

Digital Strategy Policy



Date: September 2025

Review Date: August 2026

Responsible Person: Jess Temple

Policy Statement

More Than Ed Independent School recognises that digital technology plays a vital role in the education and wellbeing of pupils, staff, and the wider school community. As an SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) school, we are committed to using digital tools to enhance learning, improve communication, promote emotional regulation, and safeguard pupils.

This strategy sets out how the school will deliver digital provision in compliance with the **Independent School Standards (2014, as amended)**, *Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)*, and the **UKCIS Education for a Connected World framework**.

Aims

- To ensure digital technology enhances **teaching, learning, and assessment**.
- To use digital tools to support pupils' **social, emotional and mental health needs**.
- To embed **safeguarding and online safety** into all digital practice.
- To engage parents/carers through accessible digital platforms.
- To maintain secure and reliable **digital infrastructure**.
- To develop staff expertise and confidence in using technology effectively.

Scope

This policy applies to:

All pupils enrolled at More Than Ed Independent School. All staff, governors, and visiting professionals and all school-owned devices, networks, and online platforms used on or off site.

Strategic Objectives

Teaching and Learning

We aim to provide adaptive and assistive technologies to reduce barriers to learning and development. To have embed digital literacy and resilience across the curriculum. Where possible we will use creative and project-based digital tools to engage and motivate learners.

SEMH and Wellbeing

We aim to use apps and platforms to support emotional regulation, reflection, and expression if and when our students are able to access these. We will always ensure that all digital resources promote respect, diversity, and inclusivity. We will endeavour to educate students on the links between digital use and their wellbeing and using the internet safely.

Safeguarding and Online Safety

At More Than Ed we take safeguarding seriously and recognise the need to have systems in place to ensure safe use. We therefore maintain filtering and monitoring systems that meet statutory requirements, deliver a sequenced digital safety curriculum, provide annual training for all staff and regular education for pupils and parents and ensure Acceptable Use Agreements are signed by staff, pupils, and parents.

Staff Development

Training in all areas of digital strategy is vital to ensure all staff are informed of any updates or new systems we provide regular CPD in digital practice and ensure all staff understand the balance between digital engagement and SEMH needs.

Parental and Carer Engagement

To support our students beyond the school day we have close contact with all parents and carers and offer clear channels for parental feedback and concerns. We also provide up to date information and advice for online safety at home and offer support and advice where needed.

Infrastructure and Resources

To ensure our students and More Than Ed have access to infrastructure and resources we provide equitable access to devices for all pupils. We maintain reliable, secure Wi-Fi and technical support and we regularly review accessibility of software and hardware thus making this accessible for all.

Implementation Plan

Short Term (0–12 months): We aim to audit resources, train staff, and implement key safeguarding tools.

Medium Term (1–3 years): We aim to embed consistent digital practice across subjects; strengthen parental engagement. Review suitability of both staff and student laptops and replace as appropriate.

Long Term (3–5 years): We aim to review strategy against ISS compliance; adopt emerging technologies where appropriate. Explore feasibility of purchasing staff mobile phones and action appropriately.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Headteacher:** Provide strategic leadership and allocate resources.
- **DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead)/Online Safety Lead:** Oversee safeguarding, filtering/monitoring, and training.
- **Staff:** Implement safe, inclusive digital practice.
- **Pupils:** Use technology responsibly and follow school expectations.
- **Parents/Carers:** Support safe home use and engage with school platforms.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Education Quality:** SLT (Senior Leadership Team) will oversee lesson observations, learning walks and assessment data.
- **Safeguarding:** DSL/DDSL & Online safety Lead will consistently monitor online safety incident logs and all safeguarding risks.

- **Wellbeing:** SLT will listen to student voice, monitor attendance and behaviour data to be able to ensure student wellbeing.
- **Staff Development:** SLT will track all CPD and use confidence surveys with staff to ensure all staff feel they are able to use digital systems.
- **Parental Engagement:** SLT will send out feedback surveys to parents and record communication on CPOMS to maintain and monitor progress and issues.

This strategy will be reviewed annually by the SLT. Updates will reflect statutory guidance, inspection feedback, and technological developments.

References

- Independent School Standards (2014, as amended).
- *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (DfE, 2025).
- *Education for a Connected World* (UKCIS).
- *Teaching Online Safety in Schools* (DfE, 2019).
- Equality Act (2010).