St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School

Online Safety Policy

Action	Date
Document reviewed	September 2025
Reviewed By	Sarah Irvine
Adopted by Governors	September 2025
Next Review Date	September 2026

Great Harwood St Bartholomew's Parish CE VA Primary School

Follow Jesus in all we do

School Vision

We seek to ensure that by following Jesus, each individual is inspired to shine in all areas of their educational and spiritual development.

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' (Jeremiah 29:11)

Mission Statement

Follow Jesus in all we do

'When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life".' (John 8:12)

Core Values

Our school is underpinned by 6 core values;

Courage
'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' (Joshua 1.9)

Friendship
'Love each other as I have loved you.' (John 15:12)

Service
'Serve one another in love' (Galatians 5.13)

Forgiveness
'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; Forgive, and you will be forgiven' (Luke 6:37)

Justice
'And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' (Micah 6:9)

Love
'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.' (Chronicles 16:34)

Great Harwood St Bartholomew's CE Parish VA Primary School

Online Safety Policy (2026-2027)

Statement of Intent

Follow Jesus in all we do

At Great Harwood St Bartholomew's Parish CE VA Primary School, we recognise that technology provides significant opportunities for learning, creativity, communication and personal development. We are committed to ensuring that all pupils are able to use digital technology safely, responsibly and respectfully.

Online safety is a safeguarding issue and is everyone's responsibility. The school adopts a whole-school approach to online safety which is embedded throughout safeguarding, behaviour, relationships education and curriculum provision.

We seek to create a culture where pupils, staff, governors, volunteers and parents understand both the benefits and risks of technology and are equipped to make safe and informed decisions online.

This policy should be read alongside:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Respect for All (Anti-Bullying) Policy
- Mobile Phones and Smart Technology Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Data Protection Policy
- Relationships Education Policy
- Acceptable Use Agreements

1. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to:

Legislation

- Education Act 1996
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK GDPR
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019
- Online Safety Act 2023

Statutory Guidance

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026

- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Behaviour in Schools (2024)
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation
- Teaching Online Safety in Schools
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education
- Meeting Digital and Technology Standards in Schools
- DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards
- Mobile Phones in Schools (2026)

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Board

The Governing Board will:

- Ensure online safety forms part of safeguarding oversight.
- Ensure effective filtering and monitoring systems are in place.
- Review online safety incidents, trends and emerging risks.
- Appoint a safeguarding governor with responsibility for online safety oversight.

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Provide strategic leadership for online safety.
- Act as Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO).
- Ensure staff training is up to date.
- Ensure filtering and monitoring systems meet statutory standards.
- Ensure safeguarding concerns are dealt with appropriately.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL will:

- Lead online safety across the school.
- Ensure online safety is embedded within safeguarding procedures.
- Respond to concerns involving:
    - Cyberbullying
    - Child-on-child abuse
    - Harmful online behaviour
    - Sexual harassment
    - Sharing nudes and semi-nudes
    - Online grooming
    - Extremist content
    - Artificial Intelligence (AI) misuse
- Record concerns on CPOMS and manage referrals where appropriate.

Staff

All staff will:

- Model safe and professional use of technology.
- Deliver age-appropriate online safety education.

- Report concerns immediately.
- Follow all safeguarding, behaviour and acceptable use procedures.

Pupils

Pupils will:

- Use technology safely and respectfully.
- Follow school acceptable use expectations.
- Report any worries, unsafe content or online concerns.
- Respect the rights, privacy and dignity of others.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to:

- Promote safe technology use at home.
- Support school expectations.
- Work with the school when concerns arise.
- Engage with online safety information shared by school.

3. Online Safety Education

Online safety is taught through:

- Computing
- Relationships Education
- PSHE
- Worship
- Assemblies
- Safeguarding curriculum
- The wider school curriculum

Pupils are taught:

Early Years and KS1

- Trusted adults
- Safe use of devices
- Privacy and personal information
- Kind online behaviour

Key Stage 2

- Managing online relationships
- Cyberbullying
- Misinformation and fake content
- Digital footprints
- Social media awareness
- Online gaming
- Privacy settings
- Healthy screen habits
- Consent online
- AI-generated content and misinformation
- Reporting concerns

Education reflects the four areas of online risk:

- Content
- Contact
- Conduct
- Commerce

and recognises emerging risks linked to Artificial Intelligence and immersive technologies.

4. Expected Conduct

All members of the school community are expected to:

- Use technology responsibly.
- Respect others online.
- Protect privacy and personal information.
- Follow copyright and intellectual property laws.
- Report concerns promptly.
- Use school systems only for authorised purposes.

The school has a zero-tolerance approach to:

- Cyberbullying
- Sexual harassment
- Hate speech
- Sharing nudes or semi-nudes
- Online abuse
- Recording others without consent
- AI-generated harmful content targeting others

These behaviours may constitute safeguarding concerns and will be dealt with through Behaviour and Child Protection procedures.

5. Managing Technology Infrastructure

The school will:

- Maintain secure and filtered internet access.
- Operate effective monitoring systems.
- Implement DfE filtering and monitoring standards.
- Use secure user accounts and passwords.
- Provide appropriate cybersecurity protection.
- Restrict access to inappropriate or harmful content.
- Maintain disaster recovery and backup arrangements.
- Monitor network activity where appropriate and lawful.

Staff and pupils must be aware that school systems may be monitored to safeguard users and maintain security.

6. Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The school recognises the increasing use of AI tools.

Pupils will be taught:

- How AI generates content.
- How AI content may be inaccurate.
- How AI may create misinformation.
- How AI images, audio and videos can be manipulated.

The misuse of AI to:

- Create harmful content
- Impersonate others
- Bully or intimidate
- Generate inappropriate images
- Circumvent school systems

will be treated as a serious behaviour and safeguarding concern.

7. Mobile Phones and Smart Technology

The school operates as a mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day. Procedures for mobile phones, smart watches and personal smart devices are outlined within the Mobile Phones and Smart Technology Policy.

8. Data Protection and Information Security

The school will:

- Comply with UK GDPR and Data Protection legislation.
- Protect personal and sensitive information.
- Use secure systems for data transfer.
- Restrict access to information according to role.
- Report breaches in line with statutory requirements.

Staff must not use personal devices to process school data unless authorised.

9. Responding to Online Safety Concerns

All concerns will be:

- Taken seriously.
- Recorded on CPOMS.
- Assessed by the DSL.
- Investigated proportionately.
- Escalated where necessary.

Concerns may include:

- Cyberbullying
- Online grooming
- Radicalisation concerns

- Harmful sexual behaviour
- Sharing of indecent images
- Exploitation
- Online fraud
- Exposure to harmful or illegal content

The school will work with parents, external agencies, children's social care and police where appropriate.

10. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher, DSL and Governing Board will review this policy annually. Monitoring will include:

- Safeguarding incidents
- Filtering and monitoring reports
- Cyberbullying records
- Mobile phone incidents
- Staff training compliance
- Emerging technologies and risks

The policy will be reviewed sooner if legislation, safeguarding guidance or DfE requirements change.