



Online Safety Policy

Collingwood School

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out expectations for all Collingwood School's community members' online behaviour, attitudes and activities and use of digital technology (including when devices are offline)
- Help all stakeholders to recognise that online/digital behaviour standards (including social media activity) must be upheld beyond the confines of the school gates and school day, and regardless of device or platform
- Facilitate the safe, responsible and respectful use of technology to support teaching & learning, increase attainment and prepare children and young people for the risks and opportunities of today's and tomorrow's digital world, to survive and thrive online
- Establish clear structures by which online misdemeanours will be treated, and procedures to follow where there are doubts or concerns (see Positive Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy)
- Help school staff working with children to understand their roles and responsibilities to work safely and responsibly with technology and the online world:
 - *for the protection and benefit of the children and young people in their care, and*
 - *for their own protection, minimising misplaced or malicious allegations and to better understand their own standards and practice*
 - *for the benefit of the school, supporting the school ethos, aims and objectives, and protecting the reputation of the school and profession*

Further Help and Support

Internal school channels should always be followed first for reporting and support, as documented in school policy documents, especially in response to incidents, which should be reported in line with your Safeguarding Policy. The DSL will handle referrals to local authority multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASH) and referrals to the LA designated officer (LADO) with by made by the Head.

Scope

This policy applies to all members of the Collingwood School community (including staff, governors, volunteers, pupils, parents/carers, visitors and community users) who have access to our digital technology, networks and systems, whether on-site or remotely, and at any time. Pupils in our EYFS setting are also included by the scope of this policy.



Roles and responsibilities

This school is a community and all members have a duty to behave respectfully online and offline, to use technology for teaching and learning and to prepare for life after school, and to immediately report any concerns or inappropriate behaviour, to protect staff, pupils, families and the reputation of the school.

Headteacher - Leigh Hardie

Key responsibilities:

- Foster a culture of safeguarding where online safety is fully integrated into whole-school safeguarding
- Oversee the activities of the designated safeguarding lead and ensure that the DSL responsibilities listed in the section below are being followed and fully supported
- Ensure that policies and procedures are followed by all staff
- Undertake training in offline and online safeguarding, in accordance with statutory guidance and relevant Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) guidance
- Liaise with the designated safeguarding lead 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; work with the DPO and governors to ensure a GDPR-compliant framework for storing data, but helping to ensure that child protection is always put first and data-protection processes support careful and legal sharing of information
- Ensure the school implements and makes effective use of appropriate ICT systems and services including school-safe filtering and monitoring, protected email systems and that all technology including cloud systems are implemented according to child-safety first principles
- Be responsible for ensuring that all staff receive suitable training to carry out their safeguarding and online safety roles
- Understand and make all staff aware of procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safeguarding incident
- Ensure suitable risk assessments are undertaken so the curriculum meets needs of pupils, including risk of children being radicalised
- Ensure that there is a system in place to monitor and support staff (e.g. network support) who carry out internal technical online-safety procedures
- Ensure governors are regularly updated on the nature and effectiveness of the school's arrangements for online safety



Designated Safeguarding Lead / Online Safety Lead – Leigh Hardie

Key responsibilities:

- “The designated safeguarding lead should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety).”
- Where the online-safety coordinator is not the named DSL or deputy DSL, ensure there is regular review and open communication between these roles and that the DSL’s clear overarching responsibility for online safety is not compromised
- Ensure “An effective approach to online safety [that] empowers a school or college to protect and educate the whole school or college community in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in and escalate any incident where appropriate.
- “Liaise with the local authority and work with other agencies in line with Working together to safeguard children”
- Take day to day responsibility for online safety issues and be aware of the potential for serious child protection concerns
- Work with the DPO and governors to ensure a GDPR-compliant framework for storing data, but helping to ensure that child protection is always put first and data-protection processes support careful and legal sharing of information
- Stay up to date with the latest trends in online safety
- Review and update this policy, other online safety documents (e.g. Acceptable Use Policies) and the strategy on which they are based (in harmony with policies for behaviour, safeguarding, Prevent and others) and submit for review to the governors.
- Ensure that online safety education is embedded across the curriculum and beyond, in wider school life
- Promote an awareness and commitment to online safety throughout the school community, with a strong focus on parents, who are often appreciative of school support in this area
- Liaise with school technical, pastoral, and support staff as appropriate
- Ensure 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 safeguarding incident
- Oversee and discuss ‘appropriate filtering and monitoring’ with governors and ensure staff are aware of the LGfL filtering. (View the LGfL filtering statement [here](#))
- Ensure the 2018 Department for Education guidance on sexual violence and harassment is followed throughout the school and that staff adopt a zero-tolerance approach to this, as well as to bullying
- Facilitate training and advice for all staff



Governing Body, led by Chair and Safeguarding Governor – Barbara Greatorex

Key responsibilities:

- Approve this policy and strategy and subsequently review its effectiveness
- “Ensure an appropriate senior member of staff, from the school or college leadership team, is appointed to the role of DSL [with] lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) [with] the appropriate status and authority [and] time, funding, training, resources and support...” (from KCSIE 2018)
- Support the school in encouraging parents and the wider community to become engaged in online safety activities
- Have regular strategic reviews with the Head / DSL and incorporate online safety into standing discussions of safeguarding at governor meetings
- Work with the DPO and DSL/ headteacher to ensure a GDPR-compliant framework for storing data, but helping to ensure that child protection is always put first and data-protection processes support careful and legal sharing of information
- Check all school staff have read Part 1 of KCSIE; SLT and all working directly with children have read Annex A;
- “Ensure that all staff undergo safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety) at induction [and] regularly updated [...] in line with advice from the LSCB [...] online safety training for staff is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the overarching safeguarding approach.”
- “Ensure that children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety [...] as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum

All staff

Key responsibilities:

- Understand that online safety is a core part of safeguarding; as such it is part of everyone’s job – never think that someone else will pick it up
- Know who the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Online Safety Lead (OSL) are Leigh Hardie and Kirsty Pirrie
- Read Part 1, Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Read and follow this policy in conjunction with the school’s main safeguarding policy
- Record online-safety incidents in the same way as any safeguarding incident and report in accordance with school procedures.
- Sign and follow the staff acceptable use policy
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iScK3luq5NNyXHvxa_wZxQo-DK6uVCKO
- Notify the DSL if policy does not reflect practice in your 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 (which have a unique value for pupils)
- 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/students are doing and consider potential dangers and the age appropriateness of websites (ask your DSL what appropriate filtering and monitoring policies are in place)
- To 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 and data law
- Encourage pupils to follow their acceptable use policy, remind them about it and enforce school sanctions
- Notify the DSL of new trends and issues before they become a problem
- Take a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and low-level sexual harassment
- Be aware that you are often most likely to see or overhear online-safety issues (particularly relating to bullying and sexual harassment and violence) in the playground, corridors, toilets and other communal areas outside the classroom – let the DSL know
- Receive 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 of the professional reputation of all staff.

PSHE Lead – David Sitch (Assistant Head Pastoral)

Key responsibilities from September 2019 for September 2020 (quotes taken from DfE press release on 19 July 2018 on New relationships and health education in schools):

- Embed consent, mental wellbeing, healthy relationships and staying safe online into the PSHE / RE / RSE curriculum, “complementing the existing computing curriculum – and how to use technology safely, responsibly and respectfully. Lessons will also cover how to keep personal information private, and help young people navigate the virtual world, challenge harmful content and balance online and offline worlds.”
- Work closely with the DSL and all other staff to ensure an understanding of the issues, approaches and messaging within PSHE and Citizenship

Computing Curriculum Lead – currently Leigh Hardie

Key responsibilities:

- Oversee the delivery of the online safety element of the Computing curriculum in accordance with the national curriculum



- Collaborate with technical staff, network support (LGFL) and others responsible for ICT use in school to ensure a common and consistent approach, in line with acceptable-use agreements

Data Handler – Davina Maroothynaden

Key responsibilities:

- Be aware that of references to the relationship between data protection and safeguarding in key Department for Education documents 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and 'Data protection: a toolkit for schools' (April 2018), especially this quote from the latter document:

GDPR does not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. 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 should still be in place [...] Remember, the law does not prevent information about children being shared with specific authorities if it is for the purposes of safeguarding

- Work with the DSL / headteacher and governors to ensure frameworks are in place for the protection of data and of safeguarding information sharing as outlined above.
- Ensure that all access to safeguarding data is limited as appropriate, and also monitored and audited

Pupils

Key responsibilities:

- Read, understand, sign and adhere to the student/pupil acceptable use policy and review this annually
- Understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials
- Know what action to take if they or someone they know feels worried or vulnerable when using online technology
- To 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 policies cover actions out of school, including on social media
- Understand the benefits/opportunities and risks/dangers of the online world and know who to talk to at school or outside school if there are problems



Parents/carers

Key responsibilities:

- Read, sign and promote the pupil AUP and encourage their children to follow it
- Consult with the school if they have any concerns about their children's use of technology
- Promote positive online safety and model safe, responsible and positive behaviours in their own use of technology, including on social media: not sharing other's images or details without permission and refraining from posting negative, threatening or violent comments about others, including the school staff, volunteers, governors, contractors, pupils or other parents/carers.

External groups including parent associations – PTA

Key responsibilities:

- Any PTA member will sign an acceptable use policy prior to using technology or the internet within school
- Support the school in promoting online safety and data protection
- Model safe, responsible, respectful and positive behaviours in their own use of technology, including on social media: not sharing other's images or details without permission and refraining from posting negative, threatening or violent comments about others, including the school staff, volunteers, governors, contractors, pupils or other parents/carers

Education and curriculum

The following subjects have the clearest online safety links: PSHE, Computing and Citizenship.

However, as stated in the role descriptors above, it is the role of all staff to identify opportunities to thread online safety through all school activities, both outside the classroom and within the curriculum, 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 should encourage sensible use, monitor what pupils/students 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 and data law. saferesources.lgfl.net has regularly updated theme-based resources, materials and signposting for teachers and parents.



At Collingwood School, we recognise that online safety and broader digital resilience must be threaded throughout the curriculum. This is also a key feature in the pupil-led 'Collingwood Way Award'.

Annual reviews of curriculum plans / schemes of work are used as an opportunity to follow this framework more closely in its 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.

Handling online-safety concerns and incidents

It is vital that all staff recognise that online-safety is a part of safeguarding (as well as being a curriculum strand of Computing, PSHE, Citizenship and (from September 2019 for September 2020) the new statutory Health Education and Relationships Education

General concerns must be handled in the same way as any other safeguarding concern; safeguarding is often referred to as a jigsaw puzzle, so all stakeholders should err on the side of talking to the online-safety lead / designated safeguarding lead to contribute to the overall picture or highlight what might not yet be a problem.

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

School procedures for dealing with online-safety will be mostly detailed in the following policies (primarily in the first key document):

- Safeguarding Policy (including Prevent)
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Acceptable Use Policies
- Staff Data Protection Policy, agreements and other documentation (e.g. privacy statement and consent forms for data sharing, image use etc)

The school commits to take all reasonable precautions to ensure online safety, but recognises that incidents will occur both inside school and outside school (and that those from outside school will continue to impact on pupils when they come into school. All members of the school are encouraged to report issues swiftly to allow us to deal with them quickly and sensitively through the school's escalation processes.

Any suspected online risk or infringement should be reported to the designated safeguarding lead on the same day – where clearly urgent, it will be made by the end of the lesson.

Any concern/allegation about staff misuse is always referred directly to the Headteacher, unless the concern is about the Headteacher in which case the concern is referred to the Chair of Governors



and the LADO (Local Authority's Designated Officer). Staff may also use the NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline.

The school will actively seek support from other agencies as needed (i.e. the local authority, LGfL, UK Safer Internet Centre's Professionals' Online Safety Helpline, NCA CEOP, Prevent Officer, Police, IWF). We will inform parents/carers of online-safety incidents involving their children, and the Police where staff or pupils engage in or are subject to behaviour which we consider is particularly disturbing or breaks the law (particular procedures are in place for sexting).

Sexting

All schools (regardless of phase) should refer to the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) guidance on sexting (also referred to as 'youth produced sexual imagery') in schools. NB - where one of the parties is over 18, this is no longer sexting but child sexual abuse.

It is important that everyone understands that whilst sexting is illegal, pupils/students can come and talk to members of staff if they have made a mistake or had a problem in this area.

The documents referenced above and materials to support teaching about sexting can be found at sexting.lgfl.net

Bullying

Online bullying should be treated like any other form of bullying and the school's Anti-Bullying policy should be followed for online bullying, which may also be referred to as cyberbullying.

Materials to support teaching about bullying and useful Department for Education guidance and case studies are at bullying.lgfl.net

Sexual violence and harassment

Any incident of sexual harassment or violence (online or offline) should be reported to the DSL who will follow the full guidance. Staff work to foster a zero-tolerance culture (see Safeguarding Policy and KCSIE 2018 for full details).

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 are defined in the relevant Acceptable Use Policy as well as in this document, for example in the sections relating to the professional and personal use of school platforms and Google Suite.

Where pupils contravene these rules, the school behaviour policy will be applied; where staff contravene these rules, action will be taken as outlined in the Staff Behaviour Policy in the Staff handbook.

Further to these steps, the school reserves the right to withdraw – temporarily or permanently – any or all access to such technology, or the right to bring devices onto school property.

Social media incidents

See the social media section later in this document for rules and expectations of behaviour for children and adults in the Collingwood School community. These are also governed by school Acceptable Use Policies.

Breaches will be dealt with in line with the school's Positive Behaviour policy (for pupils) or Staff Behaviour Policy (for staff).

Further to this, where an incident relates to an inappropriate, upsetting, violent or abusive social media post by a member of the school community, Collingwood School 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, the school may report it to the platform it is hosted on, and may contact the Professionals' Online Safety Helpline (run by the UK Safer Internet Centre) for support or help to accelerate this process.

Data protection and data security

“GDPR does not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. 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 should still be in place [...]** Remember, **the law does not prevent information about children being shared with specific authorities if it is for the purposes of safeguarding .”**

All pupils, staff, governors, volunteers, contractors and parents are bound by the school's Staff Data Protection policy and agreements.

Rigorous controls on the LGfL TRUSTnet network, USO sign-on for technical services, firewalls and filtering all support data protection. The following data security products are also used to protect the



integrity of data, which in turn supports data protection: Google, ScholarPack, ParentPay, USO sign on for LGfL TRUST, CloudReady/NeverWare, SumDog, Rising Stars, Seesaw.

The headteacher, data handler and governors work together to ensure a GDPR-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.

Staff are reminded that all safeguarding data is highly sensitive and should be treated with the strictest confidentiality at all times, and only shared via approved channels to colleagues or agencies with appropriate permissions. The use of USO-FX / Egress to encrypt all non-internal emails is compulsory for sharing pupil data. If this is not possible, the Data Handler and DSL should be informed in advance.

Appropriate filtering and monitoring

Keeping Children Safe in Education obliges schools to “ensure appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place [and] not be able to access harmful or inappropriate material [but at the same time] be careful that “over blocking” does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.”

At this school, the internet connection is provided by LGfL TRUSTnet. This means we have a dedicated and secure, schoolsafe connection that is protected with firewalls and multiple layers of security, including a web filtering system called WebScreen, which is made specifically to protect children in schools.

Electronic communications

Email and Google Classroom

Pupils at this school do not currently use school emails; they do have Google Classroom as a communication link with staff and this is currently used by Years 5 and 6 as the homework communication tool. Staff at this school use the Gmail for all communication. General principles for email and Google Classroom use are as follows:

- Email is the only means of electronic communication to be used between staff and parents (in both directions). Use of a different platform must be approved in advance by the data-protection officer / headteacher in advance. 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 Headteacher (if by a staff member).
- Email may only be sent using the email systems above. There should be no circumstances where a private email is used; if this happens by mistake, the DSL/Headteacher/Data Handler (the particular circumstances of the incident will determine whose remit this is) should be



informed immediately. Google Classroom and Seesaw are the only the only other sites in which comments to a teacher may be made by pupils and this is monitored through the teacher.

- Staff or pupil personal data should never be sent/shared/stored on email and secure transfer of pupil data must be made via the appropriate channels (eg DfE Secure Data Transfer system)
- As Gmail is a cloud-based system, staff can use their email accounts off site and they should ensure appropriate security is in place (password protection for their device, laptop and Google accounts)
- 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
- Staff are NOT allowed to use the 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.

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. The Headteacher and Governors have delegated has been the day-to-day responsibility of updating the content of the website to Tracey Goff, Julie Butler and Leigh Hardie. The site is managed currently by Brave Thinking. The Department for Education has determined information which must be available on a school website.

Where other staff submit information for the website, they are asked to remember:

- The school has the same duty as any person or organisation to respect and uphold copyright law – schools have been fined thousands of pounds for copyright breaches. Sources must always be credited and material only used with permission. Pupils and staff at LGfL TRUSTnet schools also have access to licences for music, sound effects, art collection images and other at curriculum.lgfl.net
- Where pupil work, images or videos are published on the website, their identities are protected and full names are not published.

Cloud platforms

Collingwood School uses a number of useful cloud-based systems, which include Google for Education, ScholarPack, Rising Stars, SumDog, Seesaw and Parent Pay. This school adheres to the principles of the Department for Education document '[Cloud computing services: guidance for school leaders, school staff and governing bodies](#)'.



The Data Handler (Bursar) and Headteacher analyse and document systems and procedures before they are implemented, and regularly review them.

The following principles apply:

- The Data Handler approves new cloud systems, what may or may not be stored in them and by whom.
- 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 permission
- Only school-approved platforms are used by pupils 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)

Digital images and video

When a pupil joins the school, parents/carers are asked if they give consent for their child's image to be captured in photographs or videos and for what purpose (beyond internal assessment, which does not require express consent).

Any pupils shown in public facing materials are never identified with more than first name (and photo file names/tags do not include full names to avoid accidentally sharing them).

All staff are governed by their contract of employment and the school's Acceptable Use Policy, which covers the use of mobile phones/personal equipment for taking pictures of pupils, and where these are stored. At Collingwood, members of staff may use personal phones to capture photos or videos of pupils, but these will be appropriate, linked to school activities, taken without secrecy and not in a one-to-one situation, and always moved to school storage as soon as possible, after which they are deleted from personal devices or cloud services. The exception to this rule is for EYFS settings in which no personal phones may be used and school cameras or tablets must be used for photographs of pupils.

Photos are stored on the school network or Google Team Drive for staff in line with the retention schedule of the school Data Protection Policy.

Staff and parents are reminded annually about the importance of not sharing without permission, due to reasons of child protection, data protection, religious or cultural reasons, or simply for reasons of personal privacy.



We encourage KS2 pupils to think about their online reputation and digital footprint, so we should be good adult role models by not oversharing (or providing embarrassment in later life – and it is not for us to judge what is embarrassing or not).

Pupils are taught about how images can be manipulated in their online safety education programme and also taught to consider how to publish for a wide range of audiences which might include governors, parents or younger children

Pupils are advised to be very careful about placing any personal photos on social media. They are taught to understand the need to maintain privacy settings so as not to make public, personal information.

Pupils are taught that they should not post images or videos of others without their permission. We teach them about the risks associated with providing information with images that reveals the identity of others and their location. We teach them about the need to keep their data secure and what to do if they are subject to bullying or abuse.

Social media

Collingwood School's social media presence

Our school works on the principle that if we don't manage our social media reputation, someone else will.

Online Reputation Management (ORM) is about understanding and managing our digital footprint (everything that can be seen or read about the school online). Few parents will apply for a school place without first 'googling' the school, and the ISI pre-inspection check includes monitoring what is being said online.

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

Tracey Goff is responsible for managing our Twitter/Facebook accounts. She follows the guidance in the LGfL / Safer Internet Centre online-reputation management document [here](#).

Staff, pupils' and parents' social media presence

Social media (including here all apps, sites and games that allow sharing and interaction between users) is a fact of modern life, and as a school, we accept that many parents, staff and pupils will use them. 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 inappropriate, or which might bring the school or (particularly for staff) teaching profession into disrepute. This applies both to public pages and to private posts, e.g. parent chats, pages or groups.

If parents have a concern about the school, we would 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 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. We ask parents to respect age ratings on social media platforms wherever possible and not encourage or condone underage use. However, the school has to strike a difficult balance of not encouraging underage use at the same time as 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, which will often be from adults.

Parents can best support this by talking to their children about the apps, sites and games they use (you don't need to know them – ask your child to explain it to you), with whom, for how long, and when (late at night / in bedrooms is not helpful for a good night's sleep and productive teaching and learning at school the next day).

The school has official Facebook and Twitter accounts and will respond to general enquiries about the school, but asks parents/carers not to use these channels to communicate about their children.

Pupils are not allowed* to be 'friends' with or make a friend request** to any staff, governors, volunteers and contractors or otherwise communicate via social media.

** Exceptions may be made, e.g. for pre-existing family links, but these must be approved by the Headteacher/Principal, and should be declared upon entry of the pupil or staff member to the school).*

*** 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 Headteacher (if by a staff member).*

Staff are reminded that they are obliged not to bring the school or profession into disrepute and the easiest way to avoid this is to have the strictest privacy settings and avoid inappropriate sharing and oversharing online. They should never discuss the school or its stakeholders on social media and be careful that their personal opinions might not be attributed to the school, trust or local authority, bringing the school into disrepute.



The serious consequences of inappropriate behaviour on social media are underlined by the fact that of the 131 Prohibition Orders issued to staff in 2017, 73 involved social media/technology (and 27 of the 66 orders by August 2018).

All members of the school community are reminded that particularly in the context of social media, it is important to comply with the school policy on Digital Images and Video (see above) and permission is sought before uploading photographs, videos or any other information about other people.

Device usage

Please read the following in conjunction with acceptable use policies and the following sections of this document which all impact upon device usage: copyright, data protection, social media, misuse of technology, and digital images and video.

Personal devices

- **Pupils in Year 6** are allowed to bring mobile phones in for emergency use only if they walk to or from school unaccompanied. They are required to leave their phone in the school office each morning. Any attempt to use a phone in lessons without permission or to take illicit photographs or videos will lead to sanctions following our Positive Behaviour Policy and the withdrawal of mobile privileges. Important messages and phone calls to or from parents can be made at the school office, which will also pass on messages from parents to pupils in emergencies.
- **All staff who work directly with children** should leave their mobile phones on silent and only use them in private staff areas during school hours. See also the Digital images and video section above and Data protection and data security sections. Child/staff data should never be downloaded onto a private phone. If a staff member is expecting an important personal call when teaching or otherwise on duty, they may leave their phone with the school office to answer on their behalf or ask for the message to be left with the school office.
- **Volunteers, contractors, governors** should leave their phones in their pockets and turned off. Under no circumstances should they be used in the presence of children or to take photographs or videos. If this is required (e.g. for contractors to take photos of equipment or buildings), permission of the headteacher should be sought (the headteacher may choose to delegate this) and this should be done in the presence of a member staff.
- **Parents** are asked to leave their phones in their pockets and turned off when they are on site. They should ask permission before taking any photos, e.g. of displays in corridors or classrooms, and avoid capturing other children. When at school events, parents should not use their phones to take photographs of their child unless given consent. On no account should images be uploaded to social media sites but should be kept for personal viewing.



Network / internet access on school devices

- **Pupils** are not allowed networked file access via personal devices. However, they are allowed to access the school wireless internet network for school-related internet use within the framework of the acceptable use policy. All such use is monitored.
- **All staff who work directly with children** should leave their mobile phones on silent and only use them in private staff areas during school hours. Child/staff data should never be downloaded onto a private phone.
- **Volunteers, contractors, governors** have no access to the school network or wireless internet on personal devices.
- **Parents** have no access to the school network or wireless internet on personal devices.

Searching and confiscation

In line with the DfE guidance 'Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools', the Headteacher and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils/property on school premises. 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, violence or bullying.

Reviewed by L Hardie - Sept 2018