# Introduction

## Key people / dates

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) team | Lauren Potter and Narjis Trabelsi |
| Online-safety lead | Lauren Potter  |
| Safeguarding Link Governor | Chris Blewitt |
| Computing & Technology lead  | Olivia Horner  |
| PSHE lead | Lauren Potter  |
| RSHE lead  | Lauren Potter  |
| Network manager/ technical support | Saf Mulla – Core Networx Ltd |
| Date this policy was reviewed and by whom | September 2024 Olivia Horner & Lauren Potter  |
| Date of next review and by whom | September 2025DPO & Lauren Potter |

## What is this policy?

Online safety is an integral part of safeguarding and requires a whole school, cross-curricular approach and collaboration between key school leads. Accordingly, this policy is written in line with ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ 2023 (KCSIE), ‘Teaching Online Safety in Schools’ 2019 and other statutory documents. It complements existing and forthcoming subjects including Health, Relationships and Sex Education and Computing; it is designed to sit alongside the Safeguarding Policy. Any issues and concerns with online safety **must** follow the school’s safeguarding and child protection procedures.

The policy will be communicated in the following ways:

* Posted on the school website
* Available on the internal staff network/drive
* Available in paper format in the school office
* Part of school induction pack for all new staff (including temporary, supply and non-classroom-based staff)
* Integral to safeguarding updates and training for all staff
* Clearly reflected in the Acceptable Use Policies (AUPs) for staff, volunteers, contractors, governors, pupils and parents/carers

# Overview

## Aims

This policy aims to:

* Set out expectations for all Oxford Gardens community members’ online behaviour, attitudes and activities and use of digital technology (including when devices are offline)
* Help all stakeholders to recognise that online/digital behaviour standards (including social media activity) must be upheld beyond the confines of the school gates and school day, and regardless of device or platform
* Facilitate the safe, responsible and respectful use of technology to support teaching & learning, increase attainment and prepare children and young people for the risks and opportunities of today’s and tomorrow’s digital world, to survive and thrive online
* Help school staff working with children to understand their roles and responsibilities to work safely and responsibly with technology and the online world:
	+ for the protection and benefit of the children and young people in their care, and
	+ for their own protection, minimising misplaced or malicious allegations and to better understand their own standards and practice
	+ for the benefit of the school, supporting the school ethos, aims and objectives, and protecting the reputation of the school and profession
* Establish clear structures by which online misdemeanours will be treated, and procedures to follow where there are doubts or concerns (with reference to other school policies such as Behaviour Policy or Anti-Bullying Policy)

## Further Help and Support

Internal school channels should always be followed first for reporting and support, as documented in school policy documents, especially in response to incidents, which should be reported in line with your Safeguarding Policy. The DSL will handle referrals to local authority multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASH) and normally the headteacher will handle referrals to the LA designated officer (LADO). The local authority, academy trust or third-party support organisations you work with may also have advisors to offer general support.

# Roles and responsibilities

This school is a community and all members have a duty to behave respectfully online and offline, to use technology for teaching and learning and to prepare for life after school, and to immediately report any concerns or inappropriate behaviour, to protect staff, pupils, families and the reputation of the school. We learn together, make honest mistakes together and support each other in a world that is online and offline at the same time.

## Head teacher & Online Safety Lead – Lauren Potter

**Key responsibilities:**

* Foster a culture of safeguarding where online safety is fully integrated into whole-school safeguarding
* Oversee the activities of the designated safeguarding lead and ensure that the DSL responsibilities listed in the section below are being followed and fully supported
* Ensure that policies and procedures are followed by all staff
* Undertake training in offline and online safeguarding, in accordance with statutory guidance and relevant Local Safeguarding Partnerships
* Liaise with the designated safeguarding lead on all online-safety issues which might arise and receive regular updates on school issues and broader policy and practice information
* Take overall responsibility for data management and information security ensuring the school’s provision follows best practice in information handling; work with the DPO, DSL and governors to ensure a GDPR-compliant framework for storing data, but helping to ensure that child protection is always put first and data-protection processes support careful and legal sharing of information
* Ensure the school implements and makes effective use of appropriate ICT systems and services including school-safe filtering and monitoring, protected email systems and that all technology including cloud systems are implemented according to child-safety first principles
* Be responsible for ensuring that all staff receive suitable training to carry out their safeguarding and online safety roles
* Understand and make all staff aware of procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safeguarding incident
* Ensure suitable risk assessments are undertaken so the curriculum meets the needs of pupils, including risk of children being radicalised
* Ensure that there is a system in place to monitor and support staff (e.g. network manager) who carry out internal technical online-safety procedures
* Ensure governors are regularly updated on the nature and effectiveness of the school’s arrangements for online safety
* Ensure the school website meets statutory requirements

## Designated Safeguarding Lead /Online Safety Lead – Lauren Potter

**Key responsibilities** (remember the DSL can delegate certain online-safety duties, e.g. to the online-safety coordinator, but not the overall responsibility; this assertion and all quotes below are from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023):

* “The designated safeguarding lead should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place).”
* Where the online-safety coordinator is not the named DSL or deputy DSL, ensure there is regular review and open communication between these roles and that the DSL’s clear overarching responsibility for online safety is not compromised
* Ensure “An effective approach to online safety [that] empowers a school or college to protect and educate the whole school or college community in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in and escalate any incident where appropriate.”
* “Liaise with the local authority and work with other agencies in line with Working together to safeguard children”
* Take day to day responsibility for online safety issues and be aware of the potential for serious child protection concerns
* Work with the Headteacher, DPO and governors to ensure a GDPR-compliant framework for storing data, but helping to ensure that child protection is always put first and data-protection processes support careful and legal sharing of information
* Stay up to date with the latest trends in online safety
* Review and update this policy, other online safety documents (e.g. Acceptable Use Policies) and the strategy on which they are based (in harmony with policies for behaviour, safeguarding, Prevent and others) and submit for review to the governors/trustees.
* Receive regular updates in online safety issues and legislation, be aware of local and school trends
* Ensure that online safety education is embedded across the curriculum and beyond, in wider school life
* Promote an awareness and commitment to online safety throughout the school community, with a strong focus on parents, who are often appreciative of school support in this area, but also including hard-to-reach parents
* Liaise with school technical, pastoral, and support staff as appropriate
* Communicate regularly with SLT and the designated safeguarding and online safety governor to discuss current issues (anonymised), review incident logs and filtering/change control logs and discuss how filtering and monitoring
* Ensure all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident, and that these are logged in the same way as any other safeguarding incident
* Oversee and discuss ‘appropriate filtering and monitoring’ with governors and ensure staff are aware.
* Ensure the 2023 DfE guidance on sexual violence and harassment is followed throughout the school and that staff adopt a zero-tolerance approach to this, as well as to bullying
* Facilitate training and advice for all staff:
	+ all staff must read KCSIE Part 1 and all those working with children Annex A
	+ it would also be advisable for all staff to be aware of Annex C (online safety)
	+ cascade knowledge of risks and opportunities throughout the organisation

## Governing Body, led by Safeguarding Link Governor – Chris Blewett

**Key responsibilities (quotes are taken from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023):**

* Approve this policy and strategy and subsequently review its effectiveness, e.g. by asking the questions in the helpful document from the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCIS) [Online safety in schools and colleges: Questions from the Governing Board](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/562876/Guidance_for_School_Governors_-_Question_list.pdf)
* “Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure an appropriate senior member of staff, from the school or college leadership team, is appointed to the role of designated safeguarding lead.”
* Support the school in encouraging parents and the wider community to become engaged in online safety activities
* Have regular strategic reviews with the online-safety co-ordinator / DSL and incorporate online safety into standing discussions of safeguarding at governor meetings
* Where the online-safety coordinator is not the named DSL or deputy DSL, ensure that there is regular review and open communication between these roles and that the DSL’s clear overarching responsibility for online safety is not compromised
* Work with the DPO, DSL and headteacher to ensure a GDPR-compliant framework for storing data, but helping to ensure that child protection is always put first and data-protection processes support careful and legal sharing of information
* Check all school staff have read Part 1 of KCSIE; SLT and all working directly with children have read Annex A; check that Annex C on Online Safety reflects practice in your school
* “Ensure that all staff undergo safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety) at induction. The training should be regularly updated in line with advice from the local safeguarding partners integrated, aligned and considered as part of the overarching safeguarding approach.”
* “Ensure appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place [but…] be careful that ‘overblocking’ does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regard to online teaching and safeguarding”.
* “Ensure that children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. Consider a whole school or college approach to online safety [with] a clear policy on the use of mobile technology.”

## All staff

**Key responsibilities:**

* Know who the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)/ Online Safety Lead (OSL) is
* Read Part 1, Annex A and Annex C of Keeping Children Safe in Education (whilst Part 1 is statutory for all staff, Annex A for SLT and those working directly with children, it is good practice for all staff to read all three sections).
* Read and follow this policy in conjunction with the school’s main safeguarding policy
* Record online-safety incidents in the same way as any safeguarding incident and report in accordance with school procedures.
* Sign and follow the staff acceptable use policy
* Notify the DSL/OSL if policy does not reflect practice in your school and follow escalation procedures if concerns are not promptly acted upon
* Prepare and check all online source and resources before using within the classroom
* Encourage pupils/students to follow their acceptable use policy
* Notify the DSL/OSL of new trends and issues before they become a problem
* Model safe, responsible and professional behaviours in their own use of technology. This includes outside the school hours and site, and on social media, in all aspects upholding the reputation of the school and of the professional reputation of all staff.

## PSHE /RSHE Leads - Lauren Potter

**Responsibilities:**

* As listed in the ‘all staff’ section, plus:
* Embed consent, mental wellbeing, healthy relationships and staying safe online into the PSHE / Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education curriculum. “This will include being taught what positive, healthy and respectful online relationships look like, the effects of their online actions on others and knowing how to recognise and display respectful behaviour online. Throughout these subjects, teachers will address online safety and appropriate behaviour in an age appropriate way that is relevant to their pupils’ lives.”
* This will complement the computing curriculum, which covers the principles of online safety at all key stages, with progression in the content to reflect the different and escalating risks that pupils face. This includes how to use technology safely, responsibly, respectfully and securely, and where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies.
* Work closely with the DSL/OSL and all other staff to ensure an understanding of the issues, approaches and messaging within PSHE / RSHE.

## Computing Lead – Olivia Horner

**Key responsibilities:**

* As listed in the ‘all staff’ section, plus:
* Oversee the delivery of the online safety element of the Computing curriculum in accordance with the National Curriculum
* Work closely with the DSL/OSL and all other staff to ensure an understanding of the issues, approaches and messaging within Computing
* Collaborate with technical staff and others responsible for ICT use in school to ensure a common and consistent approach, in line with acceptable-use agreements

## Subject leaders

**Key responsibilities:**

* As listed in the ‘all staff’ section, plus:
* Look for opportunities to embed online safety in your subject or aspect, and model positive attitudes and approaches to staff and pupils alike
* Consider how the UKCIS framework Education for a Connected World and Teaching Online Safety in Schools can be applied in your context
* Work closely with the DSL/OSL and all other staff to ensure an understanding of the issues, approaches and messaging within Computing
* Ensure subject specific action plans also have an online-safety element

## Network Manager – Saf Mulla

**Key responsibilities:**

* As listed in the ‘all staff’ section, plus:
* Keep up to date with the school’s online safety policy and technical information in order to effectively carry out their online safety role and to inform and update others as relevant
* Work closely with the designated safeguarding lead / online safety lead / data protection officer / LGfL nominated contact to ensure that school systems and networks reflect school policy
* Ensure the above stakeholders understand the consequences of existing services and of any changes to these systems (especially in terms of access to personal and sensitive records / data and to systems such as YouTube mode, web filtering settings, sharing permissions for files on cloud platforms etc
* Support and advise on the implementation of ‘appropriate filtering and monitoring’ as decided by the DSL and senior leadership team
* Maintain up-to-date documentation of the school’s online security and technical procedures
* To report online-safety related issues that come to their attention in line with school policy
* Manage the school’s systems, networks and devices, according to a strict password policy, with systems in place for detection of misuse and malicious attack, with adequate protection,
* Monitor the use of school technology, online platforms and social media presence and that any misuse/attempted misuse is identified and reported in line with school policy
* Work with the Headteacher to ensure the school website meets statutory DfE requirements (see appendices for website audit document)

## Data Protection Officer (DPO) –

**Key responsibilities:**

* NB – this document is not for general data-protection guidance
* Be aware that of references to the relationship betweendata protection and safeguarding in key Department for Education documents ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ and ‘Data protection: a toolkit for schools’ (August 2018), especially this quote from the latter document:
* “GDPR does not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Lawful and secure information sharing between schools, Children’s Social Care, and other local agencies, is essential for keeping children safe and ensuring they get the support they need. **The Data Protection Act 2018 introduced ‘safeguarding’ as a reason to be able to process sensitive, personal information, even without consent** (DPA, Part 2,18; Schedule 8, 4) When Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools are considering whether, or not, to share safeguarding information (especially with other agencies) it is considered best practice for them to record who they are sharing that information with and for what reason. If they have taken a decision not to seek consent from the data subject and/or parent/carer that should also be recorded within the safeguarding file. All relevant information can be shared without consent if to gain consent would place a child at risk. Fears about sharing information **must not be allowed** to stand in the way of promoting the welfare and protecting the safety of children.”
* Work with the DSL, headteacher and governors to ensure frameworks are in place for the protection of data and of safeguarding information sharing as outlined above.
* Ensure that all access to safeguarding data is limited as appropriate, and also monitored and audited

## LGfL TRUSTnet Nominated contacts

**Key responsibilities:**

* To ensure all LGfL services are managed on behalf of the school in line with school policies, following data handling procedures as relevant
* Work closely with the DSL and DPO to ensure they understand who the nominated contacts are and what they can do / what data access they have, as well as the implications of all existing services and changes to settings that you might request – e.g. for YouTube restricted mode, internet filtering settings, firewall port changes, pupil email settings, and sharing settings for any cloud services such as Microsoft Office 365 and Google G Suite.
* Ensure the DPO is aware of the GDPR information on the relationship between the school and LGfL

## Volunteers and contractors

**Key responsibilities:**

* Read, understand, sign and adhere to an acceptable use policy (AUP)
* Report any concerns, no matter how small, to the designated safety lead / online safety coordinator as named in the AUP
* Maintain an awareness of current online safety issues and guidance
* Model safe, responsible and professional behaviours in their own use of technology

## Pupils

**Key responsibilities:**

* Read, understand, sign and adhere to the student/pupil acceptable use policy and review this annually
* Understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials
* Know what action to take if they or someone they know feels worried or vulnerable when using online technology
* To understand the importance of adopting safe and responsible behaviours and good online safety practice when using digital technologies outside of school and realise that the school’s acceptable use policies cover actions out of school, including on social media
* Understand the benefits/opportunities and risks/dangers of the online world and know who to talk to at school or outside school if there are problems

## Parents/carers

**Key responsibilities:**

* Read, sign and promote the school’s parental acceptable use policy (AUP) and read the pupil AUP and encourage their children to follow it
* Consult with the school if they have any concerns about their children’s and others’ use of technology
* Promote positive online safety and model safe, responsible and positive behaviours in their own use of technology, including on social media: not sharing other’s images or details without permission and refraining from posting negative, threatening or violent comments about others, including the school staff, volunteers, governors, contractors, pupils or other parents/carers.
* NB: the LGfL DigiSafe survey of 40,000 primary and secondary pupils found that 73% of pupils trust their parents on online safety (but only half talk about it with them more than once a year).

## External groups including parent associations

**Key responsibilities:**

* Any external individual/organisation will sign an acceptable use policy prior to using technology or the internet within school
* Support the school in promoting online safety and data protection
* Model safe, responsible, respectful and positive behaviours in their own use of technology, including on social media: not sharing other’s images or details without permission and refraining from posting negative, threatening or violent comments about others, including the school staff, volunteers, governors, contractors, pupils or other parents/carers

# Education and curriculum

The following subjects have the clearest online safety links (see the relevant role descriptors above for more information):

* PSHE
* Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health
* Computing
* Citizenship

However, as stated in the role descriptors above, it is the role of all staff to identify opportunities to thread online safety through all school activities, both outside the classroom and within the curriculum, supporting curriculum/stage/subject leads, and making the most of unexpected learning opportunities as they arise (which have a unique value for pupils).

Whenever overseeing the use of technology (devices, the internet, new technology such as augmented reality, etc) in school or setting as homework tasks, all staff should encourage sensible use, monitor what pupils/students are doing and consider potential dangers and the age appropriateness of websites.

Equally, all staff should carefully supervise and guide pupils when engaged in learning activities involving online technology (including, extra-curricular and extended school activities if relevant), supporting them with search skills, critical thinking (e.g. fake news), age appropriate materials and signposting, and legal issues such as copyright and data law.

Annual reviews of curriculum plans / schemes of work (including for SEND pupils) are used as an opportunity to follow this framework more closely in its key areas of Self-image and Identity, Online relationships, Online reputation, Online bullying, Managing online information, Health, Wellbeing and lifestyle, Privacy and security, and Copyright and ownership.

# Handling online-safety concerns and incidents

It is vital that all staff recognise that online-safety is a part of safeguarding (as well as being a curriculum strand of Computing, PSHE/RSHE and Citizenship.

General concerns must be handled in the same way as any other safeguarding concern; safeguarding is often referred to as a jigsaw puzzle, so all stakeholders should err on the side of talking to the online-safety lead / designated safeguarding lead to contribute to the overall picture or highlight what might not yet be a problem.

Support staff will often have a unique insight and opportunity to find out about issues first in the playground, corridors, toilets and other communal areas outside the classroom (particularly relating to bullying and sexual harassment and violence).

School procedures for dealing with online-safety will be detailed in the following policies:

* Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
* Anti-Bullying Policy
* Behaviour Policy
* Acceptable Use Policies
* Prevent Risk Assessment
* Data Protection Policy, agreements and other documentation (e.g. privacy statement and consent forms for data sharing, image use etc.)

This school commits to take all reasonable precautions to ensure online safety, but recognises that incidents will occur both inside school and outside school (and that those from outside school will continue to impact on pupils when they come into school). All members of the school are encouraged to report issues swiftly to allow us to deal with them quickly and sensitively through the school’s escalation processes.

Any suspected online risk or infringement should be reported to the online safety lead / designated safeguarding lead on the same day – where clearly urgent, it will be made by the end of the lesson.

Any concern/allegation about staff misuse is always referred directly to the Headteacher, unless the concern is about the Headteacher in which case the compliant is referred to the Chair of Governors and the LADO (Local Authority’s Designated Officer). Staff may also use the NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline.

The school will actively seek support from other agencies as needed (i.e. the local authority, LGfL/3BM, UK Safer Internet Centre’s Professionals’ Online Safety Helpline, NCA CEOP, Prevent Officer, Police, IWF). We will inform parents/carers of online-safety incidents involving their children, and the Police where staff or pupils engage in or are subject to behaviour which we consider is particularly disturbing or breaks the law (particular procedures are in place for sexting and upskirting; see section below).

## Sexting

There is a one-page overview called [Sexting; how to respond to an incident](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/647389/Overview_of_Sexting_Guidance.pdf) for all staff (not just classroom-based staff) to read, in recognition of the fact that it is mostly someone other than the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or online safety lead to first become aware of an incident, and it is vital that the correct steps are taken. Staff other than the DSL must not attempt to view, share or delete the image or ask anyone else to do so, but to go straight to the DSL.

The school DSL will in turn use the full guidance document, [Sexting in Schools and Colleges](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759007/6_2939_SP_NCA_Sexting_In_Schools_FINAL_Update_Jan17.pdf?_ga=2.234231390.111664464.1566901980-1789411468.1557215460) to decide next steps and whether other agencies need to be involved.

It is important that everyone understands that whilst sexting is illegal, pupils/students can come and talk to members of staff if they have made a mistake or had a problem in this area.

The documents referenced above and materials to support teaching about sexting can be found at [sexting.lgfl.net](https://sexting.lgfl.net)

## Upskirting

It is important that everyone understands that upskirting (taking a photo of someone under their clothing) is now a criminal offence, as highlighted in Keeping Children Safe in Education and that pupils/students can come and talk to members of staff if they have made a mistake or had a problem in this area.

## Bullying

Online bullying should be treated like any other form of bullying and the school bullying policy should be followed for online bullying, which may also be referred to as cyberbullying.

## Sexual violence and harassment

Any incident of sexual harassment or violence (online or offline) should be reported to the DSL who will follow the full guidance. Staff should work to foster a zero-tolerance culture. The guidance stresses that schools must take all forms of sexual violence and harassment seriously, explaining how it exists on a continuum and that behaviours incorrectly viewed as ‘low level’ are treated seriously and not allowed to perpetuate. The document makes specific reference to behaviours such as bra-strap flicking and the careless use of language.

## Misuse of school technology (devices, systems, networks or platforms)

Please see the respective pupil and staff AUP.

Clear and well communicated rules and procedures are essential to govern pupil and adult use of school networks, connections, internet connectivity and devices, cloud platforms and social media (both when on school site and outside of school).

These are defined in the relevant Acceptable Use Policy as well as in this document, for example in the sections relating to the professional and personal use of school platforms/networks/clouds, devices and other technology.

Where pupils contravene these rules, the school behaviour policy will be applied; where staff contravene these rules, action will be taken as outlined in the staff code of conduct.

Further to these steps, the school reserves the right to withdraw – temporarily or permanently – any or all access to such technology, or the right to bring devices onto school property.

## Social media incidents

See the social media section later in this document. These are also governed by school Acceptable Use Policies, school social media policy and breaches will be dealt with following the behaviour policy (for pupils) or code of conduct (for staff).

Further to this, where an incident relates to an inappropriate, upsetting, violent or abusive social media post by a member of the school community, Oxford Gardens will request that the post be deleted and will expect this to be actioned promptly.

Where an offending post has been made by a third party, the school may report it to the platform it is hosted on, and may contact the Professionals’ Online Safety Helpline (run by the UK Safer Internet Centre) for support or help to accelerate this process.

# Data protection and data security

Please see the Data Protection Policy

All pupils, staff, governors, volunteers, contractors and parents are bound by the school’s data protection policy and agreements.

Rigorous controls on the LGfL network, USO sign-on for technical services, firewalls and filtering all support data protection. The following data security products are also used to protect the integrity of data, which in turn supports data protection: USO sign on for LGfL services, Sophos Anti-Virus, Sophos Anti-Phish, Sophos InterceptX, Sophos Server Advance, Malware Bytes, Egress, Meraki Mobile Device Management and CloudReady/NeverWare.

The head teacher, data protection officer and governors work together to ensure a GDPR-compliant framework for storing data, but which ensures that child protection is always put first and data-protection processes support careful and legal sharing of information.

Staff are reminded that all safeguarding data is highly sensitive and should be treated with the strictest confidentiality at all times, and only shared via approved channels to colleagues or agencies with appropriate permissions. Encrypting emails or use of the One Drive for all non-internal emails is compulsory for sharing pupil data. If this is not possible, the DPO and DSL should be informed in advance.

# Appropriate filtering and monitoring

The school will be responsible for ensuring that the school infrastructure/ network has “appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems in place and not be able to access harmful or inappropriate material but at the same time be careful that “over blocking” does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children

can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.”

At this school, the internet connection is provided by LGfL. This means we have a dedicated and secure, schoolsafe connection that is protected with firewalls and multiple layers of security, including a web filtering system called WebScreen 3, which is made specifically to protect children in schools. You can read more about why this system is appropriate on the UK Safer Internet Centre’s appropriate filtering submission pages [here](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/teachers-and-school-staff/appropriate-filtering-and-monitoring/provider-responses).

There are three types of appropriate monitoring identified by the Safer Internet Centre. These are:

1. Physical monitoring (adult supervision in the classroom, at all times)
2. Internet and web access
3. Active/Pro-active technology monitoring services

At Oxford Gardens, we use both option 1 & 2.

# Electronic communications

Please read this section alongside references to pupil-staff communications in the overall school Safeguarding Policy, and in conjunction with the Data Protection Policy. This section only covers electronic communications, but the same principles of transparency, appropriate conduct and audit trail apply.

## Email

* Staff at this school use Microsoft Outlook for all emails.

The pupil system is linked to the USO authentication system and is fully auditable, trackable and managed by LGfL on behalf of the school. This is for the mutual protection and privacy of all staff, pupils and parents, as well as to support data protection. Staff email also provides the same protection under the standards of the borough. It is fully protected by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

General principles for email use are as follows:

* Email (as well as Seesaw) are the only means of electronic communication to be used between staff and pupils / staff and parents (in both directions). Use of a different platform must be approved in advance by the head teacher in advance. Any unauthorised attempt to use a different

system may be a safeguarding concern or disciplinary matter and should be notified to the DSL (if by a child) or to the Headteacher (if by a staff member).

* Email may only be sent using the email systems above. There should be no circumstances where a private email is used; if this happens by mistake, the DSL/Headteacher/DPO (the particular circumstances of the incident will determine whose remit this is) should be informed immediately.
* Staff or pupil personal data should never be sent/shared/stored on email.
	+ If data needs to be shared with external agencies, USO-FX and Egress systems are available from LGfL.
	+ Internally, staff should use the school network, including when working from home when they should use the school cloud via Office 365.
* Pupils are restricted to emailing within the school and cannot email external accounts
* Appropriate behaviour is expected at all times, and the system should not be used to send inappropriate materials or language which is or could be construed as bullying, aggressive, rude, insulting, illegal or otherwise inappropriate, or which (for staff) might bring the school into disrepute or compromise the professionalism of staff (in code of conduct)
* Pupils and staff are NOT allowed to use the email system for personal use and should be aware that all use is monitored, their emails may be read and the same rules of appropriate behaviour apply at all times. Emails using inappropriate language, images, malware or to adult sites may be blocked and not arrive at their intended destination.

See the social media policy.

# School website

The school website is a key public-facing information portal for the school community (both existing and prospective stakeholders) with a key reputational value. The day-to-day responsibility of updating the content of the website has been delegated to the Headteacher: Lauren Potter, and the Computing and Technology Lead: Olivia Horner. The site is managed by Schudio (Schudio.com)

The DfE has determined information which must be available on a school website. LGfL has compiled RAG (red-amber-green) audits at [safepolicies.lgfl.net](https://safepolicies.lgfl.net/) to help schools to ensure that are requirements are met (see appendices).

Where other staff submit information for the website, they are asked to remember:

* School have the same duty as any person or organisation to respect and uphold copyright law – schools have been fined thousands of pounds for copyright breaches. Sources must always be credited and material only used with permission. If in doubt, check with Lauren Potter. There are many open-access libraries of high-quality public-domain images that can be used (e.g. pixabay.com for marketing materials – beware some adult content on this site).
* Pupils and staff at LGfL schools also have access to licences for music, sound effects, art collection images and other at curriculum.lgfl.net
* Where pupil work, images or videos are published on the website, their identities are protected and full names are not published (remember also not to save images with a filename that includes a pupil’s full name).

# Cloud platforms

Many schools are recognising the benefits of cloud computing platforms, not just for cost savings but to enhance teaching and learning.

This school adheres to the principles of the DfE document ‘[Cloud computing services: guidance for school leaders, school staff and governing bodies](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cloud-computing-how-schools-can-move-services-to-the-cloud)’.

As more and more systems move to the cloud, it becomes easier to share and access data. It is important to consider data protection before adopting a cloud platform or service – see our DP policy here.

For online safety, basic rules of good password hygiene (“Treat your password like your toothbrush –never share it with anyone!”), expert administration and training can help to keep staff and pupils safe, and to avoid incidents. The data protection officer and network manager analyse and document systems and procedures before they are implemented, and regularly review them.

The following principles apply:

* Privacy statements inform parents and children (13+) when and what sort of data is stored in the cloud
* The DPO approves new cloud systems, what may or may not be stored in them and by whom. Parental permission is sought before the children are given access.
* Regular training ensures all staff understand sharing functionality and this is audited to ensure that pupil data is not shared by mistake. Open access or widely shared folders are clearly marked as such
* Pupils and staff are only given access and/or sharing rights when they can demonstrate an understanding of what data may be stored and how it can be seen
* Two-factor authentication is used for access to staff or pupil data
* Pupil images/videos are only made public with parental permission
* Only school-approved platforms are used by students or staff to store pupil work
* All stakeholders understand the difference between consumer and education products (e.g. a private Gmail account or Google Drive and those belonging to a managed educational domain)

# Digital images and video

The use of digital images must depend upon the appropriate permission given by parents/ carers/ All photographs/ videos must be taken on a school device. Parents’ consent to the following answer as follows:

* For displays around the school
* For children’s books and learning journeys
* Printed publications, e.g. newsletters
* For school learning platforms such as Seesaw and Google Classroom
* For the website
* For official individual and school photos
* For social media (Instagram)
* For use in the media.
* For trips and event organisers.

Whenever a photo or video is taken/made, the member of staff taking it will check the latest database before using it for any purpose.

Any pupils shown in public facing materials are never identified with more than first name (and photo file names/tags do not include full names to avoid accidentally sharing them).

All staff are governed by their contract of employment and the school’s Acceptable Use Policy, which covers the use of mobile phones/personal equipment for taking pictures of pupils, and where these are stored. At Oxford Gardens members of staff may occasionally use personal phones to capture photos or videos of pupils, but these will be appropriate, linked to school activities, taken without secrecy and not in a one-to-one situation, and always moved to school storage as soon as possible, after which they are deleted from personal devices or cloud services.

Photos are stored on the school network in line with the retention schedule of the school Data Protection Policy.

Staff and parents are reminded annually about the importance of not sharing without permission, due to reasons of child protection (e.g. looked-after children often have restrictions for their own protection), data protection, religious or cultural reasons, or simply for reasons of personal privacy. Further detail on this subject and a sample letter to parents for taking photos or videos at school events can be found at [parentfilming.lgfl.net](http://parentfilming.lgfl.net)

We encourage young people to think about their online reputation and digital footprint, so staff should act as positive role models. Pupils are taught regularly about the potential risks of sharing their personal information online or that of others, without consent.

Pupils are taught about how images can be manipulated in their online safety education programme and also taught to consider how to publish for a wide range of audiences which might include governors, parents or younger children

Pupils are advised to be very careful about placing any personal photos on social media. They are taught to understand the need to maintain privacy settings so as not to make public, personal information.

Pupils are taught that they should not post images or videos of others without their permission. We teach them about the risks associated with providing information with images (including the name of the file), that reveals the identity of others and their location. We teach them about the need to keep their data secure and what to do if they / or a friend are subject to bullying or abuse.

# Device usage

Please read the following in conjunction with acceptable use policies and the following sections of this document which all impact upon device usage: copyright, data protection, social media, misuse of technology, and digital images and video.

## Personal devices including wearable technology and bring your own device (BYOD)

* **Pupils/students** are allowed to bring mobile phones in for emergency use. Phones are declared to the teacher at the start of each day and returned at the end. Important messages and phone calls to or from parents can be made at the school office, which will also pass on messages from parents to pupils in emergencies.
* **All staff who work directly with children** should leave their mobile phones on silent and only use them in private staff areas during school hours. Child/staff data should never be downloaded onto a private phone. If a staff member is expecting an important personal call when teaching or otherwise on duty, they should inform a member of SLT at the beginning of the day. The phone call must then be taken in an area where no children are present.
* **Volunteers, contractors, governors** should leave their phones in their pockets and turned off. Under no circumstances should they be used in the presence of children or to take photographs or videos. If this is required (e.g. for contractors to take photos of equipment or buildings), permission of the headteacher should be sought (the headteacher may choose to delegate this) and this should be done in the presence of a member staff.
* **Parents** are asked to leave their phones in their pockets and turned off when they are on site. They should ask permission before taking any photos, e.g. of displays in corridors or classrooms, and must avoid capturing other children. We encourage parents to greet their children with a smile and no mobile phone posters are displayed in the playgrounds.

## Network / internet access on school devices

* **Pupils/students** only use school devices to access the internet.
* **All staff who work directly with children** should leave their mobile phones on silent and only use them in private staff areas during school hours. Child/staff data should never be downloaded onto a private phone.
* **Volunteers, contractors, governors** have no access to the school network or wireless internet on personal devices. All internet traffic is monitored.
* **Parents** have no access to the school network or wireless internet on personal. All internet traffic is monitored.

## Trips / events away from school

For school trips/events away from school, teachers will be issued a school duty phone and this number used for any authorised or emergency communications with pupils/students and parents. Any deviation from this policy (e.g. by mistake or because the school phone will not work) will be notified immediately to the headteacher. Teachers using their personal phone in an emergency will ensure that the number is hidden to avoid a parent or student accessing a teacher’s private phone number.

## Searching and confiscation

In line with the DfE guidance ‘Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools’, the Headteacher/Principal and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils/property on school premises. This includes the content of mobile phones and other devices, for example as a result of a reasonable suspicion that a device contains illegal or undesirable material, including but not exclusive to sexual images, pornography, violence or bullying.

Full details of the school’s search procedures are available in the school Behaviour Policy.