



## SOUTH LAKES ACADEMY

# ONLINE SAFETY POLICY & PROCEDURES

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# POLICY

## 1. Background/Rationale

New technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people in society, both in school and in their lives outside school.

The Internet and other digital and information technologies are powerful tools, which open new opportunities for everyone. Electronic communication helps teachers and pupils learn from each other. These technologies can stimulate discussion, promote creativity, and increase awareness of context to promote effective learning. Children and young people have an entitlement to safe internet access.

The requirement to ensure that children and young people can use online and related communications technologies appropriately and safely is part of the wider duty of care to which all who work in schools are bound. The school Online Safety Policy and procedures will help to ensure safe and appropriate use, and the development and implementation will involve all stakeholders in a young person's education from the Head teacher and senior leaders to the classroom teachers, support staff, parents, carers, members of the community and the pupils themselves.

The use of these exciting and innovative tools in school and at home has been shown to raise educational standards and promote pupil achievement. However, the use of these new technologies can put young people at risk in and outside of school. Some of the dangers they may face include:

- Access to illegal, harmful, or inappropriate images or other content;
- Unauthorised access to/loss of/sharing of personal information;
- The risk of being subject to grooming by those with whom they make contact on the internet;
- The risk of being targeted by extremists to promote and encourage radicalisation;
- The risk of being targeted by those involved in child sexual exploitation;
- The sharing/distribution of personal images without an individual's consent or knowledge;
- Being drawn into taking part in unsuitable online challenges and/or hoaxes;
- Inappropriate communication/contact with others, including strangers;
- Cyberbullying (including prejudiced-based and discriminatory bullying);
- Access to unsuitable video/internet games;
- An inability to evaluate the quality, accuracy, and relevance of information on the Internet;
- Plagiarism and copyright infringement;
- Illegal downloading of music or video files;
- The potential for excessive use which may impact on the social and emotional development and learning of the young person.

Many of these risks reflect situations in the off-line world and it is essential that this Online Safety Policy and procedures is used in conjunction with other school Policies -

- Mobile phone policy
- Behaviour policy
- Staff code of conduct
- Safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures

As with all other risks, it is impossible to eliminate online risks completely. It is therefore essential, through good educational provision to build pupils' resilience to the risks to which they may be exposed, so that they have the confidence and skills to face and deal with these risks in the future.

Much of this risk is reduced owing to the nature of South Lakes Academy. As our class sizes are relatively small, it is easier for us to monitor the student's internet usage as and when they are accessing the internet.

The Online Safety Policy and procedures that follows explains how we intend to do this, while also addressing wider educational issues to help young people (and their families) to be responsible users and stay safe while using the Internet and other communications technologies for educational, personal, and recreational use.

## 2. Definitions

For the purposes of this document a child, young person, pupil, or student is referred to as a 'child' or a 'pupil' and they are normally under 18 years of age.

Wherever the term 'parent' is used this includes any person with parental authority over the child concerned e.g., carers, legal guardians etc.

Wherever the term 'Head teacher' is used this also refers to any Manager with the equivalent responsibility for children.

## 3. Associated School Policies and procedures

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following school Policies/procedures and, where they exist, addendums to those Policies and procedures:

- Overarching Safeguarding Statement
- Child Protection Policy and procedures
- Data Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy and procedures
- Behaviour Policy
- Procedures for Using Pupils Images
- Whistleblowing procedures
- Code of Conduct for staff and other adults

## 4. Communication/Monitoring/Review of this Policy and procedures

This Policy and procedures will be communicated to staff, pupils, and the wider community by:

- Posting it on the school website
- Making a paper copy available on request from the school and for staff in the office
- Discussing school policy and procedures during induction with new staff and other relevant adults

The Online Safety Policy is also referenced in other school Policies and procedures as outlined above.

## 5. Scope of the Policy

This Policy and procedures apply to all members of the South Lakes Academy community (including staff, pupils, volunteers, parents, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of our ICT systems, both in and out of school.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers Head teachers, to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site and empowers members of staff to impose disciplinary penalties for inappropriate behaviour. This includes incidents of cyberbullying, or other online safety related incidents covered by this Policy and procedures, which may take place out of school, but is linked to membership of the school. The 2011 Education Act increased these powers in relation to the searching for, and of, electronic devices and the deletion of data. In the case of both acts, action can only be taken in relation to issues covered by the published Behaviour Policy and procedures.

The school will deal with such incidents within this Policy and procedures and the Behaviour Policy and procedures which includes anti-bullying procedures and will, where known, inform parents of incidents of inappropriate online safety behaviour that take place out of school.

# PROCEDURES

## 1. Roles and Responsibilities

### 1.1 Head teacher

**The Head teacher has overall responsibility for online safety provision.** The day-to-day responsibility for online safety may be delegated to the Online Safety Coordinator or Lead/Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

The Head teacher will:

- take overall responsibility for data and data security;
- foster a culture of safeguarding where online safety is fully integrated into whole school safeguarding;
- ensure that Policies and procedures are followed by all staff and other adults working paid or unpaid in the school;
- undertake training in offline and online safety, in accordance with statutory guidance and relevant Local Safeguarding Partnership recommendations;
- liaise with the DSL on all online-safety issues which might arise and receive regular updates on school issues and broader policy and practice information;
- take overall responsibility for data management and information security ensuring the school's provision follows best practice in information handling;
- be responsible for ensuring that all staff receive suitable training to carry out their child protection and online safety roles;
- understand and make all staff aware of procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safeguarding incident or allegation against a member of staff or other adult (see flowchart on dealing with online safety incidents);
- ensure suitable risk assessments are undertaken so the curriculum meets needs of pupils, including the risk of children being radicalised;
- ensure that there is an **audit** in place to monitor and support staff (e.g., network manager) who carry out internal technical online safety procedures;
- ensure the school website meets statutory requirements (see KAHSC guidance on statutory and desirable website requirements).

### 1.2 Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)/Online Safety Lead (OSL)

The DSL may delegate certain online safety duties e.g. to the OSL, but not the day-to-day responsibility; this assertion and all quotes below are taken from [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/Online Safety Lead will:

- take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety);
- be the first point of contact for any concerns the wider staff and other adults working in the school may have in relation to child protection and online safety harmful behaviour e.g., sharing nude **and/or** semi-nude images **and/or videos**/online challenges or hoaxes and refer to the [UKCIS](#) and DfE guidance on these subjects;
- ensure an effective approach to online safety is in place that empowers the school to protect and educate the whole school community in their use of technology and establish mechanisms to identify, intervene in and escalate any incident where appropriate;
- promote an awareness and commitment to online safety throughout the school community with strong focus on parents, who are often appreciative of school support in this area, but also including 'hard-to-reach' parents;
- liaise with other agencies in line with '[Working together to Safeguard Children](#)' statutory guidance;
- take day-to-day responsibility for online safety issues and be aware of the potential for serious child protection concerns;
- ensure that online safety education is embedded in line with DfE guidance '[Teaching Online Safety in schools](#)' across the curriculum (e.g. by use of the UKCIS framework 'Education for a Connected World') and beyond, in the wider school community;

- keep up to date with the latest local and national trends in online safety;
- review and update this Policy and procedures, other online safety documents and the strategy on which they are based (in line with Policies and procedures for behaviour and child protection)
- ensure that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident and that these are logged in the same way as any other child protection incident;
- ensure the DfE guidance on **sexual violence and sexual harassment (Part 5 – Keeping Children Safe in Education)** is followed throughout the school and that staff adopt a zero-tolerance approach to this as well as to bullying **(in all its forms)** generally;
- facilitate training and advice for staff and others working in the school to ensure that:
  - all staff read and understand who work directly with children must read and understand **KCSiE Part 1 (which includes Annex B). The DSL, Head teacher and other members of the SLT must read and understand the whole of Keeping Children Safe in Education**
  - all staff are aware of information relevant to their role in keeping children safe online signposted in **KCSiE Annex B**
  - cascade knowledge of risks and opportunities throughout the organisation;
- be aware of emerging online safety issues and legislation, and of the potential for serious child protection issues to arise from:
  - sharing of personal data;
  - access to illegal/inappropriate materials;
  - inappropriate online contact with adults/strangers;
  - potential or actual incidents of grooming;
  - cyberbullying and the use of social media.

### 1.3 All Staff

It is the responsibility of all staff to:

- understand that online safety is a core part of safeguarding; as such it is part of everyone's role. Never think that 'someone else will pick it up';
- all staff read and understand [KCSiE Part one, Annex A and Annex B](#);
- read, understand, and help promote the school's Online Safety Policy and procedures in conjunction with the Child Protection and other related school Policies and procedures;
- be aware of online safety issues related to the use of mobile technology e.g., phones, cameras and other hand-held devices and follow school procedures in relation to these devices;
- record online safety incidents in the same way as any child protection incident and report incidents to the DSL/OSL in accordance with school procedures;
- notify the DSL/OSL if policy does not reflect practice in the school and follow escalation procedures if concerns are not promptly acted upon;
- identify opportunities to thread online safety through all school activities, both outside the classroom and within the curriculum, supporting curriculum/stage/subject leads, and making the most of unexpected learning opportunities as they arise;
- whenever overseeing the use of technology (devices, the Internet, new technology such as augmented reality, etc.) in school or setting as homework tasks, encourage sensible use, monitor what pupils are doing and consider potential dangers and the age appropriateness of websites (check what appropriate filtering and monitoring processes are in place);
- carefully supervise and guide pupils when engaged in learning activities involving online technology, supporting them with search skills, critical thinking (e.g., fake news), age-appropriate materials and signposting, and legal issues such as copyright and data law;
- prepare and check all online source and resources before using in the classroom;
- notify the DSL/OSL of new trends and issues before they become a problem;
- take a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and low-level sexual harassment either offline or online;
- receive and act upon regular updates from the DSL/OSL and have a healthy curiosity for online safety issues;
- model safe, responsible, and professional behaviours in their own use of technology. This includes outside the school hours and site, and on social media, in all aspects upholding the reputation of the school and the professional reputation of all staff;

- ensure that any digital communications with pupils are on a professional level and only through school-based systems, never through personal mechanisms, e.g., email, text, mobile phones or social media messaging or posts.

#### 1.4 Data Protection Officer (DPO)

The DPO will be familiar with references to the relationship between data protection and safeguarding in key DfE documents '[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)' and '[Data protection: a toolkit for schools](#)'.

Neither the Data Protection Act 2018 nor UK GDPR prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Information which is sensitive and personal will be treated as 'special category personal data' for the purposes of compliance with DPA 2018. Legal and secure information sharing between schools, Children's Social Care and other local agencies is essential for keeping children safe and ensuring they get the support they need. Information can be shared without consent if to gain consent would place a child at risk. Fears about sharing information **must not** be allowed to stand in the way of promoting the welfare and protecting the safety of children. As with all data sharing, appropriate organisational and technical safeguards will be in place.

Other responsibilities of the DPO include:

- working with the DSL, Head teacher and Governors to ensure frameworks are in place for the protection of data and of safeguarding information sharing as outlined above;
- ensuring that all access to safeguarding data is limited as appropriate, monitored, and audited.

#### 1.5 Volunteers and contractors

The key responsibilities of volunteers and contractors are to:

- report any concerns, no matter how small, to the DSL/OSL without delay;
- maintain an awareness of current online safety issues and guidance;
- model safe, responsible, and professional behaviours in their own use of technology.

#### 1.6 Pupils

Taking into account their age and level of understanding, the key responsibilities of pupils are to:

- understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials including those involving hoaxes and on-line challenges and know how to do so;
- know what action to take if they or someone they know feels worried or vulnerable when using online technology;
- understand the importance of adopting safe and responsible behaviours and good online safety practice when using digital technologies outside of school and realise that the school's acceptable use agreements cover their actions out of school, including on social media;
- know and understand school procedures on the use of mobile phones, digital cameras, and hand-held digital devices;
- know and understand school procedures on the taking/use of images and on cyberbullying/sharing nude **and/or** semi-nude images **and/or** videos;
- understand the benefits/opportunities and risks/dangers of the online world and know who to talk to at school if there are problems.

#### 1.7 Parents

Parents play a crucial role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use the Internet/mobile devices in an appropriate way. Research shows that many parents do not fully understand the issues and are less experienced in the use of ICT than their children. The school will therefore take every opportunity to help parents understand these issues through letters, website/VLE and information about national/local online safety campaigns/literature.

The key responsibilities for parents are to:

- support the school in promoting online safety which includes the pupils' use of the Internet and the school's use of photographic and video images;

- consult with the school if they have any concerns about their child's and others' use of technology;
- promote positive online safety and model safe, responsible, and positive behaviours in their own use of technology (including on social media) by ensuring that they themselves do not use the Internet/social network sites/other forms of technical communication in an inappropriate or defamatory way;
- support the school's approach to online safety by not uploading or posting to the Internet any images or details of others without permission and refraining from posting pictures, video or text that could upset, offend, or threaten the safety of any member of the school community or bring the school into disrepute.

## 2. Teaching and Learning

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk known as the 4Cs:

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation, and extremism.
- **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: 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; for example, 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.

Strong links between teaching online safety and the curriculum (see also Roles above) are the clearest in:

- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
- Relationship's education, relationships, and sex education (RSE) and health
- Computing
- Citizenship

It is, however, the role of all staff to identify opportunities to thread online safety through all school activities, both outside the classroom and within the curriculum, supporting subject lead staff and making the most of unexpected learning opportunities as they arise.

Whenever overseeing the use of technology (devices, the Internet, new technology such as augmented reality, etc) in school or setting as homework tasks, all staff will encourage sensible use, monitor what pupils are doing and consider potential dangers and the age appropriateness of websites.

Equally, all staff should carefully supervise and guide pupils when engaged in learning activities involving online technology (including, extra-curricular and extended school activities if relevant), supporting them with search skills, critical thinking (e.g., fake news), age-appropriate materials and signposting, and legal issues such as copyright, plagiarism, and data law.

We recognise that online safety and broader digital resilience must be included throughout the curriculum.

Annual reviews of curriculum plans / schemes of work (including for SEND pupils) are used as an opportunity to assess the key areas of Self-image and Identity, Online relationships, Online reputation, Online bullying, Managing online information, Health, Wellbeing and lifestyle, Privacy and security, and Copyright and ownership.

### 2.1 How internet use enhances learning

This school:

- covers the teaching of a range of skills and behaviours which are appropriate to the age and experience of the pupils concerned and include those to:
  - STOP and THINK before they CLICK;
  - develop a range of strategies to evaluate and verify information before accepting its accuracy;
  - be aware that the author of a website/page may have a particular bias or purpose and to develop skills to recognise what that may be;

- know how to narrow down or refine a search;
  - understand how search engines work and to understand that this affects the results they see at the top of the listings;
  - understand acceptable behaviour when using an online environment/email, i.e., be polite, no bad or abusive language or other inappropriate behaviour; keeping personal information private;
  - understand how photographs can be manipulated and how web content can attract unwanted or inappropriate attention;
  - understand why they should not post or share detailed accounts of their personal lives, contact information, daily routines, location, photographs, and videos and to know how to ensure they have turned-on privacy settings;
  - understand why they must not post pictures or videos of others without their permission;
  - know not to download any files – such as music files – without permission;
  - have strategies for dealing with receipt of inappropriate materials;
  - understand why and how some people will ‘groom’ young people for sexual or extremist ideology reasons;
  - understand the impact of cyberbullying, sharing inappropriate images and trolling and know how to seek help if they are affected by any form of online bullying;
  - know how to report any abuse including cyberbullying; and how to seek help if they experience problems when using the Internet and related technologies, i.e., parent, teacher or trusted staff member, or an organisation such as ChildLine or the CLICK CEOP button.
- plans internet use carefully to ensure that it is age-appropriate and supports the learning objectives for specific curriculum areas;
  - ensures staff model safe and responsible behaviour in their own use of technology during lessons;
  - ensures that when copying materials from the web, staff and pupils understand issues around plagiarism; how to check copyright and know that they must respect and acknowledge copyright/intellectual property rights;
  - ensures that staff and pupils understand the issues around aspects of the commercial use of the Internet, as age appropriate. This may include risks in pop-ups; buying online; online gaming/gambling etc.

## 2.2 Pupils with additional needs

Most of our students have a range of complex additional needs, therefore we use a wide range of strategies to support them to keep themselves safe, especially online.

- Sensitively check pupil’s understanding and knowledge of general personal safety issues using reminders and explicit prompts to link their existing knowledge of “how to keep safe” to the rules that will apply specifically to, for instance, internet use.
- Apply rules consistently to embed understanding.
- Communicate rules clearly to parents and seek their support in implementing school rules at home. Working with parents and sharing information with them is relevant to all children, but this group especially.
- Careful explanations about why rules might change in different situations i.e., why it is ok to give your name and address to an adult if you are lost in town, but not when using the Internet.
- Consistent use of cause and effect linking the rules to consequences teaching realistic and practical examples of what might happen if... without frightening pupils.

## 2.3 Remote Education

Expired legislation which led to the Remote Education (England) Temporary Continuity (No.2) direction no longer has effect, but the DfE expects schools to maintain their capabilities to deliver high quality remote education in cases where it is not possible or contrary to government guidance for some or all pupils to attend face-to-face education.

Our priority will always be to deliver high-quality face-to-face education to all pupils. Remote education will only ever be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort where in person attendance is not possible.

This might include:

- Occasions when our headteacher decides that it is not possible for us to open safely, or that opening would contradict guidance from local or central government
- Occasions when individual pupils, for a limited duration, are unable to physically attend school but are able to continue learning, for example pupils with an infectious illness.

In these circumstances pupils will have access to remote education as soon as we reasonably can in proportion to the length of absence and disruption to their learning.

We will try to provide remote education equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school. This can include recorded or live direct teaching time, as well as time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently.

In developing our remote education provision, we have:

- Selected the Zoom digital platform to use consistently across the school to allow interaction, assessment, and feedback with procedures in place to ensure staff are trained and confident in its use. This enables us to provide online video lessons recorded by teaching staff and high-quality lessons developed by external providers as well as monitored methods of communication.
- Identified ways to discover and overcome barriers to digital access for pupils e.g., forms or other survey methods, distributing school-owned laptops, securing appropriate internet connectivity solutions, providing printed resources, such as textbooks and workbooks, to structure learning, supplemented with other forms of communication to keep pupils on track or answer questions about work.
- Ensured that school-owned devices distributed for the purpose of access to remote education will always include appropriate [safeguarding controls and support](#) to help children and families, and staff use them safely, including information about physically healthy computing e.g., posture, the teaching and learning environment, sleep.
- **Considered how to transfer effective teaching from the classroom into remote education.**
- Determined our thresholds of absence at which we will again publish
- Ensured we can teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally.
- Put systems in place for checking, daily, whether pupils are engaging with their work, so we can work with families to rapidly identify effective solutions where engagement is a concern.
- Considered issues that specific individuals or groups of pupils may have engaging with remote education due to their age, stage of development, special educational needs, or disability e.g., where this would place significant demands on parents' help or support, ensuring that the teachers best placed to know how the pupil's needs can be most effectively met to ensure they continue to make progress, work with families to deliver an ambitious and appropriate curriculum
- Sought to demonstrate that we understand the requirement for schools under the [2014 Children and Families Act](#) to use our best endeavours to secure the special educational provision called for by the pupils' special educational needs remains in place.
- Identified potential personal, professional, and children's safeguarding issues associated with the provision of remote education; put in place hardware, software, procedures, and training to reduce the risk of harm to the adults, children, and young people exposed to it; and ensured the risks are being addressed in a consistent and ongoing way through the curriculum (see below).

In the provision of remote education this school undertakes to:

- **Communicate with parents to reinforce the importance of children being safe online by providing information on the systems we use to filter and monitor online use**
- **Set meaningful and ambitious work each day in an appropriate range of subjects, with clear information for parents on what their child is being asked to do online (including the sites they will be asked to access), and who from the school (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online**
- Transfer into remote education what we already know about effective teaching in live classrooms by:
  - providing frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources
  - providing opportunities for interactivity, including questioning, eliciting and reflective discussion
  - providing scaffolded practice and opportunities to apply new knowledge

- enabling pupils to receive timely and frequent feedback on how to progress, using digitally facilitated or whole-class feedback where appropriate
- using assessment to ensure teaching is responsive to pupils' needs and addresses any critical gaps in pupils' knowledge
- avoiding an over-reliance on long-term projects or internet research activities
- Ensure leaders and teachers can access the DfE webpage 'Get help with technology for remote education' which signposts to Microsoft etc. guidance on setting up devices for remote learning safely.
- Review and self-assess the our remote education offer regularly.
- Continue to record attendance accurately in the register for pupils who are receiving remote education in line with DfE non-statutory guidance 'Working together to improve school attendance'.
- Carry out an annual review of the school's approach to online safety, supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks the pupils that attend this school face using a tool like the [360 safe website](#).

We recognise that there are additional safeguarding risks to pupils associated with them spending more time online than before the global pandemic, both in their leisure time and to be able to access remote education. There may also be risks from or to the people they live with during live video link work and staff are expected to plan accordingly and seek advice from the OSL/DSL as necessary.

We recognise that there are additional safeguarding risks to staff as well, especially those facilitating remote learning via live video links that may also impact other people in their household or community. The Staff Code of Conduct sets out expected good remote education practice.

Staff are expected to:

- follow DfE guidance [Safeguarding and remote education](#) and safeguarding procedures when planning remote education strategies and teaching remotely
- Provide information about their temporary home working environment insofar as it might impact on their physical health, or the safeguarding of learners or their own household.
- Act appropriately on feedback and use any necessary online or cyber tools provided.
- Provide information about the technology they use at home to get online i.e. to ensure compatibility with school systems, especially cyber security measures involved in accessing sensitive data like medical, behaviour or performance information on school servers remotely.
- Implement relevant guidance on safe teaching and pastoral care from their home e.g. what is in the background of recorded or live streams, what is visible on shared screens, what can be heard by others in a household etc.
- Pay special attention to how they protect personal data at home.
- Report to their line manager any issues or concerns they may have either about their personal safety or that of a pupil.
- Keep talking about staying safe online, which we can do by:
  - Ensuring staff have the tools to promote a healthy balance between the positive and negative aspects of life online.
  - Signposting parents and carers to tools to explain and reduce risks and help them talk to their child.
  - Reiterating behaviour expectations and ways to handle and report problems, especially encouraging children to speak to a trusted adult if they come across content online that makes them uncomfortable.
  - Supporting critical thinking and promoting resources [like it's not easy being a parent in the digital age | Parent Zone](#) and [Trust Me | Childnet](#) which provide ways parents and carers can help their child develop these skills.

### 3. Handling online safety concerns and incidents

Our staff recognise that online safety is only one element of the wider safeguarding agenda as well as being a curriculum strand of Computing, PSHE/RSHE and Citizenship.

General concerns will be handled in the same way as any other child protection concern. Early reporting to the DSL/OSL is vital to ensure that the information contributes to the overall picture or highlights what might not yet be a problem.

Support staff will often have a unique insight and opportunity to find out about issues first in the corridors, toilets, and other communal areas outside the classroom (particularly relating to bullying and sexual harassment and violence).

Procedures for dealing with online safety, concerns and incidents are detailed in the following Policies:

- Child Protection Policy and procedures
- Child on child **abuse** Policy and procedures
- Behaviour Policy and procedures (includes anti-bullying procedures)
- Data Protection Policy, agreements, and other documentation (e.g., privacy statement, consent forms for data sharing image use etc.)

We are committed to taking all reasonable precautions to ensure online safety but recognise that incidents will occur both inside and outside school. All members of the school community are encouraged to report issues swiftly to school staff so that they can be dealt with quickly and sensitively through the school's escalation processes.

Any suspected online risk or infringement should be reported to the DSL/OSL on the same day wherever possible or, if out of school, the following school day.

Any concern/allegation about misuse by staff or other adult in school will always be referred directly to the Head teacher unless the concern is about the Head teacher, in which case, the complaint will be directed to the Chair of Governors. Staff may also use the NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline. Call 0800 028 0285 or email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).

The school will actively seek support from other agencies as needed (i.e., Local Authority Safeguarding Hub, UK Safer Internet Centre's Professionals' Online Safety Helpline (03443814772), NCA CEOP, Cumbria Police Prevent Officer, Cumbria Police, Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)). We will inform parents of online safety incidents involving their child and the Police where staff or pupils engage in or are subject to behaviour which we consider is particularly disturbing or is considered illegal. See Sections below for procedures for dealing with sharing nude and/or **semi-nude images** and/or **videos**, Upskirting and online (**cyber**) bullying.

- In this school there is strict monitoring and application of the Online Safety Policy and a differentiated and appropriate range of sanctions.
- All members of the school community will be informed about the procedure for reporting online safety concerns (such as breaches of filtering, cyberbullying, illegal content etc.).
- The Online Safety Coordinator will record all reported incidents and actions taken in the School Online Safety incident log and other in any relevant areas e.g., Bullying or Child protection log.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead will be informed of any online safety incidents involving Child Protection concerns, which will then be escalated appropriately – See Child Protection Policy and procedures for dealing with concerns.
- The school will manage Online Safety incidents in accordance with the school discipline/behaviour policy where appropriate.
- The school will inform parents of any incidents or concerns as and when required.
- After any investigations are completed, the school will debrief, identify lessons learnt and implement any changes required.
- Where there is cause for concern or fear that illegal activity has taken place or is taking place then the school will contact the Safeguarding Hub **and** escalate the concern to the Police.
- If the school is unsure how to proceed with any incidents of concern, then the incident may be escalated to the Safeguarding Hub – see Child Protection Policy and procedures.

If members of staff suspect that misuse might have taken place, but that the misuse is not illegal (as above) it is essential that correct procedures are used to investigate, preserve evidence, and protect those carrying out the investigation. More than one member of staff should be involved in the investigation which should be carried out on a "clean" designated computer.

Incidents will be dealt with as soon as possible in a proportionate manner through normal behaviour/disciplinary procedures. It is important that, where necessary, members of the school community are made aware that incidents have been dealt with.

### 3.1 Sharing nude and semi-nude images

Where incidents of the sharing of nude and semi-nude images via the internet or mobile phone by those under the age of 18 are discovered, we will refer to the UK Council for (UKCIS) guidance '[Sharing nude and semi-nude images](#)'. A copy of this document is available from the school office. Where one of the parties is over the age of 18 and the other is under 18, we will refer to it as child sexual abuse.

All staff and other relevant adults have been issued with a copy of the UKCIS overview document ([Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: how to respond to an incident](#)) in recognition of the fact that it is generally someone other than the DSL or OSL who will first become aware of an incident. Staff, other than the DSL, must not intentionally view, copy, print, share, store or save or delete the image or ask anyone else to do so but must report the incident to the DSL as soon as possible.

It is the responsibility of the DSL to follow the guidance issued by UKCIS, decide on the next steps and whether to involve other agencies as appropriate.

It is important to understand that whilst the sharing of nude and semi-nude images is illegal, pupils should be encouraged to discuss with staff situations if they have made a mistake or had a problem with this issue.

The UKCIS advice outlines how to respond to an incident of nudes and semi-nudes being shared including:

- risk assessing situations;
- safeguarding and supporting children and young people;
- handling devices and images;
- recording incidents, including the role of other agencies.
- informing parents and carers

The types of incidents which this advice covers are:

- a person under the age of 18 creates and shares nudes and semi-nudes of themselves with a peer under the age of 18;
- a person under the age of 18 shares nudes and semi-nudes created by another person under the age of 18 with a peer under the age of 18;
- a person under the age of 18 is in possession of nudes and semi-nudes created by another person under the age of 18.

### 3.2 Upskirting

All staff are aware that 'Upskirting' (taking a photo of someone under their clothing) is now a criminal offence, but that pupils should be encouraged to discuss with staff situations if they have made a mistake or had a problem with this issue. If staff or other adults become aware of an incident of 'Upskirting', the issue must be reported to the DSL as soon as possible.

### 3.3 Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying (also known as online bullying) can be defined as the use of information and communications technology particularly mobile devices and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else and reported incidents will be treated in the same way as any other form of bullying. The Behaviour Policy and procedures will be followed in relation to sanctions taken against the perpetrator. It is important not to treat online bullying separately to offline bullying and to recognise that some bullying will have both online and offline elements. Support will be provided to both the victim and the perpetrator. In some cases, it may be necessary to inform or involve the Police.

Many young people and adults find that using the Internet and mobile phones is a positive and creative part of their everyday life. Unfortunately, technologies can also be used negatively. When children are the target of bullying via mobile phones, gaming, or the Internet, they can often feel very alone, particularly if the adults around them do not understand cyberbullying and its effects. A once previously safe and enjoyable environment or activity can become threatening, harmful and a source of anxiety. It is essential that young people, school staff and parents understand how cyberbullying is different from other forms of bullying, how it can affect people and how to respond and combat misuse. Promoting a culture of confident users will support innovation and safety.

There are several statutory obligations on schools in relation to behaviour which establish clear responsibilities to respond to bullying, in particular, section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006:

- every school must have measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. These measures should be part of the school's Behaviour Policy which must be communicated to all pupils, school staff and parents;
- gives Head teachers the ability to ensure that pupils behave when they are not on school premises or under the lawful control of school staff.

Where bullying outside school (such as online or via text) is reported to the school, it will be investigated and acted on **in line with the School Behaviour Policy and Procedures.**

Although bullying in itself is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, it is important to bear in mind that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour or communications could be a criminal offence, for example under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Malicious Communications Act 1988, the Communications Act 2003, and the Public Order Act 1986. If school staff feels that an offence may have been committed, they should seek assistance from the Police.

DfE and Childnet have produced resources and guidance that we expect staff to use to give practical advice and guidance on [cyberbullying](#):

- Cyberbullying (along with all other forms of bullying) of any member of the school community will **never** be tolerated. Full details are set out in the Behaviour Policy and procedures.
- There are clear procedures in place to support anyone in the school community affected by cyberbullying.
- All incidents of cyberbullying reported to the school will be recorded.
- There will be clear procedures in place to investigate incidents or allegations of cyberbullying.
- Pupils, staff, and parents will be advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence.
- The school will take steps to identify the bully, where possible and appropriate. This may include examining school system logs, identifying and interviewing possible witnesses, and contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.
- Pupils, staff, and parents will be required to work with the school to support the approach to cyberbullying and the school's online safety ethos.
- Sanctions for those involved in cyberbullying may include:
  - The bully will be asked to remove any material deemed to be inappropriate or offensive.
  - A service provider may be contacted to remove content if the bully refuses or is unable to delete content.
  - Internet access may be suspended at school for the user for a period of time. Other sanctions for pupils and staff may also be used in accordance with the **Behaviour Policy and procedures.**
  - Parents of both the **perpetrator(s) and the victim(s)** will be informed.
  - The Police will be contacted if a criminal offence is suspected.

### 3.4 Harmful online challenges or hoaxes

**An online challenge** will generally involve users recording themselves taking a challenge and then distributing the resulting video through social media sites, often inspiring or daring others to repeat the challenge. Whilst many will be safe and fun, others can be potentially harmful and even life threatening.

If staff are confident children and young people are aware of, and engaged in, a real challenge that may be putting them at risk of harm, then it would be appropriate for this to be directly addressed by either the DSL or a senior leader in school. Careful consideration will be given on how best to do this, and it may be appropriate to offer focussed support to a particular age group or individual children at risk. We will take account of the fact that even with real challenges, many children and young people may not have seen it and may not be aware of it and will carefully weigh up the benefits of institution-wide highlighting of the potential harms related to a challenge against needlessly increasing children and young people's exposure to it.

Where staff become aware of a potentially harmful online hoax or challenge, they will immediately inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will take the appropriate action either with the child concerned or with the wider group where the incident involves more than one child.

Where the DSL considers it necessary to directly address an issue, this can be achieved without exposing children and young people to scary or distressing content. In the response, we will consider the following questions:

- is it factual?
- is it proportional to the actual (or perceived) risk?
- is it helpful?
- is it age and stage of development appropriate?
- is it supportive?

**A hoax** is a deliberate lie designed to seem truthful. The internet and social media provide a perfect platform for hoaxes, especially hoaxes about challenges or trends that are said to be harmful to children and young people to be spread quickly.

We will carefully consider if a challenge or scare story is a hoax. Generally speaking, naming an online hoax, and providing direct warnings is not helpful. Concerns are often fuelled by unhelpful publicity, usually generated on social media, and may not be based on confirmed or factual occurrences or any real risk to children and young people. There have been examples of hoaxes where much of the content was created by those responding to the story being reported, needlessly increasing children and young people's exposure to distressing content.

Evidence from Childline shows that, following viral online hoaxes, children and young people often seek support after witnessing harmful and distressing content that has been highlighted, or directly shown to them (often with the best of intentions), by parents, carers, schools, and other bodies. In this respect, staff will be mindful of the advice provided by the UK Safer Internet Centre which provides guidance on [dealing with online hoaxes or challenges](#).

In any response, reference will be made to the DfE guidance '[Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes](#)'

### 3.5 Sexual violence and harassment

DfE guidance on sexual violence and harassment is referenced in '[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)' and separate guidance exists on this issue '[Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#)'. All staff are aware of this guidance.

We take all forms of sexual violence and harassment seriously and will act appropriately on information which suggests inappropriate behaviour regardless of the considered seriousness. Any incident of sexual harassment or violence (online or offline) must be reported to the DSL at the earliest opportunity. The DSL will follow the guidance as outlined in the Child Protection Policy and procedures. **Sanctions will be applied in line with our Behaviour Policy and procedures.**

### 3.6 Misuse of school technology (devices, systems, networks, or platforms)

Clear and well communicated rules and procedures are essential to govern pupil and adult use of school networks, connections, internet connectivity and devices, cloud platforms and social media (both when on school site and outside of school).

These rules are defined in the relevant Acceptable Use Agreements as provided to pupils, staff, and Governors.

Where pupils contravene these rules, **the Behaviour Policy** and procedures will be applied; where staff contravene these rules, action will be taken as outlined in the staff code of conduct and, where necessary, the school disciplinary procedures.

The school reserves the right to withdraw, temporarily or permanently, any or all access to such technology or the right to bring mobile technology devices onto school property.

### 3.7 Social media incidents

See also Section 9. below.

Where an incident relates to an inappropriate, upsetting, violent or abusive social media post by an identifiable member of the school community, we will request that the post be deleted and will expect this to be actioned promptly.

Where an offending post has been made by a third party or is anonymous, the school may report it to the hosting platform, the Police or may contact the [Professionals' Online Safety Helpline](#) (UK Safer Internet Centre) for support or assistance in accelerating the process of removal.

## 4. Data protection and data security

All pupils, staff, parents, and other adults working in or visiting school are bound by the school's Data Protection Policy and procedures a copy of which is available from the school office.

There are references to the relationship between data protection and safeguarding in key DfE documents i.e. '[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)' and '[Data protection: a toolkit for schools](#)' which the DPO and DSL will seek to apply.

The Head teacher, DPO and Governors work together to ensure a DPA compliant framework for storing data, but which ensures that child protection is always the primary consideration and data protection processes support careful and legal sharing of information. The Data Protection Act 2018 does not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Information which is sensitive and personal will be treated as 'special category personal data' for the purposes of compliance with the DPA. Legal and secure information sharing between schools, Children's Social Care and other local agencies is essential for keeping children safe and ensuring they get the support they need. Information can be shared without consent if to gain consent would place a child at risk. Fears about sharing information **must not** be allowed to stand in the way of promoting the welfare and protecting the safety of children. As with all data sharing, appropriate organisational and technical safeguards will be in place.

All pupils, staff, Governors, volunteers, contractors, and parents are bound by the school's Data Protection Policy and procedures.

### 4.1 Maintaining Information Systems Security

#### **Local Area Network (LAN) security issues include:**

- Users must act reasonably e.g., the downloading of large files or viewing sporting events during the working day will affect the service that others receive.
- Users must take responsibility for their network use. For staff, flouting the school Acceptable Use Agreement may be regarded as a reason for dismissal.
- Workstations should be secured against user mistakes and deliberate actions.
- Servers will be located securely and physical access restricted.
- The server operating system is secured and kept up to date.
- Virus protection for the whole network is installed and current.
- Access by wireless devices will be proactively managed and secured with a minimum of WPA2 encryption.

#### **Wide Area Network (WAN) security issues include:**

- Broadband firewalls and local CPEs (Customer Premises Equipment) are configured to prevent unauthorised access between schools.
- Decisions on WAN security are made in partnership between school and our network provider.

The following statements apply in our school:

- The security of the school information systems and users will be reviewed regularly.
- Virus protection will be updated regularly.
- Personal data sent over the Internet or taken off site will be encrypted.
- Portable media may not be used without specific permission followed by an anti-virus/malware scan.
- Unapproved software will not be allowed in work areas or attached to email.
- Files held on the school's network will be regularly checked.
- The ICT coordinator/network manager will review system capacity regularly.
- Use of user logins and passwords to access the school network will be enforced – see Section 6.2 below.

The school broadband and online suppliers are Vodafone.

The Head teacher and Data Protection Officer work together to ensure a DPA compliant framework for storing data, but which ensures that child protection is always put first, and data protection processes support careful and legal sharing of information.

## 5. Electronic Communications

### 5.1 Managing Email

Our general principles for email use are as follows:

- Pupils must immediately tell a designated member of staff if they receive an offensive email or one which upsets or worries them.
- Pupils must not reveal personal details of themselves or others in email communication or arrange to meet anyone without specific permission from an adult.
- Staff will only use official school provided email accounts to communicate with pupils and parents, as approved by the SLT. Any deviation from this must be agreed with the DSL/Head teacher.
- Any digital communication between staff and pupils or parents (email, chat, 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 public chat/social networking programmes must not be used for these communications. Any unauthorised attempt to use a different system may be a safeguarding concern or disciplinary matter and should be notified to the DSL (if by a child) or to the Head teacher (if by a staff member).
- Pupils and staff are not permitted to use the school email system for personal use and should be aware that all use is monitored, their emails may be read, and the same rules of appropriate behaviour apply at all times. Emails using inappropriate language, images, malware or to adult sites may be blocked and not arrive at their intended destination.
- Appropriate behaviour is expected at all times, and the system should not be used to send inappropriate materials or language which is or could be construed as bullying, aggressive, rude, insulting, illegal or otherwise inappropriate, or which (for staff) might bring the school into disrepute or compromise the professionalism of staff.
- Users must immediately report to the DSL the receipt of any email that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such email.
- Pupils will be taught about email safety issues, such as the risks attached to the use of personal details. They will also be taught strategies to deal with inappropriate emails and be reminded of the need to write emails clearly and correctly and not include any unsuitable or abusive material.
- Personal information must not be posted on the school website and only official email addresses will be used to identify members of staff.
- Spam, phishing, and virus attachments can make email dangerous. The school ICT provider ensures mail is virus checked (ingoing and outgoing), includes spam filtering and backs emails up daily.

### 5.2 Emailing personal, sensitive, confidential, or classified information

Staff or pupil personal data should never be sent/shared/stored in emails and any data must be encrypted prior to being sent.

- Assess whether the information can be transmitted by other secure means before using email - emailing confidential data is not recommended and should be avoided where possible;
- The use of Hotmail, BTInternet, G-mail or any other Internet based webmail service for sending email containing sensitive information is not permitted;
- Where your conclusion is that email must be used to transmit such data:
  - Obtain express consent from your manager to provide the information by email;
  - Exercise caution when sending the email and always follow these checks before releasing the email:
    - Verify the details, including accurate email address, of any intended recipient of the information;
    - Verify (by phoning) the details of a requestor before responding to email requests for information;
    - Do not copy or forward the email to any more recipients than is necessary.

- Do not send the information to any person whose details you have been unable to separately verify (usually by phone);
- Send the information as an encrypted document **attached** to an email;
- Provide the encryption key or password by a **separate** contact with the recipient(s) e.g., by telephone or in writing;
- Do not identify such information in the subject line of any email;
- Request confirmation of safe receipt.

## 6. School Website

The school website is a key public-facing information portal for the school community (both existing and prospective stakeholders) with a key reputational value. Kerry Crane has day to day editorial responsibility for online content published by the school on the school website and will ensure that content published is accurate and appropriate. The school website is managed by/hosted by 1and1.

The DfE has determined information which must be available on a school website. [‘What schools must publish online’](#) (maintained schools), and [‘What academies, free schools and colleges should publish online’](#) (academies and free schools).

Where other staff submit information for the website, they are asked to consider the following principles:

- The contact details on the website are the school address, email, and telephone number. Staff, Governors, or pupils’ personal information are not published.
- Email addresses will be published carefully online, to avoid being harvested for spam (e.g., by replacing ‘@’ with ‘AT’).
- The school website will comply with the school’s guidelines for publications including respect for intellectual property rights, privacy procedures and copyright.
- Where pupil work, images or videos are published on the website, their identities are protected, and full names are not published (remember also not to save images with a filename that includes a pupil’s full name).

## 7. 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, pupils and parents need to be aware of the risks associated with sharing images and with posting digital images on the Internet. Those images may remain available on the Internet forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term. There are many reported incidents of employers carrying out internet searches for information about potential and existing employees. The school will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement procedures to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm:

- We gain parental permission for the use of digital photographs or video involving their child as part of the school agreement form when their child joins the school. This is a once in a school lifetime consent. Parents are required to inform the school if their consent changes.
- We seek consent for the publication of images from pupils.
- When we publish images or video, we will inform pupils and parents before publishing, so they have a chance to object as is their legal right under DPA 2018.
- We do not identify pupils in online photographic materials or include the full names of pupils in the credits of any published school produced digital materials. Photo file names/tags do not include full names to avoid accidentally sharing them.
- When using digital images, staff will inform and educate pupils about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images. Pupils are advised to be very careful about placing any personal photos on any ‘social’ online network space. They are taught to understand the need to maintain privacy settings so as not to make public, personal information.
- Staff are governed by their contract of employment, the staff Code of Conduct and sign the school’s Acceptable Use Agreement. This includes a clause on the use of mobile phones/personal equipment for taking pictures of pupils.

- Staff are permitted to take digital/video images to support educational aims, but must follow school procedures concerning the sharing, distribution, and publication of those images. Those images will, wherever possible only be taken on school equipment. Members of staff may occasionally use personal phones to capture photos or videos of pupils. These will be appropriate, linked to school activities, taken without secrecy, and not captured in a one-to-one situation. Photos will always be moved to school storage as soon as possible after which they are deleted from personal devices and/or cloud services (Note: many phones automatically back up photos).
- Staff will ensure that 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.
- Digital images/videos are stored on the school network in line with the retention schedule of the school Data Protection Policy.
- Pupils are taught about how images can be manipulated in their online safety education programme and are taught to consider how to publish for a wide range of audiences which might include Governors, parents, or younger children as part of their ICT scheme of work;
- Pupils are taught that they should not post images or videos of others without their consent. We teach them about the risks associated with providing information with images (including the name of the file), that reveals the identity of others and their location, such as house number, street name or school. We teach them about the need to keep their data secure and what to do if they or a friend are subject to bullying or abuse.
- Staff and parents are regularly reminded about the importance of not sharing without consent, due to child protection concerns (e.g., children looked-after often have restrictions for their own protection) data protection, religious or cultural reasons or simply for reasons of personal privacy.
- If specific pupil photos (not group photos) are used on the school web site, in the prospectus or in other high-profile publications the school will obtain individual parental or pupil consent for its long-term use. A model Consent Form can be found in Kym Allan Health and Safety Consultants Ltd. (KAHSC) General Safety Series G21.
- A pupil's work can only be published with the consent of the pupil and parents. We will seek the consent of the pupil first and then, if necessary, the parents.

## 8. Cloud Platforms

This school adheres to the principles of the DfE document '[Cloud computing services: guidance for school leaders, school staff and governing bodies](#)' and our Data Protection Policy and procedures includes the use of Cloud services.

For online safety, basic rules of good password management, expert administration and training is used to keep staff and pupils safe and to avoid incidents. The DPO and network manager will analyse and document systems and procedures before they are implemented and regularly review them.

The following principles apply:

- Privacy statements inform parents and children when and what type of data is stored in the cloud.
- The DPO approves new cloud systems, what may or may not be stored in them and by whom on the basis of a data protection impact assessment (DPIA).
- Regular training ensures all staff understand sharing functionality and this is audited to ensure that pupil data is not shared by mistake. Open access or widely shared folders are clearly marked as such.
- Pupils and staff are only given access and/or sharing rights when they can demonstrate an understanding of what data may be stored and how it can be seen.
- Two-factor authentication is used for access to staff or pupil data.
- Pupil images/videos are only made public with parental consent.
- Only school-approved platforms are used by students or staff to store pupil work.
- All stakeholders understand the difference between consumer and education products (e.g., a private Gmail account or Google Drive and those belonging to a managed educational domain).

## 9. Social Media

### 9.1 Managing social networking, social media, and personal publishing sites

This school operates on the principle that if we don't manage our social media reputation, someone else will. Online reputation management is about understanding and managing our digital footprint (everything that can be seen or read about the school online). Negative coverage almost always causes some level of disruption and can result in distress to individuals.

We therefore manage our social media footprint carefully to know what is being said about the school and in order to respond to criticism and praise in a fair, responsible manner.

The school has an official Facebook account which is managed by the school and will respond to general enquiries about the school, but we ask parents not to use these channels to communicate about their children or other personal matters.

Email is the official electronic communication channel between parents and the school, and between staff and pupils.

#### **Staff, pupils', and parents' Social Media presence:**

Social media is a fact of modern life and, as a school, we accept that many parents, staff, and pupils will use it. However, as stated in the Behaviour Policy and procedures we expect everybody to behave in a positive manner, engaging respectfully with the school and each other on social media, in the same way as they would face to face.

This positive behaviour can be summarised as not making any posts which are, or could be construed as bullying, aggressive, rude, insulting, illegal or otherwise derogatory or inappropriate or which might bring the school, student body or teaching profession into disrepute. This applies to both public pages and to private posts e.g., parent chats, pages, or groups.

If parents have a concern about the school, we urge them to contact us directly and in private to resolve the matter. If an issue cannot be resolved in this way, the school complaints procedure (available via the school website) should be followed. Sharing complaints on social media is unlikely to help resolve the matter but can cause upset to staff, pupils, and parents, also undermining staff morale and the reputation of the school.

Many social media platforms have a minimum age of 13 but the school regularly deals with issues arising on social media with pupils under the age of 13. We ask parents to respect age ratings on social media platforms wherever possible and not encourage or condone underage use. However, the school accepts that there is a balance between not encouraging underage use whilst at the same time needing to acknowledge reality in order to best help our pupils to avoid or cope with issues if they arise. Online safety lessons will look at social media and other online behaviour, how to be a good friend online and how to report bullying, misuse, intimidation, or abuse. However, children will often learn most from the models of behaviour they see and experience. Parents can best support this by talking to their children about the apps, sites, and games they use, with whom, for how long, and when (late at night is not helpful for a good night's sleep and productive teaching and learning at school the next day).

Pupils are not allowed<sup>1</sup> to be 'friends' with or make a 'friend request'<sup>2</sup> to any staff, volunteers or regular school contractors or otherwise communicate via social media. Pupils are discouraged from 'following' staff, volunteers, or regular school contractors public accounts (e.g., following a staff member with a public Instagram account). However, we accept that this can be difficult to control. This, however, highlights the need for staff to remain professional in their private lives. Conversely staff must not follow public pupil accounts.

Staff are reminded that they should not bring the school or profession into disrepute and the best way to avoid this is to have the strictest privacy settings and avoid inappropriate sharing and oversharing online. Staff must never discuss the school or its stakeholders on social media and ensure that their personal

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<sup>1</sup> Exceptions may be made, e.g. for pre-existing family links, but these must be approved by the Head teacher and should be declared upon entry of the pupil or staff member to the school.

<sup>2</sup> Any attempt to do so may be a safeguarding concern or disciplinary matter and should be notified to the DSL (if by a child) or to the Head teacher (if by a staff member).

opinions are not attributed to the school.

The following principles apply:

- The school will control access to social media and social networking sites.
- Pupils will be advised never to give out personal details of any kind which may identify them and / or their location. Examples would include real name, address, mobile or landline phone numbers, school attended, IM and email addresses, full names of friends/family, specific interests, and clubs etc.
- Staff wishing to use Social Media tools with pupils as part of the curriculum will risk assess the sites before use and check the sites terms and conditions to ensure the site is age appropriate. Staff will obtain documented consent from the SLT before using Social Media tools in the classroom.
- Staff official blogs or wikis will be password protected and run from the school website with approval from the SLT. Members of staff are advised not to run social network spaces for pupil use on a personal basis.
- Personal publishing will be taught via age-appropriate sites that are suitable for educational purposes. They will be moderated by the school where possible.
- Pupils will be advised on security and privacy online and will be encouraged to set passwords, deny access to unknown individuals and to block unwanted communications.
- Pupils will be encouraged to approve and invite known friends only on social networking sites and to deny access to others by making profiles private.
- All members of the school community are advised not to publish specific and detailed private thoughts, especially those that may be considered threatening, hurtful, or defamatory.
- Concerns regarding a pupil's use of social networking, social media, and personal publishing sites (in or out of school) will be raised with their parents, particularly when concerning the underage use of sites.
- Staff personal use of social networking, social media and personal publishing sites will be discussed as part of staff induction.
- Further guidance can be found in the document 'Safe Use of Facebook and Other Social Networking Sites' on the KAHSC website.

## 9.2 Personal devices and bring your own device (BYOD) procedures:

We recognise the widespread use of personal devices makes it essential that schools take steps to ensure mobile phones and devices, including wearable or "smart" technologies like health or fitness trackers, are used responsibly at school and it is essential that pupil use of their devices does not impede teaching, learning and good order in classrooms. Staff will be given clear boundaries on professional use.

Mobile devices can present a number of problems when not used appropriately:

- They are valuable items which may be stolen or damaged;
- Their use can render pupils or staff subject to sexual harassment, cyberbullying, and other forms of control;
- Apps or mobile devices which broadcast location data can make staff or pupils vulnerable to behaviours like stalking and can provide perpetrators with information to take cyberbullying into the real world.
- Internet access on phones and personal devices can allow pupils to bypass school security settings and filtering;
- They can undermine classroom discipline as they can be used on "silent" mode;
- Mobile phones with integrated cameras could lead to child protection, cyberbullying and data protection issues in relation to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of inappropriate images of pupils or staff;

Permitted use of mobile phones and personal devices is a school decision and the following will apply:

- The use of mobile phones and other personal devices by pupils and staff in school will be decided by the school and covered in the school Mobile Phone Policy.
- The sending of abusive or inappropriate messages or content via mobile phones or personal devices is forbidden by any member of the school community and any breaches will be dealt with as part of the school Behaviour Policy.
- The school reserves the right to search the content of any mobile or handheld devices on the school premises where there is a reasonable suspicion that it may contain undesirable materials, including

those which promote pornography, violence, or bullying. Staff mobiles or hand-held devices may be searched at any time as part of routine monitoring.

- School staff may confiscate a phone or device if they believe it is being used to contravene the school's behaviour Policy or bullying procedures.
- If there is suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the police for further investigation.
- Mobile phones and personal devices will not be used during lessons or formal school time unless as part of an approved and directed curriculum-based activity with consent from a member of staff. They should be switched off (not placed on silent) and stored out of sight on arrival at school. Staff members may use their phones during school break times. All visitors are requested to keep their phones on silent whilst in the school.
- The recording, taking, and sharing of images, video and audio on any mobile phone is to be avoided, except where it has been explicitly agreed otherwise by the Head teacher. Such authorised use is to be monitored and recorded. All mobile phone use is to be open to scrutiny and the Head teacher is authorised to withdraw or restrict authorisation for use at any time if it is deemed necessary. Where permission is given by the Head teacher, no images or videos are to be taken on mobile phones or personally owned mobile devices without the prior consent of the person or people in the image.
- Electronic devices of all kinds that are brought into school are the responsibility of the user. The school accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft, or damage of such items. Nor will the school accept responsibility for any adverse health effects caused by any such devices either potential or actual.

#### **Pupil use of personal devices:**

- The use of mobile phones and other personal devices by pupils and staff in school will be decided by the school and covered in the school Mobile Phone Policy.
- If a pupil breaches the school procedures, then the phone or device will be confiscated and will be held in a secure place in the school office. Mobile phones and devices will be released to parents in accordance with the school procedures.
- Phones and devices must not be taken into examinations. Pupils found in possession of a mobile phone during an exam will be reported to the appropriate examining body. This may result in the pupil's withdrawal from either that examination or all examinations.
- If a pupil needs to contact his/her parent, they will be allowed to use their mobile phones or the school phone. Parents are advised not to contact their child via their mobile phone during the school day, but to contact the school office.
- Pupils should protect their phone numbers by only giving them to trusted friends and family members.
- Pupils will be instructed in safe and appropriate use of mobile phones and personal devices and will be made aware of boundaries and consequences.

#### **Staff use of personal devices:**

- Mobile phones and personally owned devices will be switched to 'silent' mode; Bluetooth communication should be "hidden" or switched off, location data switched off unless being used only for the duration of a specific task like route directions on a school trip, and mobile phones or personally owned devices will not be used during teaching periods unless permission has been given by a member of SLT for emergency circumstances.
- If members of staff have an educational reason to allow children to use mobile phones or personal devices as part of an educational activity, then it will only take place when approved by the SLT.
- Where members of staff are required to use a mobile phone for school duties, for instance in case of emergency during off-site activities, or for contacting pupils or parents, then a school mobile phone will be provided and used. In an emergency where a staff member does not have access to a school-owned device, they should use their own device and hide their own mobile number for confidentiality purposes.
- If a member of staff breaches the school Policy and procedures, then disciplinary action may be taken.

Parents are asked to keep phones out of sights whilst on the school premises. They must ask permission before taking any photos and avoid capturing other children. Parents are asked not to call pupils on their mobile phones during the school day; urgent messages can be passed via the school office.

### **Network/internet access on school devices**

Pupils are not allowed networked file access via personal devices. However, they are permitted to access the school wireless internet network for school-related internet use/limited personal use.

### **Searching, Screening and Confiscation**

In line with the DfE guidance 'Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools', the Head teacher and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils/property on school premises (with consent for items banned by the school and without consent for items which are prohibited or illegal). Staff may examine any data or files on an electronic device they have confiscated as a result of a search, if there is good reason to do so. If the member of staff conducting the search suspects they may find an indecent image of a child (sometimes known as nude or semi-nude images), the member of staff must never intentionally view the image, and must never copy, print, share, store, save or delete such images.

When an incident might involve an indecent image of a child and/or video, the member of staff will confiscate the device, avoid looking at the device and refer the incident to the DSL (or deputy) as the most appropriate person to advise on the school's response. This includes the content of mobile phones and other devices, for example as a result of a reasonable suspicion that a device contains illegal or undesirable material, including but not exclusive to sexual images, pornography, Upskirting, violence or bullying. Further details are available in the Behaviour Policy and procedures.

## **10. Managing filtering**

The following issues will be addressed **and regularly reviewed** in relation to the management of filtering:

- The school's broadband access will include filtering appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils.
- The school will have a clear procedure for reporting breaches of filtering. All members of the school community (all staff and all pupils) will be aware of this procedure.
- If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL will be reported to the School Online Safety Coordinator who will then record the incident and escalate the concern as appropriate.
- Changes to the school filtering procedures will be risk assessed by staff with educational and technical experience prior to any changes and where appropriate with consent from the **SLT**.
- The School **SLT** will ensure that regular checks are made to ensure that the filtering methods selected are effective.
- Any material that the school believes is illegal will be reported to appropriate agencies such as [IWF](#), the Police or [CEOP](#).
- The school's access strategy will be designed by educators to suit the age and curriculum requirements of the pupils, with advice from network managers.

## **11. Managing emerging technologies**

Many emerging communications technologies offer the potential to develop new teaching and learning tools, including mobile communications, internet access, collaboration, and multimedia tools. We will undertake a risk assessment on each new technology for effective and safe practice in classroom use to be developed. The safest approach is to deny access until a risk assessment has been completed and safe practice has been established.

Virtual online classrooms and communities widen the geographical boundaries of learning. Approaches such as mentoring, online learning and parental access are becoming embedded within school systems. Online communities can also be one way of encouraging a disaffected pupil to keep in touch.

The safety and effectiveness of virtual communities depends on users being trusted and identifiable. This may not be easy, as authentication beyond the school may be difficult as demonstrated by social networking sites and other online tools such as Facebook, YouTube, Skype, and Twitter. The registering of individuals to establish and maintain validated electronic identities is essential for safe communication but is often not possible. Video conferencing introduces new dimensions; webcams are increasingly inexpensive and, with faster internet access, enable video to be exchanged across the Internet. The availability of live video can sometimes increase safety - you can see who you are talking to - but if inappropriately used, a video link could reveal security details.

New applications are continually being developed based on the Internet, the mobile phone network, wireless, Bluetooth or infrared connections. Users can be mobile using a phone, games console or personal digital assistant with wireless internet access. This can offer immense opportunities for learning as well as dangers such as a pupil using a phone to video a teacher's reaction in a difficult situation.

Schools should keep up to date with new technologies, including those relating to mobile phones and handheld devices, and be ready to develop appropriate strategies. For instance, text messaging via mobile phones is a frequent activity for many pupils and families; this could be used to communicate a pupil's absence or send reminders for exam coursework. There are dangers for staff however if personal phones are used to contact pupils and therefore, we will endeavour to make a school owned phone available if this kind of contact is necessary.

The inclusion of inappropriate language or images is difficult for staff to detect. Pupils may need reminding that such use is inappropriate and conflicts with school Policy and procedures. Abusive messages should be dealt with **in line with the school's Behaviour Policy and procedures**.

- Emerging technologies will be examined for educational benefit and a risk assessment will be carried out before use in school is allowed.
- Pupils will be instructed about safe and appropriate use of personal devices both on and off site in accordance with the school Acceptable Use Agreement/Mobile Phone procedures.

## 12. Policy Decisions

### 12.1 Authorising internet access

The school will allocate internet access to staff and pupils based on educational need. It will be clear who has internet access and who has not. Normally most pupils will be granted internet access. We will not prevent pupils from accessing the Internet unless the parents have specifically denied permission, or the child is subject to a sanction as part of our **Behaviour policy and procedures**.

- The school will maintain a current record of all staff and pupils who are granted access to the school's electronic communications.
- Parents will be informed that pupils will be provided with supervised internet access appropriate to their age and ability.
- When considering access for vulnerable members of the school community (such as with children with special education needs) the school will make decisions based on the specific needs and understanding of the pupil(s).

### 12.2 Assessing risks

As the quantity and breadth of information available through the Internet continues to grow it is not possible to guard against every undesirable situation. The school will need to address the fact that it is not possible to completely remove the risk that pupils might access unsuitable materials via the school system.

Risks can be considerably greater where tools are used which are beyond the school's control such as most popular social media sites.

- The school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users access only appropriate material. However, due to the global and connected nature of internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that access to unsuitable material will never occur via a school computer. Neither the school nor the LA can accept liability for the material accessed, or any consequences resulting from internet use.
- The school will audit ICT use to establish if the Online Safety Policy and procedures is adequate and that the implementation of the Online Safety Policy is appropriate.
- The use of computer systems without permission or for inappropriate purposes could constitute a criminal offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and breaches will be reported to the Police using 101 or the appropriate online report from available from our local Constabulary website.
- Methods to identify, assess and minimise risks will be reviewed regularly.

### 12.3 Responding to incidents of concern

Refer to Section 3 above.

## 13. Communicating Policy and procedures

### 13.1 Introducing the Policy and procedures to Pupils

Online safety pupil and parental engagement programmes we can use include:

- Think U Know: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- Childnet: <http://www.childnet.com>

Pupil induction and ongoing training and education will include:

- Informing all users that network and internet use will be monitored.
- Establishing an online safety training programme across the school to raise the awareness and highlight the importance of safe and responsible internet use.
- Accessible Online Safety rules including posters in all rooms with computers/internet access.
- Regular reinforcement of safe and responsible use of the Internet and technology across the curriculum, in all subject areas, and extended schools or extra-curricular activities.
- Particular attention paid to Online Safety education where pupils are considered to be vulnerable.

### 13.2 Discussing the Policy and procedures with Staff

It is important that all staff feel confident meeting the demands of using ICT appropriately in teaching, administration, and all other aspects of their school and personal life and the School Online Safety Policy and procedures will only be effective if all staff subscribe to its values and methods.

Staff will be given opportunities to discuss the issues and develop appropriate teaching or other work strategies. It would be unreasonable, for instance, if cover or supply staff were asked to take charge of an internet activity without preparation.

Any member of staff who has concerns about any aspect of their own or anyone else's ICT or internet use either on or off site, they should discuss this with their line manager. Where concerns are related to children's safeguarding, they should also be reported to the DSL who should follow the Child Protection Policy and procedure for recording and reporting allegations that meet the harm threshold and recording (and in some case reporting i.e., to a contractor's employer) low level concerns that do not.

Consideration is given when members of staff are provided with devices by the school which may be accessed outside of the school network. Staff are made aware of their responsibility to maintain the security and confidentiality of school information.

All staff have a universal duty to understand harms and protect children from them, including online. ICT use is widespread and all staff including administration, midday supervisors, facilities staff, and volunteers who use it or work with children who use it are included in awareness raising and training.

Induction of all new staff will include:

- A copy of the Online Safety Policy and procedures and a scheduled opportunity to discuss them.
- Up-to-date and appropriate staff training in safe and responsible internet use, both professionally and personally.
- How the school will promote online tools which staff should use for work purposes, especially with children, and the procedure staff should go through if there is a new tool they want to use.
- That their online conduct out of school could have an impact on their role and reputation in school. Civil, legal, or disciplinary action could be taken if they are found to bring the profession or institution into disrepute, or if something is felt to have undermined confidence in their professional abilities.

When we employ an Early Career Teacher (ECT replacing newly qualified teacher or NQT) or work with trainee teachers the OSL will ensure use of the [UKCIS Online Safety Audit Tool](#) or similar self-assessment with them to help them better understand their role in keeping children safe online and our policy and practice.

### 13.3 Enlisting Parents' Support

Internet use in pupils' homes is increasingly widespread. Unless parents are aware of the dangers, pupils may have unrestricted and unsupervised access to the Internet in the home. The school may be able to help parents plan appropriate, supervised use of the Internet at home and educate them about the risks.

To engage with parents and carers we will:

- draw attention to our Online Safety Policy and procedures on the school website;
- encourage a partnership approach to online safety at home and at school which may include demonstration evenings, regular suggestions for safe home internet use, promoting educational online safety activities for families, or highlighting online safety issues at other attended events e.g., parent evenings and sports days;
- provide information and guidance for families about online safety in a variety of formats;
- provide advice on useful resources and websites, filtering systems and educational and leisure activities which include responsible use of the Internet;
- refer interested parents to organisations listed in the "online safety Links";

## 14. Complaints

The school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure online safety. However, owing to the international scale and linked nature of internet content, the availability of mobile technologies and speed of change, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable materials will never appear on a school computer or mobile device. The school staff cannot accept liability for material accessed, or any consequences of internet access.

- Complaints about the misuse of on-line systems will be dealt with under the school's Complaints procedure.
- Complaints about cyberbullying are dealt with in accordance with our Anti-bullying procedures which form part of our Behaviour Policy and procedures.
- Complaints related to child protection are dealt with in accordance with school Child Protection Policy and procedures.
- Any complaints about staff misuse will be referred to the Head teacher.
- All online safety complaints and incidents will be recorded by the school including any actions taken (see Appendix H).

Staff and pupils are given information about infringements in use and possible sanctions. Sanctions available include:

- interview/counselling by Head teacher;
- informing parents;
- removal of internet or computer access for a period, which could ultimately prevent access to files held on the system, including examination coursework);
- referral to the Police.

## ONLINE SAFETY LINKS

The following links may help those who are developing or reviewing a school Online Safety Policy and procedures.

- [CEOP](#) (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre)
- [Childline](#)
- [Childnet](#)
- [Internet Watch Foundation \(IWF\)](#)
- [Cumbria Local Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) (Cumbria LSCP)
- [Think U Know website](#)
- [Virtual Global Taskforce — Report Abuse](#)
- [Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#)
- [Better Internet for Kids](#)
- [Cyberbullying.org](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [UK Council for Internet Safety](#) (UKCIS)
- [Wise Kids](#)
- [Teem](#)
- [Family Online Safety Institute](#) (FOSI)
- [e-safe Education](#)
- [Facebook Advice to Parents](#)
- Test your online safety skills: [Click here to access](#)

The above Internet site links were correct at the time of publishing. School staff are advised to check the content of each site prior to allowing access to pupils.

### **Department for Education/Home Office guidance for schools**

[PREVENT Duty statutory guidance for Public Bodies: England and Wales](#)

[The PREVENT Duty – DfE non-statutory Departmental advice for Schools and Childcare Providers](#)

[How social media is used to encourage travel to Syria and Iraq: briefing note for schools](#) – Home Office advice