# 1. Aims

Our school aims to:

Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of students, staff, volunteers and stakeholders

Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as ‘mobile phones’)

Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate

**The 4 key categories of risk**

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

**Content** – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, radicalisation and extremism

**Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as peer-to-peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes

**Conduct** – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, such as making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography), sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and

**Commerce** – risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams

# 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education’s (DfE’s) statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2), and its advice for schools on:

* [Teaching online safety in schools](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-schools)
* [Preventing and tackling bullying](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying) and [cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying)
* [Searching, screening and confiscation](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation)

It also refers to the DfE’s guidance on [protecting children from radicalisation](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty).

It reflects existing legislation, including but not limited to the [Education Act 1996](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/contents) (as amended), the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/contents) and the [Equality Act 2010](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents). In addition, it reflects the [Education Act 2011](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/21/contents/enacted), which has given teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by, if necessary, searching for and deleting inappropriate images or files on students’ electronic devices where they believe there is a ‘good reason’ to do so.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

# 3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The Directors

Directors have overall responsibility for monitoring this policy

The Directors will co-ordinate regular meetings with appropriate staff to discuss online safety, and monitor online safety logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

All Directors will:

Ensure that they have read and understand this policy

Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the school’s ICT systems and the internet

Ensure that online safety is a running and interrelated theme while devising and implementing their whole school or college approach to safeguarding and related policies and/or procedures

Ensure that, where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, is adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This is because of the importance of recognising that a ‘one size fits all’ approach may not be appropriate for all children in all situations, and a more personalised or contextualised approach may often be more suitable

3.2 The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that staff understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school.

3.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead

Details of the school’s designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy as well as relevant job descriptions.

The DSL takes lead responsibility for online safety in school, in particular:

Supporting the headteacher in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school

Working with the headteacher, ICT manager and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents.

Managing all online safety issues and incidents in line with the school child protection policy

Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy

Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy

Updating and delivering staff training on online safety

Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary

Providing regular reports on online safety in school to the headteacher and/or the wider SLT

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.4 The ICT manager (OneIT SSS)

The ICT manager is responsible for:

Putting in place an appropriate level of security protection procedures, such as filtering and monitoring systems, which are reviewed and updated on a regular basis to assess effectiveness and ensure pupils are kept safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material

Ensuring that the school’s ICT systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware, and that such safety mechanisms are updated regularly

Conducting a full security check and monitoring the school’s ICT systems on a monthly basis

Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files

Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 5) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy

Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.5 All staff and volunteers

All staff, including contractors and agency staff, and volunteers are responsible for:

Maintaining an understanding of this policy

Implementing this policy consistently

Agreeing and adhering to the terms on acceptable use of the school’s ICT systems and the internet and ensuring that pupils follow the school’s terms on acceptable use

Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy

ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy

Responding appropriately to all reports and concerns about sexual violence and/or harassment, both online and offline and maintaining an attitude of ‘it could happen here’

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.6 Parents

Parents are expected to:

Notify a member of staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding this policy

Ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of the school’s ICT systems and internet

Parents can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online from the following organisations and websites:

What are the issues? – [UK Safer Internet Centre](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/what-are-issues)

Hot topics – [Childnet International](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics)

Parent resource sheet – [Childnet International](https://www.childnet.com/resources/parents-and-carers-resource-sheet)

3.7 Visitors and members of the community

Visitors and members of the community who use the school’s ICT systems or internet will be made aware of this policy, when relevant, and expected to read and follow it. If appropriate, they will be expected to agree to the terms on acceptable use.

# 4. Educating young people about online safety

Students will be taught about online safety as part of the curriculum in PSHCE, English and at any other given opportunity such as ‘JoinUps’ and unstructured conversations.

**All** schools have to teach:

Relationships and sex education and health education in secondary schools

By the **end of primary school**, children should know:

That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not

That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous

The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them

How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met

How information and data is shared and used online

What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)

How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know

In **Key Stage 3**, students will be taught to:

Understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting their online identity and privacy

Recognise inappropriate content, contact and conduct, and know how to report concerns

Students in **Key Stage 4** will be taught:

To understand how changes in technology affect safety, including new ways to protect their online privacy and identity

How to report a range of concerns

By the **end of secondary school**, students will know:

Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online

About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online

Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them

What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online

The impact of viewing harmful content

That specifically sexually explicit material (e.g. pornography) presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners

That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail

How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online

How to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours

How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (in all contexts, including online)

**The safe use of social media and the internet will also be covered in other subjects where relevant.**

Where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, will be adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with SEND.

# 5. Educating parents about online safety

The school will raise parents’ awareness of internet safety in letters or other communications home, and in information via our website. This policy will also be shared with parents.

Online safety will also be covered during induction meetings and parent communications throughout the year.

The school will let parents know:

What systems the school uses to filter and monitor online use

What their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and who from the school (if anyone) their child will be interacting with online

If parents have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with the headteacher and/or the DSL.

Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the headteacher.

# 6. Cyber-bullying

6.1 Definition

Cyber-bullying takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites. Like other forms of bullying, it is the repetitive, intentional harming of 1 person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. (See also the school behaviour policy.)

6.2 Preventing and addressing cyber-bullying

To help prevent cyber-bullying, we will ensure that students understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure that young people know how they can report any incidents and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim.

The school will actively discuss cyber-bullying with young people, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. All staff will discuss cyber-bullying with their class groups.

Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the curriculum to cover cyber-bullying. This includes personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, and other subjects where appropriate.

All staff, leaders and volunteers (where appropriate) receive training on cyber-bullying, its impact and ways to support students as part of safeguarding training (see section 11 for more detail).

The school also sends information/leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents so that they are aware of the signs, how to report it and how they can support children who may be affected.

In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, the school will follow the processes set out in the school behaviour policy. Where illegal, inappropriate or harmful material has been spread among pupils, the school will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the incident is contained.

The DSL will report the incident and provide the relevant material to the police as soon as is reasonably practicable, if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that possessing that material is illegal. They will also work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

6.3 Examining electronic devices

The headteacher, and any member of staff authorised to do so by the headteacher can carry out a search and confiscate any electronic device that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting:

Poses a risk to staff or students, and/or

Is identified in the school rules as a banned item for which a search can be carried out, and/or

Is evidence in relation to an offence

Before a search, if the authorised staff member is satisfied that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting any of the above, they will also:

Make an assessment of how urgent the search is and consider the risk to other students and staff. If the search is not urgent, they will seek advice from the SLT.

Explain to the student why they are being searched, how the search will happen, and give them the opportunity to ask questions about it

Seek the students’ co-operation

Log the search on CPOMS

Authorised staff members may examine, and in exceptional circumstances erase, any data or files on an electronic device that they have confiscated where they believe there is a ‘good reason’ to do so.

When deciding whether there is a ‘good reason’ to examine data or files on an electronic device, the staff member should reasonably suspect that the device has, or could be used to:

Cause harm, and/or

Undermine the safe environment of the school or disrupt teaching, and/or

Commit an offence

If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the staff member in conjunction with the DSL / headteacher / other member of the senior leadership team to decide on a suitable response. If there are images, data or files on the device that staff reasonably suspect are likely to put a person at risk, they will first consider the appropriate safeguarding response.

When deciding if there is a good reason to erase data or files from a device, staff members will consider if the material may constitute evidence relating to a suspected offence. In these instances, they will not delete the material, and the device will be handed to the police as soon as reasonably practicable. If the material is not suspected to be evidence in relation to an offence, staff members may delete it if:

They reasonably suspect that its continued existence is likely to cause harm to any person, and/or

The student and/or the parent refuses to delete the material themselves

If a staff member **suspects** a device **may** contain an indecent image of a child (also known as a nude or semi-nude image), they will:

**Not** view the image

Confiscate the device and report the incident to the DSL (or equivalent) immediately, who will decide what to do next. The DSL will make the decision in line with the DfE’s latest guidance on [screening, searching and confiscation](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation) and the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people)

Any searching of students will be carried out in line with:

The DfE’s latest guidance on [searching, screening and confiscation](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation)

UKCIS guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people)

Our behaviour policy

Any complaints about searching for or deleting inappropriate images or files on students’ electronic devices will be dealt with through the school complaints procedure.

# 7. Acceptable use of the internet in school

All students, parents, staff, volunteers and governors are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the school’s ICT systems and the internet (appendices 1 to 3). Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school’s terms on acceptable use if relevant.

Use of the school’s internet must be for educational purposes only, or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of an individual’s role.

We will monitor the websites visited by students, staff, volunteers, stakeholders and visitors (where relevant) to ensure they comply with the above.

More information is set out in the acceptable use agreements in appendices 1 to 3.

# 8. Students using mobile devices in school

**Students are not permitted to bring mobile phones into the school building.**

Phones are collected at the door by a member of staff and locked in a safe for the remainder of the day. Any breach of the acceptable use agreement by a student may trigger disciplinary action in line with the school behaviour policy, which may result in the confiscation of their device.

# 9. Staff using work devices outside school

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

Keeping the device password-protected – strong passwords are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters (e.g. asterisk or currency symbol)

Ensuring their hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device

Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time

Not sharing the device among family or friends

Installing anti-virus and anti-spyware software

Keeping operating systems up to date by always installing the latest updates

Staff members must not use the device in any way which would violate the school’s terms of acceptable use.

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from OneIT SSS.

# 10. How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a student misuses the school’s ICT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in our policies on behaviour and safeguarding. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident, and will be proportionate.

Where a staff member misuses the school’s ICT systems or the internet, or misuses a personal device where the action constitutes misconduct, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the staff code of conduct. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident.

The school will consider whether incidents which involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the police.

# 

# 11. Training

All new staff members will receive training, as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation.

All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year as part of safeguarding training, as well as relevant updates as required (for example through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings).

By way of this training, all staff will be made aware that:

Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues, and that children are at risk of online abuse

Children can abuse their peers online through:

* + Abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages
  + Non-consensual sharing of indecent nude and semi-nude images and/or videos, especially around chat groups
  + Sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who don’t want to receive such content

Physical abuse, sexual violence and initiation/hazing type violence can all contain an online element

Training will also help staff:

* Develop better awareness to assist in spotting the signs and symptoms of online abuse
* Develop the ability to ensure students can recognise dangers and risks in online activity and can weigh up the risks
* Develop the ability to influence students to make the healthiest long-term choices and keep them safe from harm in the short term

The DSL and DDSLs will undertake child protection and safeguarding training, which will include online safety, at least every 2 years. They will also update their knowledge and skills on the subject of online safety at regular intervals, and at least annually.

Directors will receive training on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues as part of their safeguarding training.

Volunteers will receive appropriate training and updates, if applicable.

More information about safeguarding training is set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

# 12. Monitoring arrangements

The DSL logs behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety on CPOMS.

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Headteacher. At every review, the policy will be shared with the wider SLT. The review will be supported by an annual risk assessment

that considers and reflects the risks students face online. This is important because technology, and the risks and harms related to it, evolve and change rapidly.

# 13. Links with other policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

Child protection and safeguarding policy

Behaviour policy

Staff E-Safety Agreement

GDPR policy

Complaints procedure

Staff code of conduct

# KS3, KS4 and KS5 acceptable use agreement (student and parents/carers)

| **Acceptable use of the school’s ICT systems and internet: agreement for Students and parents/carers** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of student:** | |
| **I will read and follow the rules in the acceptable use agreement policy.**  **When I use the school’s ICT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in school I will:**   * Always use the school’s ICT systems and the internet responsibly and for educational purposes only * Only use them when a teacher is present, or with a teacher’s permission * Keep my usernames and passwords safe and not share these with others * Keep my private information safe at all times and not give my name, address or telephone number to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer * Tell a teacher (or sensible adult) immediately if I find any material which might upset, distress or harm me or others * Always log off or shut down a computer when I’ve finished working on it   **I will not:**   * Access any inappropriate websites including: social networking sites, chat rooms and gaming sites unless my teacher has expressly allowed this as part of a learning activity * Open any attachments in emails, or follow any links in emails, without first checking with a teacher * Use any inappropriate language when communicating online, including in emails * Create, link to or post any material that is pornographic, offensive, obscene or otherwise inappropriate * Log in to the school’s network using someone else’s details * Arrange to meet anyone offline without first consulting my parent/carer, or without adult supervision   **If I bring a personal mobile phone or other personal electronic device into school:**   * I will not use it during lessons, Joinup time, clubs or other activities organised by the school, without a teacher’s permission * I will use it responsibly, and will not access any inappropriate websites or other inappropriate material or use inappropriate language when communicating online   **I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don’t follow the rules.** | |
| **Signed (student):** | **Date:** |
| **Parent/carer’s agreement:** I agree that my child can use the school’s ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for students using the school’s ICT systems and internet, and for using personal electronic devices in school, and will make sure my child understands these. | |
| **Signed (parent/carer):** | **Date:** |

# 

# Appendix 3: acceptable use agreement (staff, governors, volunteers and visitors)

| **Acceptable use of the school’s ICT systems and internet: agreement for staff, STAKEHOLDERS, volunteers and visitors** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Name:** | |
| **When using the school’s ICT systems and accessing the internet in school, or outside school on a work device (if applicable), I will not:**   * Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal or pornographic nature (or create, share, link to or send such material) * Use them in any way which could harm the school’s reputation * Access social networking sites or chat rooms * Use any improper language when communicating online, including in emails or other messaging services * Install any unauthorised software, or connect unauthorised hardware or devices to the school’s network * Share my password with others or log in to the school’s network using someone else’s details * Take photographs of pupils without checking with teachers first * Share confidential information about the school, its pupils or staff, or other members of the community * Access, modify or share data I’m not authorised to access, modify or share * Promote private businesses, unless that business is directly related to the school | |
| I will only use the school’s ICT systems and access the internet in school, or outside school on a work device, for educational purposes or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of my role.  I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the school’s ICT facilities and systems.  I will take all reasonable steps to ensure that work devices are secure and password-protected when using them outside school, and keep all data securely stored in accordance with this policy and the school’s data protection policy.  I will let the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and ICT manager know if a student informs me they have found any material which might upset, distress or harm them or others, and will also do so if I encounter any such material.  I will always use the school’s ICT systems and internet responsibly and ensure that students in my care do so too. | |
| **Signed:** | **Date:** |

# 

# Appendix 4: online safety training needs – self-audit for staff

| online safety training needs audit | |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of staff member/volunteer:** | **Date**: |
| **Question** | **Yes/No (add comments if necessary)** |
| Do you know the name of the person who has lead responsibility for online safety in school? |  |
| Are you aware of the ways students can abuse their peers online? |  |
| Do you know what you must do if a student approaches you with a concern or issue? |  |
| Are you familiar with the school’s acceptable use agreement for staff and stakeholders? |  |
| Are you familiar with the school’s acceptable use agreement for students and parents? |  |
| Do you regularly change your password for accessing the school’s ICT systems? |  |
| Are you familiar with the school’s approach to tackling cyber-bullying? |  |
| Are there any areas of online safety in which you would like training/further training? |  |

**Appendix A – changes/updates/amendments**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Change made** | **Action to complete** | **Staff name** |
| 06.11.23 | REVIEW | NONE | AL |
|  |  |  |  |