



E-Safety Policy

Author	Written/ Reviewed	Next Review
N Toplass	Autumn 2023	Autumn 2025

Statement of Intent

At Shenstone Lodge Schools, we understand that computer technology is an essential resource for supporting teaching and learning. The internet, and other digital and information technologies, open up opportunities for pupils and play an important role in their everyday lives.

Whilst the school recognises the importance of promoting the use of computer technology throughout the curriculum, we also understand the need for safe internet access and appropriate use.

Our school has created this policy with the aim of ensuring appropriate and safe use of the internet and other digital technology devices by all pupils and staff.

The school is committed to providing a safe learning and teaching environment for all pupils.

1. Legal Framework

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to:
 - The General Data Protection Regulation
 - Freedom of Information Act 2000
- 1.2. This policy also has regard to the following statutory guidance:
 - DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- 1.3. This policy will be used in conjunction with the following school policies and procedures:
 - E-Security Policy
 - Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy
 - Acceptable Use Policy

2. Use of the Internet

- 2.1. The school understands that using the internet is important when raising educational standards, promoting pupil achievement and enhancing teaching and learning.
- 2.2. Internet use is embedded in the statutory curriculum and is therefore an entitlement for all pupils, though there are a number of controls the school is required to implement to minimise harmful risks.
- 2.3. When accessing the internet, individuals are especially vulnerable to a number of risks which may be physically and emotionally harmful, including the following:
 - Access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate images
 - Cyber bullying
 - Access to, or loss of, personal information

- Access to unsuitable online videos or games
- Loss of personal images
- Inappropriate communication with others
- Illegal downloading of files
- Exposure to explicit or harmful content, e.g. content involving radicalisation
- Plagiarism and copyright infringement
- Sharing the personal information of others without the individual's consent or knowledge

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- It is the responsibility of all staff to be alert to possible harm to pupils or staff due to inappropriate internet access or use, both inside and outside of the school, and to deal with incidents of such as a priority.
- The **Executive Headteacher** is responsible for ensuring that there are appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place to safeguard pupils.
- The **IT Provider** is responsible for ensuring the day-to-day 'running' of IT in the school and managing any issues that may arise.
- The **Executive Headteacher** is responsible for ensuring that relevant staff receive CPD to allow them to fulfil their role effectively.
- The **IT Provider** will provide relevant training and advice as required for members of staff.
- All staff, will carry out the monitoring of e-safety in the school, keeping in mind data protection requirements.
- The **Head Of School (HOS)** will establish a procedure for reporting incidents and inappropriate internet use, either by pupils or staff.
- The **HOS** will ensure that all members of staff are aware of the procedure when reporting e-safety incidents and will keep a log of all incidents recorded.
- The schools IT system tracks usage and flags 'high risk action/ inappropriate searches and words' for further investigation by HOS
- The **Executive Headteacher** will review annually (or sooner if necessary) with the **IT Provider and HOSs** the effectiveness of the e-safety provision, current issues, and to review incident logs, as part of the school's duty of care.

- The **LAB** will evaluate and review this E-safety Policy on a two yearly basis, considering the latest developments in ICT and any feedback from staff/pupils.
- Teachers are responsible for ensuring that e-safety issues are embedded in the curriculum and safe internet access is promoted at all times.
- All staff are responsible for ensuring they are up-to-date with current e-safety issues, and this E-safety Policy.
- All staff and pupils will ensure they understand and adhere to our **Acceptable Use Policy**, which they must sign and return to the **School Business Manager**.
- All pupils are aware of their responsibilities regarding the use of school-based ICT systems and equipment, including their expected behaviour.

4. E-safety Education

Educating pupils:

- 4.1. Pupils will be taught about the importance of e-safety and are encouraged to be critically aware of the content they access online, including extremist material, and the validity of website content.
- 4.2. Pupils will be taught to acknowledge ownership of information they access online, in order to avoid copyright infringement and/or plagiarism.
- 4.3. Pupils are instructed to report any suspicious use of the internet and digital devices to their **Classroom Teacher or responsible adult**.
- 4.4. PSHE lessons will be used to educate pupils about cyber bullying, including how to report cyber bullying, the social effects of spending too much time online and where to access help.
- 4.5. The school will hold e-safety events, such as Safer Internet Day and Anti-Bullying Week, to promote online safety.

Educating staff:

- 4.6. A e-safety training is available to all staff members. This may be offered to whole staff groups or individuals as identified.
- 4.7. All staff will employ methods of good practice and act as role models for pupils when using the internet and other digital devices.
- 4.8. All staff will be educated on which sites are deemed appropriate and inappropriate.
- 4.9. All staff are reminded of the importance of acknowledging information they access online, in order to avoid copyright infringement and/or plagiarism.

- 4.10. Any new staff are required to undergo e-safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring they fully understand this E-safety Policy.
- 4.11. The **HOS** will act as the first point of contact for staff requiring e-safety advice.

Educating parents:

- 4.12. E-safety information will be directly delivered to parents through a variety of formats, including newsletters, the school website and social media.

5. E-safety Control Measures

Internet access:

- 5.1. Internet access will be authorised once parents and pupils have returned the signed consent form in line with our **Acceptable Use Policy**.
- 5.2. Where a pupil is over the age of 13 and they fully understand what they are consenting to, parents' consent is not required in line with the GDPR; however, the school will notify parents that the pupil has consented independently.
- 5.3. A record will be kept by the **school admin team** of all pupils who have been granted internet access.
- 5.4. All users in **KS2** and above will be provided with usernames and passwords and will be instructed to keep these confidential to avoid any other pupils using their login details.
- 5.5. Management systems will be in place to allow teachers and members of staff to control workstations and monitor pupils' activity.
- 5.6. Effective filtering systems will be established to eradicate any potential risks to pupils through access to, or trying to access, certain websites which are harmful or use inappropriate material.
- 5.7. Filtering systems will be used which are relevant to pupils' age ranges, their frequency of use of ICT systems, and the proportionality of costs compared to risks.
- 5.8. The **HOS** will ensure that the use of appropriate filters and monitoring systems does not lead to 'over blocking' – unreasonable restrictions as to what pupils can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.

- 5.9. Any requests by staff for websites to be added or removed from the filtering list must be first authorised by the **HOS**.
- 5.10. All school systems will be protected by up-to-date virus software.
- 5.11. An agreed procedure will be in place for the provision of temporary users, e.g. volunteers.
- 5.12. Master users' passwords will be available to the **HOS** for regular monitoring of activity.
- 5.13. Staff are able to use the internet for personal use during out-of-school hours, as well as break and lunch times **if they are not working with students.**
- 5.14. Staff or visitors that have access to, and use, school internet services (WIFI) will have their usage tracked/ monitored automatically by the school firewall in line with this policy.
- 5.15. Inappropriate internet access by staff may result in the staff member being permitted to use the internet for school purposes only and prohibited from using any personal devices. This will be dealt with following the process outlined in the [misuse by staff](#) section of this policy.

Email:

- 5.16. Pupils and staff will be given approved email accounts and are only able to use these accounts.
- 5.17. The use of personal email accounts to send and receive personal data or information is prohibited.
- 5.18. No sensitive personal data shall be sent to any other pupils, staff or third parties via email.
- 5.19. Pupils are made aware that all email messages are monitored and that the filtering system will detect inappropriate links, viruses, malware and profanity.
- 5.20. Staff members are aware that their email messages are not monitored.
- 5.21. Any emails sent by pupils to external organisations will be overseen by their class teacher and must be authorised before sending.
- 5.22. Chain letters, spam and all other emails from unknown sources will be deleted without opening.
- 5.23. Assemblies will be held during the school year explaining what a phishing email might look like – this assembly will include information on the following:
 - Determining whether or not an email address is legitimate
 - Knowing the types of address a phishing email could use
 - Asking “does it urge the recipient to act immediately?”
 - Checking the spelling and grammar

- 5.24. Staff will not be punished if they are caught out by cyber-attacks as this may prevent similar reports in the future. The **IT Provider** will conduct an investigation; however, this will be to identify the cause of the attack, any compromised data and if there are any steps that can be taken in the future to prevent similar attacks happening.

Social networking:

- 5.25. Access to social networking sites will be automatically filtered as appropriate.
- 5.26. Should access be needed to social networking sites for any reason, this will be monitored and controlled by staff at all times and must be first authorised by the **Head of School**.
- 5.27. Pupils are regularly educated on the implications of posting personal data online outside of the school.
- 5.28. Staff are regularly educated on posting inappropriate photos or information online, which may potentially affect their position and the school as a whole.
- 5.29. Staff are not permitted to communicate with pupils over social networking sites and are reminded to alter their privacy settings.
- 5.30. Staff are not permitted to publish comments about the school which may affect its reputation. Furthermore, staff need to maintain professional standards when making comments on work related/ affiliated or linked social media and communication platforms such as WhatsApp. Eg. work groups that may provide information or communications regarding school closures etc..
- 5.31. Staff are not permitted to access social media sites during teaching hours unless it is beneficial to the material being taught. This will be discussed with the **HOS** prior to accessing the social media site.

Published content on the school website:

- 5.32. The **Executive Headteacher** will be responsible for the overall content of the website and will ensure the content is appropriate and accurate.
- 5.33. Contact details on the school website will include the phone number, email and address of the school – no personal details of staff or pupils will be published.
- 5.34. Images and full names of pupils, or any content that may easily identify a pupil, will be selected carefully and will not be posted until authorisation from parents has been received.
- 5.35. Pupils are not permitted to take or publish photos of others without permission from the individual.
- 5.36. Any member of staff that is representing the school online, e.g. through blogging, must express neutral opinions and not disclose any confidential information regarding the school, or any information that may affect its reputability.

Mobile devices and hand-held computers:

- 5.37. The **Head of School** may authorise the use of mobile devices by a pupil where it is seen to be for reasonable use.
- 5.38. Pupils are not permitted to access the school's Wi-Fi system at any time whilst using their mobile devices and hand-held computers.
- 5.39. Mobile devices are not normally permitted to be used during school hours by pupils or members of staff.
- 5.40. Staff are permitted to use hand-held computers which have been provided by the school, though internet access will be tracked automatically for any inappropriate use by the schools 'firewalls' if school WIFI / Broadband is used.
- 5.41. The sending of inappropriate messages or images from mobile devices is prohibited on school equipment
- 5.42. Personal mobile devices should not be used to take images or videos of pupils or staff unless permission is given by a member of the SLT.
- 5.43. The **DPO** will, in collaboration with the **IT Provider**, ensure all school-owned devices are password protected
- 5.44. **IT Provider** will review all mobile devices and hand-held computers regularly to ensure systems are updated and remain secure.
- 5.45. **IT Provider** will review and authorise any apps and/or computer programmes before they are downloaded – no apps or programmes will be downloaded without express permission from the **HOS or Executive Headteacher** .
- 5.46. Apps will only be downloaded from manufacturer approved stores, e.g. Google Play and the Apple App Store.

Network security:

- 5.47. Network profiles for each pupil and staff member are created in which the individual must enter a username and personal password when accessing the ICT systems within the school.
- 5.48. Passwords have a minimum and maximum length, to prevent 'easy' passwords or mistakes when creating passwords.
- 5.49. Passwords will require a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols to ensure they are secure as possible.
- 5.50. Passwords should be stored using non-reversible encryption.
- 5.51. The **IT Provider** will ensure all school-owned laptops and computers have their encryption settings turned on or, if there is no built-in encryption option, encryption software is installed.

- 5.52. Important folders, e.g. those including pupils' medical records, will be saved on the Confidential drive, access of which is only given to Senior Management Team and the Admin Team.

Virus management:

- 5.53. Technical security features, such as virus software, are kept up-to-date and managed by the **IT Provider**.
- 5.54. The **IT Provider** will ensure that the filtering of websites and downloads is up-to-date and monitored.
- 5.55. Firewalls will be switched on at all times – **IT Provider** will liaise with the School's preferred provider to ensure effectiveness.
- 5.56. Staff members will report all malware and virus attacks to the **IT Provider** and **DPO** immediately.

6. Cyber Bullying

- 6.1. For the purposes of this policy, cyber bullying is a form of bullying whereby an individual is the victim of harmful or offensive messages, or the posting of information or images online.
- 6.2. The school recognises that both staff and pupils may experience cyber bullying and is committed to responding appropriately to instances that should occur.
- 6.3. The school will regularly educate staff, pupils and parents on the importance of staying safe online, as well as being considerate to what they post online.
- 6.4. Pupils will be educated about online safety through teaching and learning opportunities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum; this includes covering relevant issues within PSHE lessons as well as sex and relationship education.
- 6.5. The school will commit to creating a learning and teaching environment which is free from harassment and bullying, ensuring the happiness of all members of staff and pupils.
- 6.6. The school has zero tolerance for cyber bullying, and any incidents will be treated with the utmost seriousness and will be dealt with in accordance with our **Anti-Bullying Policy** and **Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy**.
- 6.7. The **HOS** will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the police of the action taken against a pupil.

7. Reporting Misuse

- 7.1. **Shenstone Lodge Schools** will clearly define what is classed as inappropriate behaviour in the **Acceptable Use Policy**, ensuring all pupils and staff members are aware of what behaviour is expected of them.
- 7.2. Inappropriate activities are discussed and the reasoning behind prohibiting activities due to e-safety are explained to pupils as part of the curriculum in order to promote responsible internet use.

Misuse by pupils:

- 7.3. Teachers have the power to discipline pupils who engage in misbehaviour with regards to internet use.
- 7.4. Any instances of misuse should be immediately reported to a member of staff, who will then report this to the **HOS**.
- 7.5. Any pupil who does not adhere to the rules outlined in our **Acceptable Use Policy** and is found to be willfully misusing the internet will have a letter sent to their parents explaining the reason for suspending their internet use.
- 7.6. Members of staff may decide to issue other forms of disciplinary action to a pupil upon the misuse of the internet. This will be discussed with the **HOS**.
- 7.7. Complaints of a child protection nature, such as when a pupil is found to be accessing extremist material, shall be dealt with in accordance with our **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**.

Misuse by staff:

- 7.8. Any misuse of the internet by a member of staff should be immediately reported to the **HOS** or **Executive Headteacher**.
- 7.9. The **HOS** or **Executive Headteacher** will deal with such incidents in accordance with the **relevant policy based on the allegation made**.

Use of illegal material:

- 7.10. In the event that illegal material is found on the school's network, or evidence suggests that illegal material has been accessed, the police may be contacted.
- 7.11. Incidents will be immediately reported to the Internet Watch Foundation and the police will be contacted if the illegal material is, or is suspected to be, a child sexual abuse image hosted anywhere in the world, a non-photographic child sexual abuse image hosted in the UK, or criminally obscene adult content hosted in the UK.

- 7.12. If a child protection incident is suspected, the school's child protection procedure will be followed – the **DSL** and **Executive Headteacher** will be informed
- 7.13. Staff will not view or forward illegal images of a child. If they are made aware of such an image, they will contact the **DSL**.

8. Monitoring and Review

- 8.1. This policy will also be reviewed on every two years by the **LAB** any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.
- 8.2. Members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction programmes.