

Neale-Wade Academy E-Safety Policy Statement

This policy document should be read in conjunction with the safeguarding policy, teaching and learning policy, anti-bullying policy, computing policy and remote learning policy to ensure that e-safety is embedded properly across the Academy. This policy document is drawn up to protect all parties – the pupils, the staff and the Academy and aims to provide clear advice and guidance on how to minimise risks and how to deal with any infringements.

If a member of staff or an Academy visitor has a concern regarding E-safety, they must speak to a member of the safeguarding team without delay and log the incident on MyConcern.

Aims

E-Safety has become a vital part of essential learning for children. Children are using ICT from a very young age and they need to learn how to stay safe. At the Academy we will be providing children with opportunities to learn how to be safe with ICT in a controlled, safe environment before they take these skills home to use on less restricted mediums.

The philosophy of 'empowering children to stay safe' includes aims that children are:

- safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation;
- safe from accidental injury and death;
- safe from bullying and discrimination;
- safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of Academy;
- secure, stable and cared for.

UNCRC article number 19

Neale Wade Academy aims to:

- protect and educate pupils and staff in their use of technology;
- have the appropriate mechanisms to intervene and support any incident where appropriate.

E-Safety encompasses the use of new technologies, internet and electronic communications such as mobile phones, social media and personal publishing. It highlights the need to educate pupils about the benefits and risks of using technology and provides safeguards and awareness for users to enable them to control their online experience.

As stated in the 2021 guidance for 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', the breadth of issues classified within e-safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:

Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.

Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: 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; for example, 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;

Commerce: risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.

Keeping Children Safe in Education, para. 124 (September 2021)

The Risks

Much of these aims apply equally to the 'virtual world' that children and young people will encounter whenever they use ICT in its various forms. For example, we know that the internet has been used for grooming children and young people with the ultimate aim of exploiting them sexually; we know that ICT can offer new weapons for bullies, who may torment their victims via websites or text messages; and we know that children and young people have been exposed to inappropriate content when online, which can sometimes lead to their involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour. It is the duty of the Academy to ensure that every child in their care is safe, and the same principles should apply to the 'virtual' or digital world as would be applied to the Academy's physical buildings.

The Internet is an open communications channel, available to all. Anyone can send messages, discuss ideas and publish material with little restriction. These features of the Internet make it both an invaluable resource used by millions of people every day as well as a potential risk to young and vulnerable people. Much of the material on the Internet is published for an adult audience and some is unsuitable for pupils. At Neale Wade Academy we are committed to providing pupils with as safe an Internet environment as possible and to teach pupils to be aware of and respond responsibly to any risk.

Overview

Creating a safe ICT learning environment includes three main elements at the Academy:

- An effective range of technological tools;
- Policies and procedures, with clear roles and responsibilities;
- An e-Safety education programme for pupils, staff and parents.

Handling e-safety complaints

- Complaints of Internet misuse will be dealt with by a senior member of staff.
- Any complaint about staff misuse must be referred to the Principal.
- Complaints of a child protection nature must be dealt with in accordance with Academy child protection procedures

Teaching of E-safety

- Pupils will be informed that network and internet use will be monitored.
- Pupils will be reminded about safe use of ICT
- Pupils will learn about e-safety in computing lessons.

Academy staff

All staff are responsible for promoting and supporting safe behaviours in classrooms and the wider Academy by following Academy e-safety procedures. All staff should be familiar with the Academy's' E-Safety Policy and have to sign the Acceptable Use

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Academy will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Academy.