monitoring lead(s)*

Technical Security

The school technical systems will be managed in ways that ensure that the school meets recommended technical requirements:

- **responsibility for technical security resides with SLT who may delegate activities to identified roles.**
- **all users have clearly defined access rights to school technical systems and devices. Details of the access rights available to groups of users will be recorded by the IT service provider and will be reviewed, at least annually, by the SLT/Online Safety Group**
- **password policy and procedures are implemented. (consistent with guidance from the National Cyber Security Centre)**
- **the security of their username and password and must not allow other users to access the systems using their log on details.**
- **all users have responsibility for the security of their username and password and must not allow other users to access the systems using their log on details.**
- **all school networks and system will be protected by secure passwords. Passwords must not be shared with anyone.**
- **the administrator passwords for school systems are kept in a secure place, e.g. school safe.**
- **there is a risk-based approach to the allocation of learner usernames and passwords.**
- **there will be regular reviews and audits of the safety and security of school technical systems**
- **servers, wireless systems and cabling are securely located and physical access restricted**
- **appropriate security measures are in place to protect the servers, firewalls, routers, wireless systems and devices from accidental or malicious attempts which might threaten the security of the school systems and data. These are tested regularly. The school infrastructure and individual workstations are protected by up-to-date endpoint software.**
- **there are rigorous and verified back-up routines, including the keeping of network-separated (air-gapped) copies off-site or in the cloud,**
- **The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that all software purchased by and used by the school is adequately licenced and that the latest software updates (patches) are applied.**
- **an appropriate system is in place for users to report any actual/potential technical incident/security breach to the relevant person, as agreed)**

- use of school devices out of school and by family members is regulated by an acceptable use statement that a user consents to when the device is allocated to them
- personal use of any device on the school network is regulated by acceptable use statements that a user consents to when using the network
- staff members are not permitted to install software on a school-owned devices without the consent of the SLT/IT service provider
- removable media is not permitted unless approved by the SLT/IT service provider
- systems are in place to control and protect personal data and data is encrypted at rest and in transit.
- mobile device security and management procedures are in place
- guest users are provided with appropriate access to school systems based on an identified risk profile.

Mobile technologies

The school acceptable use agreements for staff, learners, parents, and carers outline the expectations around the use of mobile technologies.

The school allows:

	School devices			Personal devices		
	School owned for individual use	School owned for multiple users	Authorised device ³	Pupil owned	Staff owned	Visitor owned
Allowed in school	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Full network access	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Dependant upon need	Dependant upon need
Internet only	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Dependant upon need	Dependant upon need
No network access	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Dependant upon need	Dependant upon need

³ Authorised device – purchased by the learner/family through a school-organised scheme. This device may be given full access to the network as if it were owned by the school.

Social media

The school provides the following measures to ensure reasonable steps are in place to minimise risk of harm to learners through:

- ensuring that personal information is not published.
- education/training being provided including acceptable use, age restrictions, social media risks, digital and video images policy, checking of settings, data protection and reporting issues.
- clear reporting guidance, including responsibilities, procedures, and sanctions.
- risk assessment, including legal risk.
- guidance for learners, parents/carers

School staff should ensure that:

- No reference should be made in social media to learners, parents/carers or school staff on personal social media.
- they do not engage in online discussion on personal matters relating to members of the school community.
- personal opinions should not be attributed to the school.
- security settings on personal social media profiles are regularly checked to minimise risk of loss of personal information.
- they act as positive role models in their use of social media

Photography and Social Media Usage Policy

- All photographs of pupils and school activities must only be taken using **school-issued staff iPads**.
- These images must be uploaded promptly to the school's **secure system**, and all iPads will be cleared of photos on a **termly basis** to maintain data security.
- **Personal devices** must never be used for photography under any circumstances.

Social Media Usage

- Access to the school's official social media accounts is strictly limited to the **Computing Lead** and the **Head Teacher**, who are the only individuals authorized to upload content.
- No other staff members are permitted to post or share images of pupils or school activities on any social media platforms.

When official school social media accounts are established, the following must be in place:

- A **formal approval process** by senior leaders.
- Clear procedures for **administration, moderation, and monitoring** of these accounts – involving at least **two designated members of staff**.
- A **code of conduct** for all users of the accounts.

- Systems for **reporting and addressing abuse or misuse.**
- An understanding of how incidents will be managed under **school disciplinary procedures.**

Personal use

- personal communications are those made via personal social media accounts. In all cases, where a personal account is used which associates itself with, or impacts on, the school it must be made clear that the member of staff is not communicating on behalf of the school with an appropriate disclaimer. Such personal communications are within the scope of this policy
- personal communications which do not refer to or impact upon the school are outside the scope of this policy
- where excessive personal use of social media in school is suspected, and considered to be interfering with relevant duties, disciplinary action may be taken
- *the school permits reasonable and appropriate access to personal social media sites during school hours*

Monitoring of public social media

- As part of active social media engagement, the school may pro-actively monitor the Internet for public postings about the school.
- the school should effectively respond to social media comments made by others according to a defined policy or process.
- when parents/carers express concerns about the school on social media we will urge them to make direct contact with the school, in private, to resolve the matter. Where this cannot be resolved, parents/carers should be informed of the school complaints procedure.

Digital and video images

The school will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement policies to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm:

- **the school may use live-streaming or video-conferencing services in line with national and local safeguarding guidance / policies.**
- **when using digital images, staff will inform and educate learners about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images.**
- **staff/volunteers must be aware of those learners whose images must not be taken/published. Those images should only be taken on school devices. The personal devices of staff should not be used for such purposes**
- in accordance with [guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office](#), parents/carers are welcome to take videos and digital images of their children at school events for their own personal use (as such use is not covered by the Data Protection Act) as directed by the headteacher dependent on whether or not consent has been obtained. To respect everyone's privacy and in some cases protection, these images should not be published/made publicly

available on social networking sites, nor should parents/carers comment on any activities involving other *learners* in the digital/video images

- *staff and volunteers are allowed to take digital/video images to support educational aims, but must follow school policies concerning the sharing, storage, distribution and publication of those images*
- *care should be taken when sharing digital/video images that learners are appropriately dressed*
- *learners must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission*
- *photographs published on the website, or elsewhere that include learners will be selected carefully and will comply with Online Safety Policy*
- **learners' full names will not be used anywhere on a website or blog, particularly in association with photographs.**
- **written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of learners are taken for use in school or published on the school website/social media.**
- **parents/carers will be informed of the purposes for the use of images, how they will be stored and for how long – in line with the school data protection policy**
- **images will be securely stored in line with the school retention policy**

Online Publishing

The school communicates with parents/carers and the wider community and promotes the school through

- Public-facing website
- Social media
- Online newsletters

The school website is managed by school staff hosted by Primary Site. The school ensures that online safety policy has been followed in the use of online publishing e.g., use of digital and video images, copyright, identification of young people, publication of school calendars and personal information – ensuring that there is least risk to members of the school community, through such publications.

Where learner work, images or videos are published, their identities are protected, and full names are not published.

The school public online publishing provides information about online safety e.g., publishing the schools Online Safety Policy and acceptable use agreements; curating latest advice and guidance; news articles etc, creating an online safety page on the school website.

Data Protection

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred, and made available according to the current data protection legislation.

The school:

- has a Data Protection Policy.
- implements the data protection principles and can demonstrate that it does so
- has paid the appropriate fee to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)
- has appointed an appropriate Data Protection Officer (DPO) who has effective understanding of data protection law and is free from any conflict of interest.
- has a 'Record of Processing Activities' in place and knows exactly what personal data is held, where, why and which member of staff has responsibility for managing it
- the Record of Processing Activities lists the lawful basis for processing personal data (including, where relevant, consent). Where special category data is processed, an additional lawful basis is listed
- has an 'information asset register' in place and knows exactly [what personal data is held](#), where, why and which member of staff has responsibility for managing it
- information asset register lists the lawful basis for processing personal data (including, where relevant, consent). Where special category data is processed, an additional lawful basis will have also been listed
- will hold the minimum personal data necessary to enable it to perform its function and will not hold it for longer than necessary for the purposes it was collected for. The school 'retention schedule' supports this
- data held is accurate and up to date and is held only for the purpose it was held for. Systems are in place to identify inaccuracies, such as asking parents to check emergency contact details at suitable intervals
- provides staff, parents, volunteers, teenagers, and older children with information about how the school looks after their data and what their rights are in a clear Privacy Notice
- has procedures in place to deal with the individual rights of the data subject
- has undertaken appropriate due diligence and has data protection compliant contracts in place with any data processors
- understands how to share data lawfully and safely with other relevant data controllers.
- has clear and understood policies and routines for the deletion and disposal of data
- [reports any relevant breaches to the Information Commissioner](#) within 72hrs of becoming aware of the breach as required by law. It also reports relevant breaches to the individuals affected as required by law. In order to do this, it has a policy for reporting, logging, managing, investigating and learning from information risk incidents
- has a Freedom of Information Policy which sets out how it will deal with FOI requests

- **provides data protection training for all staff at induction and appropriate refresher training thereafter. Staff undertaking particular data protection functions, such as handling requests under the individual's rights, will receive training appropriate for their function as well as the core training provided to all staff**

When personal data is stored on any mobile device or removable media the:

- **device will be protected by up-to-date endpoint (anti-virus) software**
- **stored in school and if removed are kept secure**
- **data will be securely deleted from the device, in line with school policy (below) once it has been transferred or its use is complete.**

Staff must ensure that they:

- **at all times take care to ensure the safe keeping of personal data, minimising the risk of its loss or misuse**
- **can recognise a possible breach, understand the need for urgency and know who to report it to within the school**
- **can help data subjects understand their rights and know how to handle a request whether verbal or written and know who to pass it to in the school**
- **only use encrypted data storage for personal data**
- **will not transfer any school personal data to personal devices.**
- **use personal data only on secure password protected computers and other devices, ensuring that they are properly "logged-off" at the end of any session in which they are using personal data**
- **transfer data using encryption, a secure email account (where appropriate), and secure password protected devices.**