

# Online Safety Policy



**This Policy was reviewed: August 2021**

**Signed Governors: Julia Anderson**

**Signed Headteacher: Michele Battersby**

**Next Review Date: September 2022**

## ST SILAS PRIMARY SCHOOL ONLINE SAFETY POLICY

**Loving God and each other,  
We work together to be the best we can be.**

### **Policy Statement Introduction**

The use of technology, computers and computer systems is an integral part of any school and knowing how they work is a key life skill. In an increasingly digital world there now exists a wealth of software, tools and technologies that can be used to communicate, collaborate, express ideas and create digital content. It is vital that all who are involved in using this technology are given the opportunity, and skills and knowledge to use it safely.

### **Ethos**

Our school provides grounding in the Christian Faith for all its children with emphasis on collective worship as part of its daily life. Our Christian values of Love, Belonging, Service and thankfulness are built into the ethos and teaching of our school with the support of all Governors and staff for its Christian foundation. We also seek to encourage an understanding and respect for other world faiths.

### **Purpose**

This policy reflects the ethos of St. Silas Primary School in relation to Online Safety. It is consistent with the school's agreed aims and objectives and sets out a framework within which teaching and support staff can operate.

### **Audience**

This document is intended to give a clear outline of the School's approach about Online Safety to all staff, governors and parents. It is also intended for the use of the School's Advisory Service when assisting the development of the School's curriculum and for any authorised inspector.

Access to this document is provided for all teaching staff and are available when necessary to support staff and members of the School's Governing Body. A copy of this document is available for the use of parents. Using new learning technologies effectively and safely at St Silas Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that children learn how to use computers and modern technologies safely so that they:

- Are able to use technology safely to support their learning in school
- Know how to use a range of ICT equipment safely
- Are able to use modern technologies outside school in a safe manner, including using ICT as a tool for communication
- Are prepared for the constant changes in the world of technology and understand how to use new and emerging technologies in a safe manner

- Know what to do if they feel unsafe when it comes to using technology and ICT

### **Writing and reviewing the Online Safety Policy**

The Online Safety Policy relates to other policies including those for Computing, GDPR, Anti Bullying, and for Child Protection and Safeguarding.

The Inclusion Manager is DSL

Headteacher is the Deputy DSL.

The Computing Subject Leader is the Online Safety Lead.

The Online Safety Policy was revised by the Online Safety Lead.

### **School and community involvement in online safety policy and practice**

At St Silas Primary School we believe that by involving representatives from all the school community in evaluating, formulating and reviewing online safety policy and practice, our children and staff will be the safest they possibly can be.

### **Leadership of Online Safety**

Our Online Safety Lead is our Computing Curriculum Subject Leader. The responsibilities of the Online Safety Lead alongside the Online Safety group are to:

- Ensure membership of the Online Safety group represents a range of stakeholders in the school community
- Maintain own knowledge of wider Online Safety and online safety leadership through training, seeking advice, and signing up to regular updates
- Carry out an Online Safety audit to inform the review process
- Regularly review the effectiveness of Online Safety policy and practice
- Ensure the computing curriculum is progressive and age appropriate and that there opportunities across the wider curriculum including PSHE to reinforce Online Safety messages.
- Ensure all school staff receive Online Safety training annually and that a record of training is maintained
- Provide updates on Online Safety policy and practice to governors
- With the school's technical support, ensure that appropriate filtering and anti-virus software is in place
- Maintain reporting procedures for Online Safety incidents - This may be part of a wider reporting system, but should include access to inappropriate resources (intentional or otherwise), inappropriate use of school technology, Online Safety and cyberbullying disclosures. There should also be a record of how it was dealt with and any consequences e.g. additional online safety input; discussion with parents restricting access etc.
- Provide or source Online Safety information and training for parents
- Ensure that appropriate acceptable use agreements are signed by pupils and parents and that permission for use of images and video is sought from parents (and pupils when appropriate)

- Ensure that the educational potential and possible online safety issues are investigated before using new technology.
- Annually review the schools Online Safety strategy, policy and practice Online Safety Education and Training

The Internet is an essential element in 21st century life for education, business and social interaction. The school has a duty to provide students with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience. Current guidance stipulates that it is not sufficient to keep pupils safe in school. It is our responsibility therefore, to ensure they have opportunities to learn how to stay safe and deal with the risks associated with the internet and communication technology in the world around them. Keeping our children safe involves educating all members of our school's community, including governors, parents and all staff working in school.

### **Educating pupils**

Our Online Safety curriculum At St Silas Primary school we ensure that children have access to a progressive Online Safety curriculum across all year groups. Early Years Foundation Stage, Early Learning Goal Children recognise that a range of technology is used in places such as homes and schools. They select and use technology for particular purposes. In order to safely select and use technology we believe that children in the Foundation Stage need to be taught an age appropriate Online Safety curriculum. When working towards this Early Learning Goal we will ensure our children use technology safely so that by the time they leave the Foundation Stage they are ready to access the key stage 1 curriculum.

The National Curriculum 2014 for Computing stipulates that pupils:

In Key Stage 1 are taught to use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private; identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies.

In Key Stage 2 are taught to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviour; identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact.

At St Silas Primary School we use a number of approaches to ensure our pupils are confident and safe users of technology in and out of school. To ensure pupils have access to an age-appropriate Online Safety curriculum that is flexible, relevant and engages pupils' interest; that is used to promote Online Safety through teaching pupils how to stay safe, how to protect themselves from harm, we: Introduce age appropriate school and classroom rules each year and reinforce them regularly; Use progressive statements within the Computing curriculum scheme of work, to ensure that areas of online safety relating to communication, information, creating and presenting ideas, and Computer Science are covered regularly. These are planned into computing, PSHE and where possible the foundation subjects.

In school, the Computing scheme can be found on the curriculum in the subject area in staff shared. This scheme is known as the Purple Mash Computing Scheme for Key stage 1 and

2. This is also available online at [www.purplemash.com](http://www.purplemash.com) . Additionally in school, we deliver online safety messages in assembly in response to need, to reinforce national initiatives and agendas such as Safer Internet Day and Anti-Bullying Week. Furthermore, we have regular visitors from the Local Authority, the RSPCC and beyond who talk about issues relating to Online Safety.

Before using a new device, or online resource, pupils are taught how to use it safely and appropriately. This is reinforced regularly. We teach pupils to tell a trusted adult should they be worried or upset by anything they encounter online or when using communication technology. (All staff are made aware of what to do if a pupil confides in them.) The need to keep login details and other personal information private is reinforced regularly when using the schools network, learning platform (Purple Mash) and any other methods of communication agreed by the Headteacher. Pupils will be taught how to evaluate internet content appropriate to their age. The school will ensure that the use of Internet derived materials by staff and pupils complies with copyright law. Pupils will be taught what Internet use is responsible and what is not and given clear objectives for internet use. Pupils will be educated in the effective use of the internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation appropriate to their age group. Pupils will be taught about the dangers of radicalisation and extremism at an appropriate level for their age.

### **Educating parents**

Children often seem more at home in the digital world than their parents. To ensure that children are the safest they possibly can be, we must educate parents about the risk of using the internet and communication technology for their children and the potential for their own use of technology to place themselves, or their child, at risk.

We ensure parents receive information and training by:

- Providing links to information and resources for parents on our school website, school Facebook page and Twitter.
- Providing regular updates to parents through newsletters. We will be able to inviting parents to online safety workshops
- Inviting parents to join Online Safety sessions or attend Online Safety assemblies. Encouraging parents to act role models when using technology.

The school will share with parents and children, our belief that: The unsupervised use of social network spaces intended for adults outside school is inappropriate for pupils of primary age. Pan European Game Information (PEGI) and British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) ratings are good indicators of how appropriate the levels of violence, sexual content, bad language and the portrayal of drug taking and criminal acts are. Family friendly filtering can help to keep children safe, however education and the opportunity to develop safe practice is essential for keeping children safe.

Pupils who use the internet and other communication technology may be at risk of being groomed or radicalised. It is important that parents understand that secrecy is a possible factor in both of these. What pupils do online now, can affect their future life. If a child is

happy to tell a parent or carer when they are worried, they are the safest they can possibly be; therefore we encourage parents to nurture a sense of trust between them and their child when talking about using technology. There are some excellent online tools for reporting concerns, such as the Report Abuse button which can be found on the <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> site and Childline: <http://www.childline.org.uk> . Children are also encouraged to report their concerns via a member of staff or trusted adult.

### **Educating staff and the wider school community**

We ensure that all new staff receive online safety training. All school staff have access to basic online safety training regularly. The Online Safety Lead and key members of the Online Safety Group have access to a higher level of training, updates and information to ensure that they have the skills and knowledge necessary to lead all areas of Online Safety. Basic training includes:

- Online Safety issues for pupils
- Reporting procedures
- Guidance on appropriate use of communication technology by staff and pupils
- Guidance for staff on how to stay safe
- Expectations in terms of passwords and data security
- Expectations in terms of professional conduct including the use of social media
- Teaching pupils to minimise the screen if they see something that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Online Safety training references and complements guidance in the Safer Working Practices document.

### **Keeping staff and pupils safe in school**

All access to the internet is filtered. For further details on networking and filtering and how access to inappropriate sites can be monitored refer to the Computing Policy. The school will work with Cidari, and the Internet Service Provider to ensure systems to protect pupils are reviewed and improved. If staff or pupils discover an unsuitable site, it must be reported to the Online Safety Lead (or other member of SLT if unavailable) who will inform the Cidari IT Team so that they can take appropriate action.

All users will be taught how to care for devices in terms of health and safety. This includes avoiding placing food or liquids near to electrical devices, carrying equipment and rules around charging and electrical sockets.

The school internet access is designed expressly for pupil use and includes appropriate filtering. Sanctions for inappropriate use of the internet and communication technology will be explained to the children. A record of any misuse is kept by the Headteacher. At St Silas Primary School the staff do not use their own personal devices/accounts to contact parents and pupils. To protect staff and pupils, the school provides a phone for contacting parents when on trips and visits, and school email addresses. Cameras and ipads are provided for recording school related activities. Images of children should not be stored on personal devices.

St Silas Primary School uses social networking such as Twitter and Facebook to communicate with parents, here is an outline of our practice. Anyone can post on the school Facebook page however posts will be removed by the administrators if deemed inappropriate. A select number of staff have editing rights and responsibilities with regards to this. On Facebook, the School refrains from tagging anyone as it is a general information page to inform parents and carers of events, celebrations and important information linked with the school. If faced with unwanted communication the administrators are advised to block content. There is no group or group membership set up on the page. Prior parental permission (through the multimedia home/school agreement) is sought in order to upload images and information about children and school activities. In order to maintain privacy for the staff, they have all agreed to not communicate with the school's Facebook page using personal accounts.

### **Acceptable use agreements**

A home school agreement concerning access to the internet and communication technology will be signed by pupils and parents and copies of which will be kept in the class information file.

### **Class rules agreement**

A charter for safe working with technology will be signed by pupils, parents and the school.

### **Acceptable use agreement for school staff**

Staff at St Silas Primary School sign an Acceptable Use Agreement (see the Computing Security Policy)

### **Passwords security**

Pupils are encouraged to keep their password private. Parents are encouraged to ask children to logon to their accounts and show them what they have been doing rather than ask children to share their passwords. Pupils will be taught to tell an adult immediately about any offensive communications they receive or any inappropriate content they may encounter using digital technology. Pupils may only use approved digital methods of communication on the school system e.g. communication tools through Purple Mash, Google Classroom, the school website. Pupils in key stage 2 upwards will be taught about the report abuse button (this can be found on many websites including our school website) through the Online Safety lessons. Pupils and staff will use equipment responsibly. Pupils will be advised never to give out personal details of any kind which may identify them or their location or arrange to meet anyone without specific permission. Webcams will only be used with staff or parent supervision.

### **Reporting online safety concerns**

Children are encouraged to report their concerns via a member of staff. We also encourage the children to use national resources such as those found using CEOP detail systems for reporting online safety concerns. This should build on any systems for behaviour and safeguarding already in school. It should include: Online safety concerns to be reported on My Concern. The nature of the incident and action taken are recorded with and any consequences e.g. additional online safety input; discussion with parents restricting access etc.. This includes access to inappropriate resources (intentional or otherwise), inappropriate use of school technology, online safety and cyberbullying disclosures.

### **Published content**

This will also be referenced in the Computing Security Policy. Any information that can be accessed outside the school's intranet should be classed as published whether in electronic or paper format. Electronic communication sent to an external organisation should be written carefully and authorised before sending, in the same way as a letter written on school headed paper. General contact details should be the school address, e-mail and telephone number. Staff or pupils' personal information will not be published. The Headteacher will take overall editorial responsibility and ensure that content is accurate and appropriate. (This may be through education and guidance, as directly reading everything is impractical).

Where pupils publish work; there will be systems in place to check the content and pupils will be given clear guidelines about what can be published. Publishing pupil's images and work Staff and pupils using digital cameras, video recorders, Ipads or sound recorders will ensure that they inform others before recording them and always use equipment in a respectful manner. (In the Foundation Stage this may not be practical when capturing a child in the process of learning, however should be modelled as often as possible.) Photographs that include pupils will be selected carefully and will not enable individual pupils to be clearly identified. Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere, particularly in association with photographs. As previously stated, written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs or video of pupils are published. Where pupil's work is published the school will ensure that the child's identity is protected. Where school events are being publicised, care will be taken not to reveal information that may put children or staff at risk e.g. the precise date, location and specific timings of a trip.

### **Parents using still or video cameras at school**

In line with the Information Commissioner's Office, the school does not allow parents to record video and images during performances. We advise parents of this before each event.

### **Protecting personal data**

See the Computing Security Policy and GDPR policy for guidance.



## **Policy Decisions Authorising Internet Access**

All staff must read and sign the 'Acceptable Use Agreement' before using any school ICT resource. The school will keep a record of all staff and pupils who are granted Internet access. The record will be kept up-to-date, for instance, a member of staff may leave, or a pupil's access may be withdrawn. Parents will be asked to sign and return a consent form for their children to access the internet, failure to return this will impinge on their ability to use technology in school.

## **Assessing risks**

The school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users access only appropriate material. However, due to the international scale and linked nature of internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never appear on a school computer. Neither the school nor Blackburn with Darwen LA can accept liability for the material accessed, or any consequences of Internet access. Any inappropriate access, whether intentional or unintentional, will be reported to the Online Safety Lead, and to the LA where necessary. The school will audit ICT provision to establish if the online safety policy is adequate and that its implementation is effective.

## **Handling online safety complaints**

- Complaints of internet misuse will be dealt with by the Headteacher and where appropriate the school will inform Cidari MAT and the LA.
- Complaint about staff misuse must be referred to the Headteacher, OR the Chair of Governors.
- Complaints of a child protection nature must be dealt with in accordance with school child protection procedures. Pupils and parents will be informed of the complaints procedure on request.

For further information, please see the Computing Security Policy.

## **Introducing the online safety policy to pupils**

Online safety rules will be posted in classrooms and around school where pupils may access the internet and these are discussed with the pupils at the start of each year and reinforced throughout the school year. Where possible images and symbols will be used to help make them accessible to young children. Pupils will be informed that network and Internet use will be monitored and can be monitored and traced to the individual device or login.

## **Introducing the policy to parents**

Parents' attention will be drawn to the school Online Safety Policy:

- in newsletters,
- in the school brochure
- on the school website Staff

## **The Online Safety Policy**

All staff will be given access to the School Online Safety Policy and its importance explained. Staff should be aware that internet traffic may be monitored and traced to the individual device or login. Discretion and professional conduct is essential. The school may use monitoring software where this is available to ensure that inappropriate materials are not being stored or used on school equipment. Please see the Computing Security Policy for further information.

## **Policy Monitoring and Evaluation**

The policy will be reviewed by the Computing coordinator on an annual basis in consultation with the Headteacher, staff and the Governors. The Acceptable Use Policy, Computing scheme, Computing Safety Policy and assessment procedures will be reviewed and adapted to keep pace with curriculum developments and developments within technology.