



Euxton CE Primary School



Online Safety Policy

'In our Christian family we all SHINE in the light of Jesus'

Scope of the Online Safety Policy

This Online Safety Policy outlines the commitment of Euxton Church of England Primary School to safeguard members of our school community online in accordance with statutory guidance and best practice.

This Online Safety Policy applies to all members of the school community (including staff, learners, governors, volunteers, parents and carers, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of school digital systems, both in and out of the school. It also applies to the use of personal digital technology on the school site (where allowed).

The school will deal with such incidents within this policy and associated behaviour and anti-bullying policies and will, where known, inform parents/carers of incidents of inappropriate online safety behaviour that take place out of school.

Policy development, monitoring and review

This Online Safety Policy has been developed by the Online Safety Group made up of:

- Headteacher and Senior Leaders
- Online Safety Lead
- Staff – including Teachers/Support Staff/Technical staff
- Governors
- Parents and Carers

Consultation with the whole school community has taken place through a range of formal and informal meetings.

Schedule for development, monitoring and review

This Online Safety Policy was approved by the <i>school governing body</i> on:	<i>September 2023</i>
The implementation of this Online Safety Policy will be monitored by:	<i>Headteacher: Mairi Ash</i> <i>Computing Subject Lead & Online Safety Lead: Emma Obertelli</i>
Monitoring will take place at regular intervals:	<i>Termly</i>
The <i>governing body</i> will receive a report on the implementation of the Online Safety Policy generated by the monitoring group (which will include anonymous details of online safety incidents) at regular intervals:	<i>Termly</i>
The Online Safety Policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly in the light of any significant new technological developments, new threats to online safety or incidents that have taken place. The next anticipated review date will be:	<i>September 2024</i>
Should serious online safety incidents take place, the following external persons/agencies should be informed:	<i>LA safeguarding officer, LADO, Police</i>

Process for monitoring the impact of the Online Safety Policy

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- Logs of reported incidents
- Monitoring logs of internet activity (including filtering/sites visited)
- Internal monitoring data for network activity
- Surveys/questionnaires of:
 - pupils
 - parents and carers
 - staff

Policy and leadership

Responsibilities

To ensure the online safeguarding of members of our school community it is important that all members of that community work together to develop safe and responsible online behaviours, learning from each other and from good practice elsewhere, reporting inappropriate online behaviours, concerns, and misuse as soon as these become apparent. While this will be a team effort, the following sections outline the online safety roles and responsibilities of individuals and groups within the school.

Headteacher and senior leaders

- The headteacher has a duty of care for ensuring the safety (including online safety) of members of the school community and fostering a culture of safeguarding, though the day-to-day responsibility for online safety is held by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, as defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- The headteacher and (at least) another member of the senior leadership team should be aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safety allegation being made against a member of staff.
- The headteacher/senior leaders are responsible for ensuring that the Designated Safeguarding Lead / Online Safety Lead, IT provider/technical staff, and other relevant staff carry out their responsibilities effectively and receive suitable training to enable them to carry out their roles and train other colleagues, as relevant.
- The headteacher/senior leaders will ensure that there is a system in place to allow for monitoring and support of those in school who carry out the internal online safety monitoring role.
- The headteacher/senior leaders will receive regular monitoring reports from the Designated Safeguarding Lead / Online Safety Lead.
- The headteacher/senior leaders will work with the responsible Governor, the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and IT service providers in all aspects of filtering and monitoring.

Governors

The DfE guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education” states:

“Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure there are appropriate policies and procedures in place in order for appropriate action to be taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children’s welfare this includes ... online safety”

Governors are responsible for the approval of the Online Safety Policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy e.g. by asking the questions posed in the UKCIS document “Online Safety in Schools and Colleges – questions from the Governing Body”.

This review will be carried out by the governing body, whose members will receive regular information about online safety incidents and monitoring reports. A member of the governing body will take on the role of Online Safety Governor to include:

- regular meetings with the Designated Safeguarding Lead / Online Safety Lead
- regularly receiving (collated and anonymised) reports of online safety incidents
- checking that provision outlined in the Online Safety Policy (e.g. online safety education provision and staff training is taking place as intended)
- ensuring that the filtering and monitoring provision is reviewed and recorded, at least annually. (The review will be conducted by members of the SLT, the DSL, and the IT service provider and involve the responsible governor) - in-line with the DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards
- receiving (at least) basic cyber-security training to enable the governors to check that the school meets the DfE Cyber-Security Standards

The governing body will also support the school in encouraging parents/carers and the wider community to become engaged in online safety activities.

Designated Safety Lead (DSL)

The DSL will:

- hold the lead responsibility for online safety, within their safeguarding role.
- receive relevant and regularly updated training in online safety to enable them to understand the risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online
- meet regularly with the online safety governor to discuss current issues, review (anonymised) incidents and filtering and monitoring logs and ensuring that annual (at least) filtering and monitoring checks are carried out
- attend relevant governing body meetings
- report regularly to headteacher/senior leadership team
- be responsible for receiving reports of online safety incidents and handling them, and deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies, ensuring that all incidents are recorded
- liaise with staff and IT providers on matters of safety and safeguarding and welfare (including online and digital safety)

Online Safety Lead

The Online Safety Lead will:

- lead the Online Safety Group
- work closely on a day-to-day basis with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- receive reports of online safety issues, being aware of the potential for serious child protection concerns and ensure that these are logged to inform future online safety developments
- have a leading role in establishing and reviewing the school online safety policies/documents

- promote an awareness of and commitment to online safety education / awareness raising across the school and beyond
- liaise with curriculum leaders to ensure that the online safety curriculum is planned, mapped, embedded and evaluated
- ensure that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident taking place and the need to immediately report those incidents
- provide (or identify sources of) training and advice for staff/governors/parents/carers/learners
- liaise with (school/local authority/MAT/external provider) technical staff, pastoral staff and support staff (as relevant)
- receive regularly updated training to allow them to understand how digital technologies are used and are developing (particularly by learners) with regard to the areas defined In Keeping Children Safe in Education:
 - content
 - contact
 - conduct
 - commerce

Curriculum Leads

Curriculum Leads will work with the DSL/OSL to develop a planned and coordinated online safety education programme.

This will be provided through:

- the computing curriculum
- PSHE programmes
- assemblies and pastoral programmes
- through relevant national initiatives and opportunities e.g. Safer Internet Day and Anti-bullying week.

Teaching and support staff

School staff are responsible for ensuring that:

- they have an awareness of current online safety matters/trends and of the current school Online Safety Policy and practices
- they understand that online safety is a core part of safeguarding
- they have read, understood, and signed the staff acceptable use agreement (AUA)
- they immediately report any suspected misuse or problem to the DSL for investigation/action, in line with the school safeguarding procedures
- all digital communications with learners and parents/carers are on a professional level and only carried out using official school systems
- online safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other activities
- ensure learners understand and follow the Online Safety Policy and acceptable use agreements, have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations

- they supervise and monitor the use of digital technologies, iPads, cameras, etc., in lessons and other school activities (where allowed) and implement current policies regarding these devices
- in lessons where internet use is pre-planned learners are guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches
- where lessons take place using live-streaming or video-conferencing, there is regard to national safeguarding guidance and local safeguarding policies
- there is a zero-tolerance approach to incidents of online-bullying, sexual harassment, discrimination, hatred etc
- they model safe, responsible, and professional online behaviours in their own use of technology, including out of school and in their use of social media.

IT Provider

Our technology service is provided by Ed-IT Solutions. As a school, we ensure that our provider carries out all the online safety measures that the school's obligations and responsibilities require. The provider follows and implements our school Online Safety Policy and procedures.

The IT Provider is responsible for ensuring that:

- they are aware of and follow the school Online Safety Policy to carry out their work effectively in line with school policy
- the school technical infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack
- the school meets the required online safety technical requirements as identified by the guidance from local authority / MAT or other relevant body
- there is clear, safe, and managed control of user access to networks and devices
- they keep up to date with online safety technical information in order to effectively carry out their online safety role and to inform and update others as relevant
- the use of technology is regularly and effectively monitored in order that any misuse/attempted misuse can be reported to the DSL for investigation and action
- the filtering policy is applied and updated on a regular basis and its implementation is not the sole responsibility of any single person

Learners

- are responsible for using the school digital technology systems in accordance with the learner acceptable use agreement and Online Safety Policy. The learner acceptable use agreement is signed each year and displayed within the classroom
- should understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and know how to do so
- should know what to do if they or someone they know feels vulnerable when using online technology.
- should understand the importance of adopting good online safety practice when using digital technologies out of school and realise that the school's Online Safety Policy covers their actions out of school, if related to their membership of the school.

Parents and carers

Parents and carers play a crucial role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use the online services and devices in an appropriate way.

The school will take every opportunity to help parents and carers understand these issues through:

- publishing the school Online Safety Policy on the school website
- providing them with a copy of the learners' acceptable use agreement
- publish information about appropriate use of social media relating to posts concerning the school.
- seeking their permissions concerning digital images, cloud services
- parents'/carers' evenings, newsletters, website, social media and information about national/local online safety campaigns and literature.

Community users

Community users who access school systems/website/learning platform as part of the wider school provision will be expected to follow the school code of conduct and online safety policy.

Online Safety Group

The Online Safety Group has the following members:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Online Safety Lead
- senior leaders
- online safety governor
- technical staff
- teacher and support staff members
- learners
- parents/carers

Members of the Online Safety Group will assist the DSL/OSL with:

- the production/review/monitoring of the school Online Safety Policy/documents
- the production/review/monitoring of the school filtering policy and requests for filtering changes
- mapping and reviewing the online safety education provision – ensuring relevance, breadth and progression and coverage
- reviewing network/filtering/monitoring/incident logs, where possible
- encouraging the contribution of learners to staff awareness, emerging trends and the school online safety provision
- consulting stakeholders – including staff/parents/carers about the online safety provision
- monitoring improvement actions identified through use of the 360-degree safe self-review tool.

Professional Standards

There is an expectation that required professional standards will be applied to online safety as in other aspects of school life i.e., policies and protocols are in place for the use of online communication technology between the staff and other members of the school and wider community, using officially sanctioned school mechanisms.

Acceptable use

The school has defined what it regards as acceptable/unacceptable use and this is shown in the tables below.

Acceptable use agreements

The Online Safety Policy and acceptable use agreements define acceptable use at the school. The acceptable use agreements will be communicated/re-enforced through:

- staff induction and handbook
- digital signage
- posters/notices around where technology is used
- communication with parents/carers
- built into education sessions
- school website
- peer support.

User actions		Acceptable	Acceptable at certain times	Acceptable for nominated users	Unacceptable	Unacceptable and illegal
Users shall not access online content (including apps, games, sites) to make, post, download, upload, data transfer, communicate or pass on, material, remarks, proposals or comments that contain or relate to:	<p>Any illegal activity for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child sexual abuse imagery* • Child sexual abuse/exploitation/grooming • Terrorism • Encouraging or assisting suicide • Offences relating to sexual images i.e., revenge and extreme pornography • Incitement to and threats of violence • Hate crime • Public order offences - harassment and stalking • Drug-related offences • Weapons / firearms offences • Fraud and financial crime including money laundering 					X
Users shall not undertake activities that might be classed as cyber-crime under the Computer Misuse Act (1990)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using another individual's username or ID and password to access data, a program, or parts of a system that the user is not authorised to access (even if the initial access is authorised) • Gaining unauthorised access to school networks, data and files, through the use of computers/devices • Creating or propagating computer viruses or other harmful files • Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (e.g., financial / personal information, databases, computer / network access codes and passwords) • Disable/Impair/Disrupt network functionality through the use of computers/devices • Using penetration testing equipment (without relevant permission) <p>N.B. Schools will need to decide whether these should be dealt with internally or by the police. Serious or repeat offences should be reported to the police. The National Crime Agency has a remit to prevent learners becoming involved in cyber-crime and harness their activity in positive ways- further information here</p>					X
Users shall not undertake activities that are	Accessing inappropriate material/activities online in a school setting including pornography, gambling, drugs. (Informed by the school's filtering practices and/or AUAs)				X	

User actions		Acceptable	Acceptable at certain times	Acceptable for nominated users	Unacceptable	Unacceptable and illegal
not illegal but are classed as unacceptable in school policies:	Promotion of any kind of discrimination				X	
	Using school systems to run a private business				X	
	Using systems, applications, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering/monitoring or other safeguards employed by the school				X	
	Infringing copyright				X	
	Unfair usage (downloading/uploading large files that hinders others in their use of the internet)			X	X	
	Any other information which may be offensive to others or breaches the integrity of the ethos of the school or brings the school into disrepute				X	

When using communication technologies, the school considers the following as good practice:

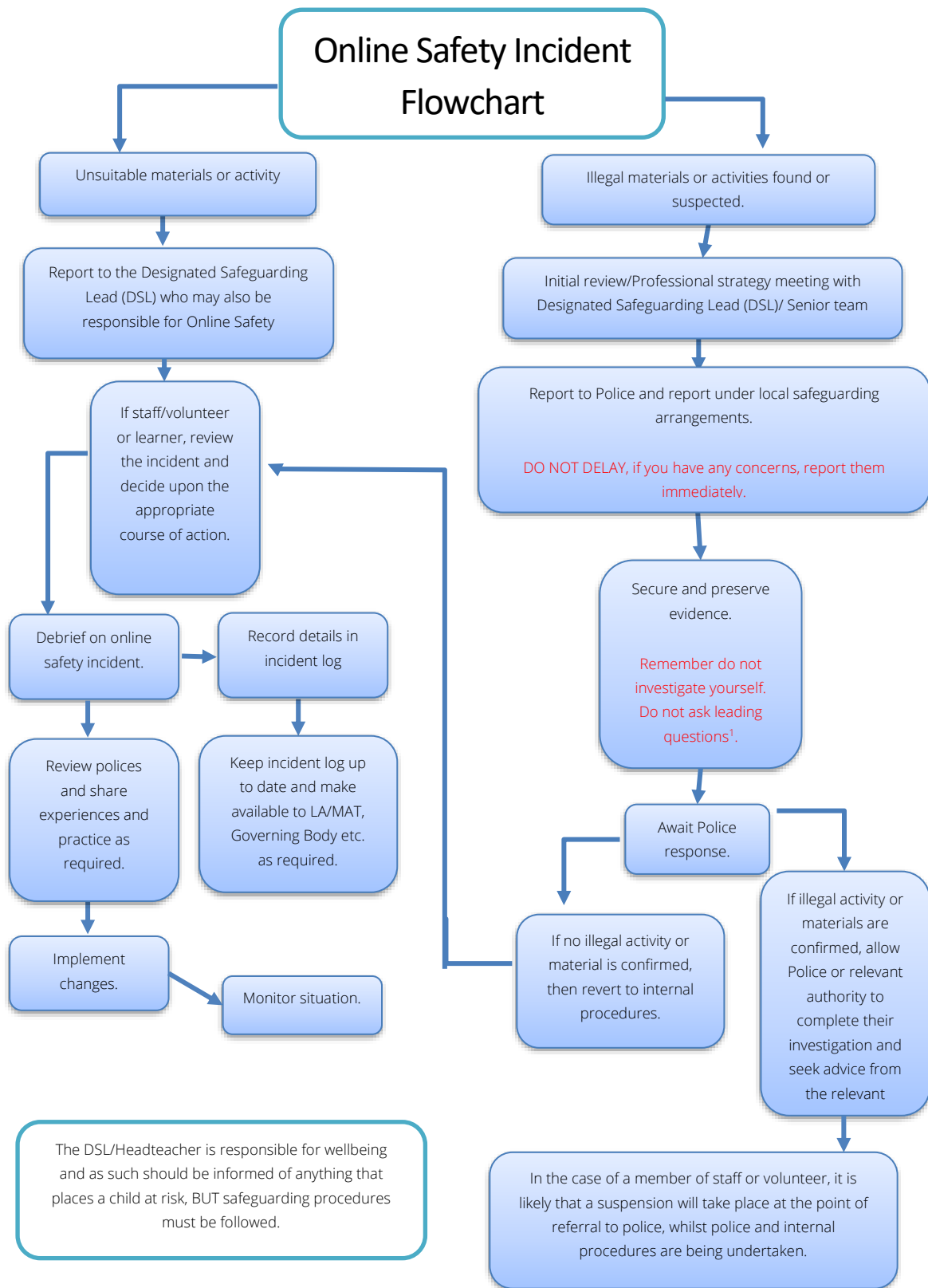
- when communicating in a professional capacity, staff should ensure that the technologies they use are officially sanctioned by the school.
- any digital communication between staff and learners or parents/carers (e-mail, social media, learning platform, etc.) must be professional in tone and content. Personal e-mail addresses, text messaging or social media must not be used for these communications.
- staff should be expected to follow good practice when using personal social media regarding their own professional reputation and that of the school and its community
- users should immediately report to a nominated person – in accordance with the school policy – the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication.
- relevant policies and permissions should be followed when posting information online e.g., school website and social media. Only school e-mail addresses should be used to identify members of staff and learners.

Reporting and responding

The school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure online safety for all school users but recognises that incidents may occur inside and outside of the school (with impact on the school) which will need intervention. The school will ensure:

- there are clear reporting routes which are understood and followed by all members of the school community which are consistent with the school safeguarding procedures, and with the whistleblowing, complaints and managing allegations policies.
- all members of the school community will be made aware of the need to report online safety issues/incidents
- reports will be dealt with as soon as is practically possible once they are received
- the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Online Safety Lead and other responsible staff have appropriate skills and training to deal with online safety risks.
- if there is any suspicion that the incident involves any illegal activity or the potential for serious harm ([see flowchart](#)) the incident must be escalated through the agreed school safeguarding procedures.

The school will make the flowchart below available to staff to support the decision-making process for dealing with online safety incidents.



School actions

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

Responding to Learner Actions

Incidents	Refer to class teacher/tutor	Refer to Headteacher	Refer to Police/Social Work	Refer to local authority technical support for advice/action	Inform parents/carers	Remove device/network/internet access rights	Issue a warning	Further sanction, in line with behaviour policy
Deliberately accessing or trying to access material that could be considered illegal (see list in earlier section on User Actions on unsuitable/inappropriate activities).		x	x					
Attempting to access or accessing the school network, using another user's account (staff or learner) or allowing others to access school network by sharing username and passwords	x	x						
Corrupting or destroying the data of other users.	x	x						
Sending an e-mail, text or message that is regarded as offensive, harassment or of a bullying nature	x	x	x		x			x
Unauthorised downloading or uploading of files or use of file sharing.	x	x	x					
Using proxy sites or other means to subvert the school's filtering system.	x	x	x		x			
Accidentally accessing offensive or pornographic material and failing to report the incident.	x	x	x	x	x			
Deliberately accessing or trying to access offensive or pornographic material.	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Receipt or transmission of material that infringes the copyright of another person or infringes the Data Protection Act.	x	x	x	x				
Unauthorised use of digital devices (including taking images)	x	x	x					
Unauthorised use of online services	x	x	x					
Actions which could bring the school into disrepute or breach the integrity or the ethos of the school.	x	x	x		x		x	
Continued infringements of the above, following previous warnings or sanctions.					x			x

Responding to Staff Actions

Incidents	Refer to Headteacher/	Refer to local authority/MAT/HR	Refer to Police	Refer to LA / Technical Support Staff for action re filtering, etc.	Issue a warning	Suspension	Disciplinary action
Deliberately accessing or trying to access material that could be considered illegal (see list in earlier section on unsuitable / inappropriate activities)	X	X	X		X		
Deliberate actions to breach data protection or network security rules.	X	X			X		X
Deliberately accessing or trying to access offensive or pornographic material	X	X			X		X
Corrupting or destroying the data of other users or causing deliberate damage to hardware or software	X	X			X		X
Using proxy sites or other means to subvert the school's filtering system.	X	X			X		X
Unauthorised downloading or uploading of files or file sharing	X				X		
Breaching copyright or licensing regulations.	X	X			X		X
Allowing others to access school network by sharing username and passwords or attempting to access or accessing the school network, using another person's account.	X						
Sending an e-mail, text or message that is regarded as offensive, harassment or of a bullying nature	X	X			X		X
Using personal e-mail/social networking/messaging to carry out digital communications with learners and parents/carers	X	X			X		X
Inappropriate personal use of the digital technologies e.g. social media / personal e-mail	X				X		
Careless use of personal data, e.g. displaying, holding or transferring data in an insecure manner	X						
Actions which could compromise the staff member's professional standing	X	X			X		X
Actions which could bring the school into disrepute or breach the integrity or the ethos of the school.	X	X			X		X
Failing to report incidents whether caused by deliberate or accidental actions	X						
Continued infringements of the above, following previous warnings or sanctions.	X	X	X		X		X

Online Safety Education Programme

While regulation and technical solutions are particularly important, their use must be balanced by educating learners to take a responsible approach. The education of learners in online safety is therefore an essential part of the school's online safety provision. Learners need the help and support of the school to recognise and avoid online safety risks and develop their resilience.

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

- A planned online safety curriculum through the online platform Purple Mash, for all year groups
- Lessons are matched to need; are age-related and build on prior learning
- Lessons are context-relevant with agreed objectives leading to clear and evidenced outcomes
- Learner need and progress are addressed through effective planning and assessment
- Digital competency is planned and effectively threaded through the appropriate digital pillars in other curriculum areas e.g. PSHE
- it incorporates/makes use of relevant national initiatives and opportunities e.g. [Safer Internet Day](#) and [Anti-bullying week](#)
- vulnerability is actively addressed as part of a personalised online safety curriculum eg, for victims of abuse and SEND
- the programme will be accessible to learners at different ages and abilities such as those with additional learning needs or those with English as an additional language.
- staff should act as good role models in their use of digital technologies, the internet and mobile devices
- in lessons where internet use is pre-planned, it is best practice that learners should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches
- where learners are allowed to freely search the internet, staff should be vigilant in supervising the learners and monitoring the content of the websites the young people visit
- it is accepted that from time to time, for good educational reasons, students may need to research topics, (e.g. racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff should be able to request the temporary removal of those sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Any request to do so, should be auditable, with clear reasons for the need
- the online safety education programme should be relevant and up to date to ensure the quality of learning and outcomes.

Staff/volunteers

All staff will receive termly online safety training and understand their responsibilities, as outlined in this policy. Training will be offered as follows:

- a planned programme of formal online safety and data protection training will be made available to all staff. This will be regularly updated and reinforced. An audit of the online safety training needs of all staff will be carried out regularly.
- the training will be an integral part of the school's annual safeguarding and data protection training for all staff
- all new staff will receive online safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the school online safety policy and acceptable use agreements. It includes explicit reference to classroom management, professional conduct, online reputation and the need to model positive online behaviours.

Governors

Governors should take part in online safety training/awareness sessions, with particular importance for those who are members of any sub-committee/group involved in technology/online safety/health and safety/safeguarding. This may be offered in several ways such as:

- attendance at training provided by the local authority/MAT or other relevant organisation
- participation in school training / information sessions for staff or parents

A higher level of training will be made available to (at least) the Online Safety Governor. This will include:

- Cyber-security training (at least at a basic level)
- Training to allow the governor to understand the school's filtering and monitoring provision, in order that they can participate in the required checks and review.

Technology

The school is responsible for ensuring that the school infrastructure/network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible and that policies and procedures approved within this policy are implemented. The school should ensure that all staff are made aware of policies and procedures in place on a regular basis and explain that everyone is responsible for online safety and data protection.

Filtering & Monitoring

The school filtering and monitoring provision is agreed by senior leaders, governors and the IT Service Provider and is regularly reviewed (at least annually) and updated in response to changes in technology and patterns of online safety incidents/behaviours

Day to day management of filtering and monitoring systems requires the specialist knowledge of both safeguarding and IT staff to be effective. The DSL will have lead responsibility for safeguarding and online safety and the IT service provider will have technical responsibility.

Our Web Filtering and Online Protection is provided through Lancashire County Council, Education Digital Service. The Web Filtering and Online Protection (Netsweeper) service provides safe, filtered and logged web access for both staff and students. It also provides a monitoring and filtering service that helps safeguard students.

Filtering

- the school manages access to content across its systems for all users and on all devices using the school's internet provision. The filtering provided meets the standards defined in the DfE Filtering standards for schools and colleges and the guidance provided in the UK Safer Internet Centre [Appropriate filtering](#).
- illegal content (e.g., child sexual abuse images) is filtered by the broadband or filtering provider by actively employing the Internet Watch Foundation URL list and the police assessed list of unlawful terrorist content, produced on behalf of the Home Office. Content lists are regularly updated
- there are established and effective routes for users to report inappropriate content, recognising that no system can be 100% effective
- there is a clear process in place to deal with, and log, requests/approvals for filtering changes
- filtering logs are regularly reviewed and alert the Designated Safeguarding Lead to breaches of the filtering policy, which are then acted upon. They are saved and shared with the online safety lead and governors

If necessary, the school will seek advice from, and report issues to, the SWGfL [Report Harmful Content](#) site.

Monitoring

The school has monitoring systems in place to protect the school, systems and users:

- The school monitors all network use across all its devices and services.
- monitoring reports are urgently picked up, acted on and outcomes are recorded by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, all users are aware that the network (and devices) are monitored.
- There are effective protocols in place to report abuse/misuse. There is a clear process for prioritising response to alerts that require rapid safeguarding intervention.

- Management of serious safeguarding alerts is consistent with safeguarding policy and practice.

The school follows the UK Safer Internet Centre [Appropriate Monitoring](#) guidance and protects users and school systems through the use of the appropriate blend of strategies informed by the school's risk assessment. These include:

- physical monitoring (adult supervision in the classroom)
- internet use is logged, regularly monitored and reviewed
- filtering logs are regularly analysed and breaches are reported to senior leaders

Mobile technologies

The school acceptable use agreements for staff, learners, parents, and carers outline the expectations around the use of mobile technologies.

The school allows:

	School devices		Personal devices		
	School owned for individual use	School owned for multiple users	Student owned	Staff owned	Visitor owned
Allowed in school	Yes	Yes	Yes (handed into school office at the start of the day)	Yes	Yes
Full network access	Yes	Yes			
Internet only				Yes	Yes
No network access					

Social media

The school provides the following measures to ensure reasonable steps are in place to minimise risk of harm to learners through:

- ensuring that personal information is not published.
- education/training being provided including acceptable use, age restrictions, social media risks, digital and video images policy, checking of settings, data protection and reporting issues.
- clear reporting guidance, including responsibilities, procedures, and sanctions.
- risk assessment, including legal risk.
- guidance for learners, parents/carers

School staff should ensure that:

- No reference should be made in social media to learners, parents/carers or school staff.
- they do not engage in online discussion on personal matters relating to members of the school community.
- personal opinions should not be attributed to the school.
- security settings on personal social media profiles are regularly checked to minimise risk of loss of personal information.
- they act as positive role models in their use of social media

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

- a process for approval by senior leaders
- clear processes for the administration, moderation, and monitoring of these accounts – involving at least two members of staff
- a code of behaviour for users of the accounts
- systems for reporting and dealing with abuse and misuse
- understanding of how incidents may be dealt with under school disciplinary procedures.

Personal use

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

Monitoring of public social media

- As part of active social media engagement, the school may pro-actively monitor the Internet for public postings about the school.
- the school should effectively respond to social media comments made by others according to a defined policy or process.
- when parents/carers express concerns about the school on social media we will urge them to make direct contact with the school, in private, to resolve the matter. Where this cannot be resolved, parents/carers should be informed of the school complaints procedure.

Digital and video images

The school will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement policies to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm:

- the school may use live-streaming or video-conferencing services in line with national and local safeguarding guidance / policies.
- when using digital images, staff will inform and educate learners about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images.
- staff/volunteers must be aware of those learners whose images must not be taken/published. Those images should only be taken on school devices. The personal devices of staff should not be used for such purposes
- in accordance with guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office, parents/carers are welcome to take videos and digital images of their children at school events for their own personal use (as such use is not covered by the Data Protection Act). To respect everyone's privacy and in some cases protection, these images should not be published/made publicly available on social networking sites, nor should parents/carers comment on any activities involving other *learners* in the digital/video images
- learners' full names will not be used anywhere on a website or blog, particularly in association with photographs.
- written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of learners are taken for use in school or published on the school website/social media.
- parents/carers will be informed of the purposes for the use of images, how they will be stored and for how long – in line with the school data protection policy
- images will be securely stored

Data Protection

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the current data protection legislation.

The school must ensure that:

- It has a Data Protection Policy.
- It has paid the appropriate fee to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).
- It has appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO).
- It will hold the minimum personal data necessary to enable it to perform its function and it will not hold it for longer than necessary for the purposes it was collected for.
- Data held must be accurate and up to date. Inaccuracies are corrected without unnecessary delay.
- The lawful basis for processing personal data (including, where relevant, consent) has been identified and documented and details provided in a Privacy Notice.
- Where special category data is processed, a lawful basis and a separate condition for processing have been identified.
- Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) are carried out.

Outcomes

The impact of the Online Safety Policy and practice is regularly evaluated through the review/audit of online safety incident logs; behaviour/bullying reports; surveys of staff, learners; parents/carers and is reported to relevant groups:

- there is balanced professional debate about the evidence taken from the reviews/audits and the impact of preventative work e.g., online safety education, awareness, and training
- there are well-established routes to regularly report patterns of online safety incidents and outcomes to school leadership and Governors
- parents/carers are informed of patterns of online safety incidents as part of the school's online safety awareness raising
- online safety (and related) policies and procedures are regularly updated in response to the evidence gathered from these reviews/audits/professional debate
- the evidence of impact is shared with other schools, agencies and LAs to help ensure the development of a consistent and effective local online safety strategy.