



# Springcroft Primary School

## Online Safety Policy

**Date Adopted: September 2025**  
**Author/owner: Springcroft Primary School**  
**Anticipated Review: Autumn Term 2026**

Approved	Signature	Date

**Our Mission Statement:**  
**The place to learn, the place to succeed, the place to make friends, the place to grow.**

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# Development/Monitoring/Review of this Policy

This online safety policy has been developed by a working group made up of:

- Headteacher and senior leaders
- Online Safety Coordinator
- Staff – including teachers, support staff and technical staff
- Governors
- Parents and carers

## Schedule for Development/Monitoring/Review

This online safety policy was approved by the Governing Body on:	September 2025
The implementation of this online safety policy will be monitored by the:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr S Drew- DSL</li> <li>• Mrs E Gleave- DDSL</li> <li>• Mr G Rowley- E-Safety Lead</li> <li>• Mr P Spreadbury – Safeguarding Governor</li> </ul>
Monitoring will take place at regular intervals:	Annually
The online safety policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly in the light of any significant new developments in the use of the technologies, new threats to online safety or incidents that have taken place. The next anticipated review date will be:	September 2026
Should serious online safety incidents take place, the following persons should be informed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr S Drew- DSL</li> <li>• Mrs E Gleave- DDSL</li> <li>• Mr G Rowley- E-Safety Lead</li> </ul>

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- Logs of reported incidents through 'My Concern'.
- Monitoring logs of internet activity (including sites visited/filtering provided through Entrust)
- Internal monitoring data for network activity
- Surveys/questionnaires of
  - students/pupils
  - parents/carers
  - staff

## Roles and Responsibilities

The following section outlines the online safety roles and responsibilities of individuals and groups within the school.

### Governors

Governors are responsible for the approval of the online safety policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy. This will be carried out by the Governors. A member of the Governing Body (Mr P Spreadbury) has taken on the role of Online Safety Governor. The role of the Online Safety Governor will include:

- regular meetings with the Online Safety Co-ordinator/officer
- regular monitoring of online safety incident logs

- regular monitoring of filtering/change control logs
- reporting to the Governing Board

### Headteacher and Senior Leaders

- The Headteacher has a duty of care for ensuring the safety (including online safety) of members of the school community, though the day-to-day responsibility for online safety will be delegated to the Online Safety Lead.
- The Headteacher, DDSL and Senior Leadership Team are aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safety allegation being made against a member of staff.
- The Headteacher and Senior Leaders are responsible for ensuring that the Online Safety Lead and other relevant staff receive suitable training to enable them to carry out their online safety roles and to train other colleagues, as relevant.
- The Headteacher and Senior Leaders will ensure that there is a system in place to allow for monitoring and support of those in school who carry out the internal online safety monitoring role. This is to provide a safety net and also support to those colleagues who take on important monitoring roles.
- The Senior Leadership Team will receive regular monitoring reports from the Online Safety Lead.

### Online Safety Lead

- Takes day to day responsibility for online safety issues and has a leading role in establishing and reviewing the school's online safety policies/documents.
- Ensures that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident taking place.
- Provides training and advice for staff.
- Liaises with school technical staff.
- Receives reports of online safety incidents and creates a log of incidents to inform future online safety developments.
- Attends relevant meetings of Governors.
- Reports regularly to Senior Leadership Team where necessary.

### Network Manager/Technical staff

Those with technical responsibilities are responsible for ensuring:

- That the school's technical infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack.
- That the school meets required online safety technical requirements and any Local Authority/MAT/other relevant body online safety policy/guidance that may apply.
- That users may only access the networks and devices through a properly enforced password protection.
- That they keep up to date with online safety technical information in order to effectively carry out their online safety role and to inform and update others as relevant.
- That the use of the networks/internet/digital technologies is regularly monitored in order that any misuse/attempted misuse can be reported to the Headteacher and Senior Leaders; Online Safety Lead for investigation/action/sanction.
- That monitoring software/systems are implemented and updated as agreed in school policies.

### Teaching and Support Staff

Are responsible for ensuring that:

- They have an up-to-date awareness of online safety matters and of the current school online safety policy and practices.
- They have read and understood the [staff acceptable use policy/agreement](#).
- They report any suspected misuse or problem to the Headteacher, Senior Leader/Online Safety Lead for investigation/action/sanction.
- All digital communications with students/pupils/parents/carers should be on a professional level and only carried out using official school systems.
- Online safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other activities.
- Pupils understand and follow the Online Safety Policy and acceptable use policies.
- They monitor the use of [digital technologies, mobile devices, cameras](#), etc. in lessons and other school activities (where allowed) and implement current policies with regard to these devices.

### Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Should be trained in online safety issues and be aware of the potential for serious child protection/safeguarding issues to arise from:

- sharing of personal data
- access to illegal/inappropriate materials
- inappropriate on-line contact with adults/strangers
- potential or actual incidents of grooming
- online-bullying

N.B. it is important to emphasise that these are safeguarding issues, not technical issues, simply that the technology provides additional means for safeguarding issues to develop.

### Pupils:

- Are responsible for using the *school's* digital technology systems in accordance with the pupil [acceptable use](#) agreement.
- Need to understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and know how to do so.
- Will be expected to know and understand policies on the use of mobile devices and digital cameras. They should also know and understand policies on the taking/use of images and on online-bullying.
- Should understand the importance of adopting good online safety practice when using digital technologies out of school and realise that the *school's* online safety policy covers their actions out of school, if related to their membership of the school.

### Parents/carers

Parents/carers play a crucial role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use the internet/mobile devices in an appropriate way. The school/academy will take every opportunity to help parents understand these issues through parents' evenings, newsletters, letters, website, social media and information about national/local online safety campaigns/literature. Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the school in promoting good online safety practice and to follow guidelines on the appropriate use of:

- digital and video images taken at school events
- access to parents' sections of the website/Learning Platform and on-line student/pupil records

### Community Users

Community Users who access school's systems or programmes as part of the wider *school* provision will be expected to agree to the school's [Acceptable Use Policy](#) before being provided with access to school's system.

# Policy Statements

## Education – Pupils

Whilst regulation and technical solutions are very important, their use must be balanced by educating pupils to take a responsible approach. The education of pupils in online safety/digital literacy is therefore an essential part of the school's online safety provision. Children and young people need the help and support of the school to recognise and avoid online safety risks and build their resilience.

Online safety should be a focus in all areas of the curriculum and staff should reinforce online safety messages across the curriculum. The online safety curriculum should be broad, relevant and provide progression, with opportunities for creative activities and will be provided in the following ways:

- A planned online safety curriculum should be provided as part of [Computing/PHSE/RSE](#)/other lessons and should be regularly revisited. This is delivered discretely through our scheme of work each half-term.
- Key online safety messages should be reinforced as part of a planned programme of assemblies and pastoral activities.
- Pupils should be taught in all lessons to be critically aware of the materials/content they access on-line and be guided to validate the accuracy of information.
- Pupils should be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet.
- Pupils should be supported in building resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making.
- Pupils should be helped to understand the need for the student/pupil acceptable use agreement and encouraged to adopt safe and responsible use both within and outside school.
- Staff should act as good role models in their use of digital technologies, the internet and mobile devices
- In lessons where internet use is pre-planned, it is best practice that pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches.
- Where pupils are allowed to freely search the internet, staff should be vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites the young people visit.
- It is accepted that from time to time, for good educational reasons, pupils may need to research topics (e.g. racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request that the Technical Staff (or other relevant designated person) can temporarily remove those sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Any request to do so, should be auditable, with clear reasons for the need.

## Education – Parents/carers

Many parents and carers have only a limited understanding of online safety risks and issues, yet they play an essential role in the education of their children and in the monitoring/regulation of the children's online behaviours. Parents may underestimate how often children and young people come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the internet and may be unsure about how to respond.

Springcroft Primary School will therefore seek to provide information and awareness to parents and carers through:

- Curriculum activities
- Letters, newsletters and our website
- Parents/carers evenings/sessions

- High profile events/campaigns e.g. Safer Internet Day
- Reference to the relevant web sites/publications e.g. [swgfl.org.uk](http://www.swgfl.org.uk), [www.saferinternet.org.uk/](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/), <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

## Education & Training – Staff/Volunteers

It is essential that all staff receive online safety training and understand their responsibilities, as outlined in this policy. Training will be offered as follows:

- Staff will receive an update relating to online safety as part of annual safeguarding training. The process for reporting a concern will be made available to all staff.
- All new staff receive online safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the school's online safety policy and acceptable use agreements.
- This online safety policy and its updates will be presented to and discussed by staff in staff meetings/training sessions.
- The Online Safety Lead/DSL/DDSL will provide advice/guidance/training to individuals as required.

## Training – Governors/Directors

Governors take part in online safety training/awareness sessions, with particular importance for those who are members of any group involved in technology/online safety/health and safety /safeguarding. This may be offered in a number of ways:

- Attendance at training provided by the Local Authority/MAT/National Governors Association/or other relevant organisation
- Participation in school training/information sessions for staff or parents (this may include attendance at assemblies/lessons).

## Technical – infrastructure/equipment, filtering and monitoring

Springcroft Primary School will be responsible for ensuring that the school's infrastructure/network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible and that policies and procedures approved within this policy are implemented. It will also need to ensure that the relevant people named in the above sections will be effective in carrying out their online safety responsibilities:

Springcroft Primary School's technical systems will be managed in ways that ensure that the school/academy meets recommended technical requirements (these are outlined in Local Authority relevant body policy and guidance)

- There will be regular reviews and audits of the safety and security of school technical systems
- Servers, wireless systems and cabling must be securely located and physical access restricted
- All users will have clearly defined access rights to school technical systems and devices.
- All users will be provided with a username and secure password by class teachers who will keep an up to date record of users and their usernames. Users are responsible for the security of their username and password.
- The "master/administrator" passwords for the school systems, used by the Network Manager (or other person) must also be available to the *Headteacher* or other nominated senior leader and kept in a secure place (e.g. school safe)
- Our Network Manager/Administrator is responsible for ensuring that software licence logs are accurate and up to date and that regular checks are made to reconcile the number of licences purchased against the number of software installations.
- Internet access is filtered for all users. Illegal content is filtered by the broadband or filtering provider by actively employing the Internet Watch Foundation CAIC list. Content lists are regularly updated and internet use is logged and regularly monitored. (the school will need to decide on the merits of external/internal provision of the filtering service – see appendix).

There is a clear process in place to deal with requests for filtering changes (see appendix for more details)

- Internet filtering/monitoring should ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet. N.B. additional duties for schools/academies under the Counter Terrorism and Securities Act 2015 which requires schools/academies to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material on the internet. (see appendix for information on “appropriate filtering”).
- The school has provided enhanced/differentiated user-level filtering (allowing different filtering levels for different ages/stages and different groups of users – staff/pupils/students etc)
- School technical staff regularly monitor and record the activity of users on the school technical systems and users are made aware of this in the acceptable use agreement. (schools may wish to add details of the monitoring programmes that are used).
- Staff/pupils/visitors should report any actual/potential technical incident/security breach to the Headteacher.
- Servers and internally held electronic data is protected from cyber threats via firewalls and hardware (routers, wireless systems, work stations, mobile devices, etc) from accidental or malicious attempts which might threaten the security of the school systems and data. These are tested regularly. The school infrastructure and individual devices are protected by up to date virus software.
- Visitors and “Guests” have temporary access onto the school systems which is monitored using our monitoring software.
- Staff should work on school devices only in school, and all staff have access to a laptop/table so they can work remote from site if required. These devices are school property should only be used for school work.
- User restrictions forbids staff from downloading executable files and installing programmes on school devices.
- All staff have access to cloud storage via OneDrive, and school provides all staff with removable data drives that are encrypted. Personal data cannot be sent over the internet or taken off the school site unless safely encrypted or otherwise secured.

## Mobile Technologies

Mobile technology devices may be school owned/provided or personally owned and might include: smartphone, tablet, notebook/laptop or other technology that usually has the capability of utilising the school’s wireless network. The device then has access to the wider internet which may include the school’s learning platform and other cloud- based services such as email and data storage.

All users should understand that the primary purpose of the use of mobile/personal devices in a school context is educational. The mobile technologies policy should be consistent with and inter-related to other relevant school policies including but not limited to the [safeguarding policy](#), [behaviour policy](#), [anti-bullying policy](#) and [acceptable use policy](#).

The school acceptable use agreements for staff, pupils/students and parents/carers will give consideration to the use of mobile technologies

The school allows:

	School Devices			Personal Devices		
	School owned for single user	School owned for multiple users	Authorised device <sup>1</sup>	Student owned	Staff owned	Visitor owned
Allowed in school	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Full network access	Yes	Yes	Yes		No	No
Internet only					Yes	Yes
No network access						

Aspects that the school may wish to consider and be included in their online safety policy, mobile technologies policy or acceptable use agreements:

## Use of digital and video images

The development of digital imaging technologies has created significant benefits to learning, allowing staff and pupils instant use of images that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet. However, staff, parents/carers and pupils need to be aware of the risks associated with publishing digital images on the internet. Such images may provide avenues for online-bullying to take place. Digital images may remain available on the internet forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term. It is common for employers to carry out internet searches for information about potential and existing employees. The school will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement policies to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm:

- When using digital images, staff should inform and educate pupils about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images. In particular they should recognise the risks attached to publishing their own images on the internet e.g. on social networking sites.
- [Written permission](#) from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of pupils are published on the school website/social media/local press.
- In accordance with guidance from the Information Commissioner’s Office, parents/carers are welcome to take videos and digital images of their children at school events for their own personal use (as such use is not covered by the Data Protection Act). To respect everyone’s privacy and in some cases protection, these images should not be published/made publicly available on social networking sites, nor should parents/carers comment on any activities involving other pupils in the digital/video images.
- Staff and volunteers are allowed to take digital/video images to [support educational aims](#), but must follow school’s policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images. Those images are only be taken on school equipment; the personal equipment of staff should not be used for such purposes.

<sup>1</sup> Authorised device – purchased by the pupil/family through a school-organised scheme. This device may be given full access to the network as if it were owned by the school.

- Care should be taken when taking digital/video images that pupils are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.
- Pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.
- [Photographs published on the website](#), or elsewhere that include pupils will be selected carefully and will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images.
- Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on a website or blog, particularly in association with photographs.
- [Pupil's work can only be published with the permission](#) of the pupil and parents or carers.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Generative Technology

Our goal is to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment while acknowledging the growing role of AI in modern education and society.

### Principles

- **Educational Benefit:** We will explore and use AI tools where they offer clear educational benefits, such as personalized learning experiences, creative expression, or support for pupils with special educational needs.
- **Safety and Safeguarding:** The safety of our pupils is our highest priority. We will not use or permit the use of AI tools that pose a safeguarding risk, including those that collect excessive personal data, generate inappropriate content, or facilitate bullying.
- **Academic Integrity:** We will teach pupils about the responsible and ethical use of AI. This includes understanding the importance of using AI as a tool for learning and not as a substitute for their own work, and of acknowledging when AI has been used. Plagiarism using AI will be treated in the same way as any other form of academic dishonesty.
- **Critical Thinking:** Our curriculum will help pupils develop a critical understanding of AI. This includes teaching them to question the information and content generated by AI, to recognize potential biases, and to understand the concept of "hallucinations" (AI-generated false information).

### School-Managed Use of AI

The school may choose to use or subscribe to educational AI platforms for specific purposes. When we do, we will:

- **Thoroughly Vet Platforms:** Any AI platform used by the school will be carefully vetted to ensure it is age-appropriate, secure, and compliant with data protection regulations such as the UK GDPR.
- **Supervised Access:** Pupils' access to AI tools will be supervised by staff. This ensures that the technology is used effectively and safely.
- **Clear Guidance:** Staff and pupils will receive clear instructions on the intended and acceptable use of any school-approved AI platform.

### Personal Devices and AI

The school's existing Electronic Devices Policy applies to AI and generative technologies on personal devices.

- **Pupil Use:** Pupils are not permitted to use any AI or generative technology on personal electronic devices on school grounds during school hours unless specifically authorized and

supervised by a member of staff for a learning activity. This includes AI-powered features within apps on mobile phones or smartwatches.

- **Parental Guidance:** We encourage parents to be aware of the AI tools their children may be using at home and to discuss the principles of safe and ethical use with them. We will provide resources and information to support these conversations.

## Reporting Misuse

Any misuse of AI, including using it to create content that is harmful, offensive, or used for bullying, must be reported to a member of staff immediately. This will be handled in line with our Anti-Bullying and Online Safety Policies. We also encourage staff to report any instances where they feel an AI tool has generated inappropriate or concerning content.

## Data Protection

[Personal data](#) will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the current data protection legislation.

The school must ensure that:

- it has a [Data Protection Policy](#)
- it implements the data protection principles and is able to demonstrate that it does so through use of policies, notices and records.
- it has paid the appropriate fee [Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\) and included details of the Data Protection Officer \(DPO\)](#).
- it has appointed an appropriate [Data Protection Officer \(DPO\)](#) who has a high level of understanding of data protection law and is free from any conflict of interest. The school/academy may also wish to appoint a Data Manager and Systems Controllers to support the DPO
- it has an 'information asset register' in place and knows exactly what personal data it holds, where this data is held, why and which member of staff has responsibility for managing it
- the information asset register records the lawful basis for processing personal data (including, where relevant, how consent was obtained and refreshed). Where special category data is processed, an additional lawful basis will have also been recorded
- it will hold only the minimum personal data necessary to enable it to perform its function and it will not hold it for longer than necessary for the purposes it was collected for. The school should develop and implement a 'retention policy' to ensure there are clear and understood policies and routines for the deletion and disposal of data to support this. personal data held must be accurate and up to date where this is necessary for the purpose it is processed for. Have systems in place to identify inaccuracies, such as asking parents to check emergency contact details at suitable intervals
- it provides staff, parents, volunteers, teenagers and older children with information about how the school looks after their data and what their rights are in a clear [Privacy Notice](#) (see Privacy Notice section in the appendix)
- procedures must be in place to deal with the individual rights of the data subject, e.g. one of the 8 data subject rights applicable is that of [Subject Access](#) which enables an individual to see to have a copy of the personal data held about them (subject to certain exceptions which may apply).
- data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) are carried out where necessary. For example, to ensure protection of personal data when accessed using any remote access solutions, or entering

into a relationship with a new supplier (this may also require ensuring that data processing clauses are included in the supply contract or as an addendum)

- IT system security is ensured and regularly checked. Patches and other security essential updates are applied promptly to protect the personal data on the systems. Administrative systems are securely ring fenced from systems accessible in the classroom/to learners
- it has undertaken appropriate due diligence and has required data processing clauses in contracts in place with any data processors where personal data is processed.
- it understands how to share data lawfully and safely with other relevant data controllers.
- it [reports any relevant breaches to the Information Commissioner](#) within 72hrs of becoming aware of the breach in accordance with UK data protection law. It also reports relevant breaches to the individuals affected as required by law. In order to do this, it has a policy for reporting, logging, managing, investigating and learning from information risk incidents.
- As a maintained school, our [Data Protection policy](#) sets out how we will deal with FOI requests.
- all staff receive data protection training at induction and appropriate refresher training thereafter. Staff undertaking particular data protection functions, such as handling requests under the individual's rights, will receive training appropriate for their function as well as the core training provided to all staff.

When personal data is stored on any mobile device or removable media the:

- data must be encrypted and password protected.
- device must be password protected.
- device must be protected by up to date virus and malware checking software
- data must be securely deleted from the device, in line with school/academy policy (below) once it has been transferred or its use is complete.

Staff must ensure that they:

- at all times take care to ensure the safe keeping of personal data, minimising the risk of its loss or misuse
- can recognise a possible breach, understand the need for urgency and know who to report it to within the school
- can help data subjects understand their rights and know how to handle a request whether verbal or written. Know who to pass it to in the school
- where personal data is stored or transferred on mobile or other devices (including USBs) these must be encrypted and password protected.
- will not transfer any school/academy personal data to personal devices except as in line with school policy
- access personal data sources and records only on secure password protected computers and other devices, ensuring that they are properly "logged-off" at the end of any session in which they are using personal data

# Communications

A wide range of rapidly developing communications technologies has the potential to enhance learning. The following table shows how the school currently considers the benefit of using these technologies for education outweighs their risks/disadvantages:

Communication Technologies	Staff & other adults		Students/Pupils			
	Allowed at certain times	Allowed for selected staff			Allowed at certain times	Allowed with staff permission
Mobile phones may be brought to the school	Y	Y			N	N
Use of mobile phones in lessons	N	N			N	N
Use of mobile phones in social time	Y	Y			N	N
Taking photos on mobile phones/cameras	N	N			N	N
Taking photos on school devices	Y	Y			Y	Y
Use of other mobile devices e.g., tablets, gaming devices belonging to school	Y	Y			Y	Y
Use of personal email addresses in school/academy, or on school/academy network	N	N			N	N
Use of school/academy email for personal emails	N	N			N	N
Use of messaging apps through school Teams accounts	Y	Y			Y	Y
Use of social media	N	N			N	N
Use of blogs	Y	Y			Y	Y

When using communication technologies, Springcroft Primary School considers the following as good practice:

- The official school email service may be regarded as safe and secure and is monitored. Users should be aware that email communications are monitored. Staff and pupils should therefore use only the school email service to communicate with others when in school, or on school systems (e.g., by remote access).

- Users must immediately report to the Headteacher, the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication.
- Any digital communication between staff and pupils or parents/carers (email, chat, blogs, VLE, etc) must be professional in tone and content. These communications may only take place on official (monitored) school systems. Personal email addresses, text messaging or social media must not be used for any form of communication.
- Whole class/group email addresses may be used for communication with parents. All children are provided with an individual school email addresses for educational use.
- Pupils will be taught about online safety issues, such as the risks attached to the sharing of personal details, including strategies to deal with inappropriate communications and be reminded of the need to communicate appropriately when using digital technologies.
- Personal information is not posted on the school's website and only official email addresses are used to identify members of staff.

## Social Media - Protecting Professional Identity

All schools and local authorities have a duty of care to provide a safe learning environment for pupils and staff. Schools/academies, MATs and local authorities could be held responsible, indirectly for acts of their employees in the course of their employment. Staff members who harass, engage in online bullying, discriminate on the grounds of sex, race or disability or who defame a third party may render Springcroft Primary School or Staffordshire County Council liable to the injured party. Reasonable steps to prevent predictable harm must be in place.

The school provides the following measures to ensure reasonable steps are in place to minimise risk of harm to pupils, staff and the school through:

- Ensuring that personal information is not published
- Training is provided including: acceptable use; social media risks; checking of settings; data protection; reporting issues.
- Clear reporting guidance, including responsibilities, procedures and sanctions
- Risk assessment, including legal risk

School staff should ensure that:

- No reference should be made in social media to pupils, parents/carers or school staff
- They do not engage in online discussion on personal matters relating to members of the school community
- Personal opinions should not be attributed to the school or local authority
- Security settings on personal social media profiles are regularly checked to minimise risk of loss of personal information

When official school social media accounts are established there should be:

- A process for approval by senior leaders
- Clear processes for the administration and monitoring of these accounts – involving at least two members of staff
- A code of behaviour for users of the accounts, including
- Systems for reporting and dealing with abuse and misuse
- Understanding of how incidents may be dealt with under school/academy disciplinary procedures

We currently have no official school social media accounts set up or operating.

**Personal Use:**

- Personal communications are those made via a personal social media account. In all cases, where a personal account is used which associates itself with the school or impacts on the school, it must be made clear that the member of staff is not communicating on behalf of the school with an appropriate disclaimer. Such personal communications are within the scope of this policy
- Personal communications which do not refer to or impact upon the school are outside the scope of this policy
- Where excessive personal use of social media in school is suspected, and considered to be interfering with relevant duties, disciplinary action may be taken
- The school permits reasonable and appropriate access to private social media sites

**Monitoring of Public Social Media:**

- As part of active social media engagement, it is considered good practice to pro-actively monitor the Internet for public postings about the school
- The school should effectively respond to social media comments made by others according to a defined policy or process

**Dealing with unsuitable/inappropriate activities**

Some internet activity e.g. accessing child abuse images or distributing racist material is illegal and would obviously be banned from school and all other technical systems. Other activities e.g. cyber-bullying would be banned and could lead to criminal prosecution. There are however a range of activities which may, generally, be legal but would be inappropriate in a school context, either because of the age of the users or the nature of those activities.

The school believes that the activities referred to in the following section would be inappropriate in a school context and that users, as defined below, should not engage in these activities in/or outside the school when using school equipment or systems. The school policy restricts usage as follows:

User Actions		Acceptable	Acceptable at certain times	Acceptable for nominated	Unacceptable	Unacceptable and illegal
Users shall not visit Internet sites, make, post, download,	Child sexual abuse images –The making, production or distribution of indecent images of children. Contrary to The Protection of Children Act 1978					X
	Guidance about dealing with self-generated images sexting – <a href="#">UKSIC Responding to and managing sexting incidents</a> and <a href="#">UKCIS – Sexting in schools and colleges</a>					X
	Grooming, incitement, arrangement or facilitation of sexual acts against children Contrary to the Sexual Offences Act 2003.					X

upload, data transfer, communicate or pass on, material, remarks, proposals or comments that contain or relate to:	Possession of an extreme pornographic image (grossly offensive, disgusting or otherwise of an obscene character) Contrary to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008				X
	Criminally racist material in UK – to stir up religious hatred (or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation) - contrary to the Public Order Act 1986				X
	Pornography			X	
	Promotion of any kind of discrimination			X	
	threatening behaviour, including promotion of physical violence or mental harm			X	
	Promotion of extremism or terrorism			X	
	Any other information which may be offensive to colleagues or breaches the integrity of the ethos of the school or brings the school into disrepute			X	
Activities that might be classed as cyber-crime under the Computer Misuse Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaining unauthorised access to school networks, data and files, through the use of computers/devices</li> <li>• Creating or propagating computer viruses or other harmful files</li> <li>• Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (e.g. financial / personal information, databases, computer / network access codes and passwords)</li> <li>• Disable/Impair/Disrupt network functionality through the use of computers/devices</li> <li>• Using penetration testing equipment (without relevant permission)</li> </ul> <p>Once the school has established the nature of a cyber-attack, a decision may be made to contact the Police. Serious or repeat offences should be reported to the police. Under the Cyber-Prevent agenda the National Crime Agency has a remit to prevent young people becoming involved in cyber-crime and harness their activity in positive ways – further information <a href="#">here</a></p>					X
Using systems, applications, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering or other safeguards employed by the school/academy				X	
Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (e.g. financial/personal information, databases, computer/network access codes and passwords)				X	
Unfair usage (downloading/uploading large files that hinders others in their use of the internet)				X	
Using school systems to run a private business				X	
Infringing copyright				X	
On-line gaming (educational)	Y	Y			
On-line gaming (non-educational)				N	

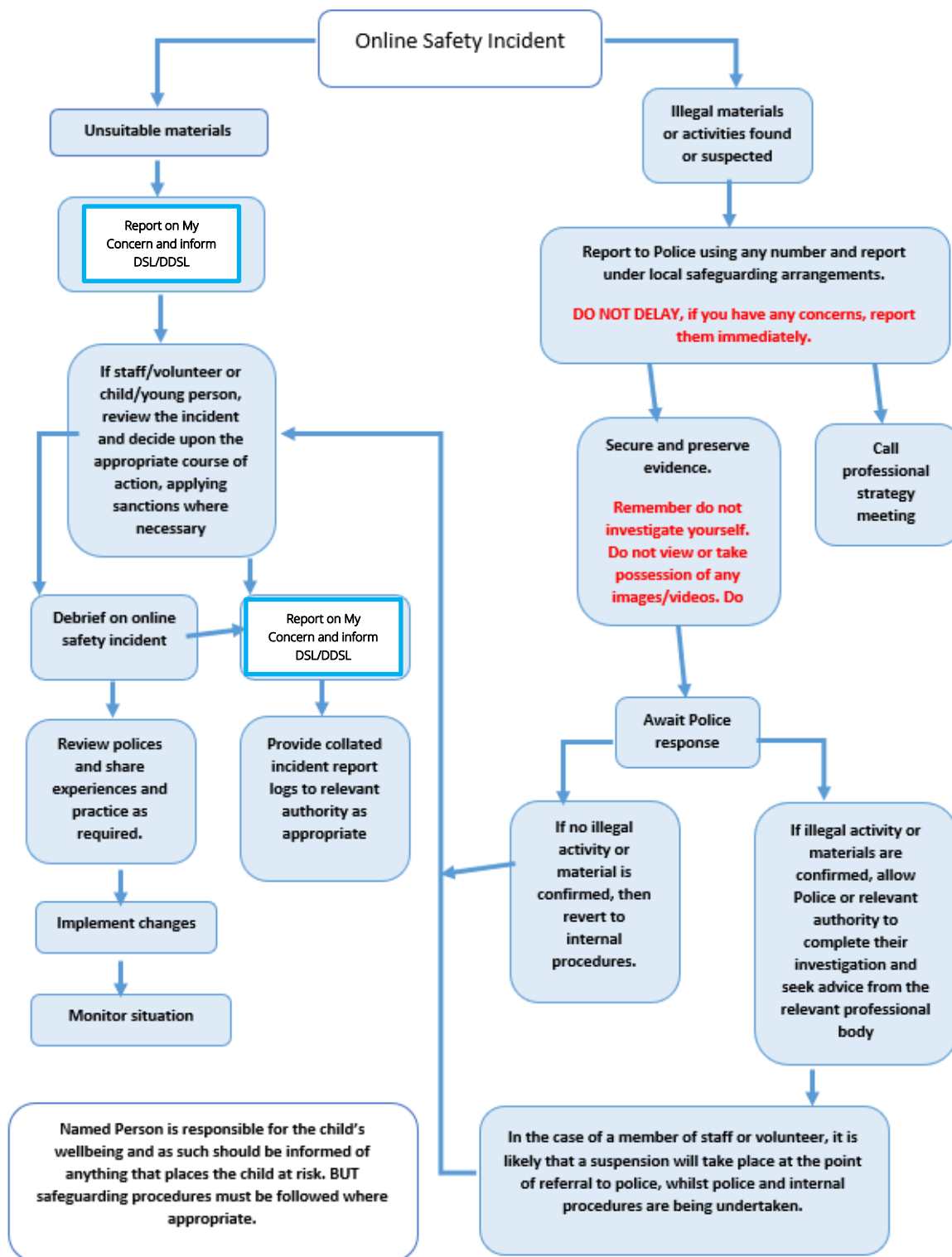
On-line gambling				N	
On-line shopping/commerce				N	
File sharing				N	
Use of social media				N	
Use of messaging apps (not through Microsoft Teams)				N	
Use of video broadcasting e.g. Youtube				N	

### Responding to incidents of misuse

This guidance is intended for use when staff need to manage incidents that involve the use of online services. It encourages a safe and secure approach to the management of the incident. Incidents might involve illegal or inappropriate activities.

### Illegal Incidents

If there is any suspicion that the web site(s) concerned may contain child abuse images, or if there is any other suspected illegal activity, refer to the right hand side of the Flowchart (below and appendix) for responding to online safety incidents and report immediately to the police.



# Other Incidents

It is hoped that all members of the school community will be responsible users of digital technologies, who understand and follow school policy. However, there may be times when infringements of the policy could take place, through careless or irresponsible or, very rarely, through deliberate misuse.

In the event of suspicion, all steps in this procedure should be followed:

- Have more than one senior member of staff involved in this process. This is vital to protect individuals if accusations are subsequently reported.
- Conduct the procedure using a designated computer that will not be used by young people and if necessary can be taken off site by the police should the need arise. Use the same computer for the duration of the procedure.
- It is important to ensure that the relevant staff should have appropriate internet access to conduct the procedure, but also that the sites and content visited are closely monitored and recorded (to provide further protection).
- Record the URL of any site containing the alleged misuse and describe the nature of the content causing concern. It may also be necessary to record and store screenshots of the content on the machine being used for investigation. These may be printed, signed and attached to the form (except in the case of images of child sexual abuse – see below)
- Once this has been completed and fully investigated the group will need to judge whether this concern has substance or not. If it does, then appropriate action will be required and could include the following:
  - Internal response or discipline procedures
  - Involvement by Local Authority or national/local organisation (as relevant).
  - Police involvement and/or action
- If content being reviewed includes images of child abuse, then the monitoring should be halted and referred to the Police immediately. Other instances to report to the police would include:
  - incidents of 'grooming' behaviour
  - the sending of obscene materials to a child
  - adult material which potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act
  - criminally racist material
  - promotion of terrorism or extremism
  - offences under the Computer Misuse Act (see User Actions chart above)
  - other criminal conduct, activity or materials
- Isolate the computer in question as best you can. Any change to its state may hinder a later police investigation.

It is important that all of the above steps are taken as they will provide an evidence trail for the school and possibly the police and demonstrate that visits to these sites were carried out for safeguarding purposes. The completed form should be retained by the group for evidence and reference purposes.

## School actions & sanctions

It is more likely that the school will need to deal with incidents that involve inappropriate rather than illegal misuse. It is important that any incidents are dealt with as soon as possible in a proportionate manner, and that members of the school community are aware that incidents have been dealt with. It is intended that incidents of misuse will be dealt with through normal behaviour/disciplinary procedures.