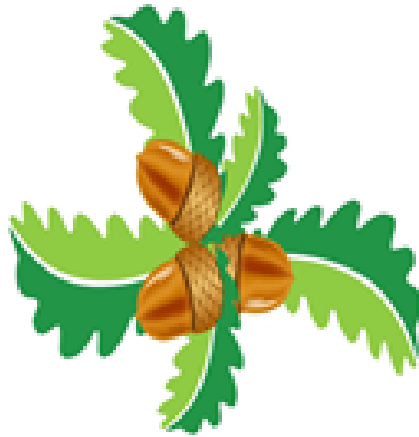


Oakdale Primary School



A caring family of
happy learners

Online Safety Policy

Updated March 2025

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1. Introduction

This online safety policy recognises the commitment of our school to keeping staff and pupils safe online and acknowledges its part in the school's overall safeguarding policies and procedures. It shows our commitment to meeting the requirement to keep pupils safe when using technology. We believe the whole school community can benefit from the opportunities provided by the internet and other technologies used in everyday life. The online safety policy supports this by identifying the risks and the steps we are taking to avoid them. The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:

- 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. If you feel your pupils, students or staff are at risk, please report it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group.

(DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024)

Children's lives are increasingly online, and with that comes growing exposure to online abuse, cyberbullying, and exploitation. This policy shows our commitment to developing a set of safe and responsible behaviours that will enable us to reduce the risks whilst continuing to benefit from the opportunities. We wish to ensure that all members of the school community are aware that unlawful or unsafe behaviour is unacceptable and that, where necessary disciplinary or legal action will be taken. We aim to minimise the risk of misplaced or malicious allegations being made against adults who work with pupils.

Our expectations for responsible and appropriate conduct are set out in our Acceptable Use Policies (AUP) which we expect all staff and pupils to follow.

As part of our commitment to online safety we also recognise our obligation to implement a range of security measures to protect the school network and facilities from attack, compromise and inappropriate use and to protect school data and other information assets from loss or inappropriate use.

The scope of this policy

- This policy applies to the whole school community including the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Governing Body (GB), all staff employed directly or indirectly by the school, volunteers, visitors and all pupils.
- The Senior Leadership Team and school governors will ensure that any relevant or new legislation that may impact upon the provision for online safety within school will be reflected within this policy.
- 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 is pertinent to incidents of online bullying, or other online safety related incidents covered by this policy, which may take place out of school, but is linked to membership of the school.

- The Education Act 2011 gives the school the power to confiscate and search the contents of any mobile device if the Headteacher believes it contains any material that could be used to bully or harass others.
- The school will clearly detail its management of incidents within this policy, associated behaviour and anti-bullying policies and will, where known, inform parents and carers of incidents of inappropriate online behaviour that take place out of school.

The person in school taking on the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Kirsti Britton.

The person in school taking on the role of Online Safety lead is Clare McDonagh.

The Governor with an overview of Online Safety matters is Chris Firth.

This Online Safety policy was created by Clare McDonagh and Kirsti Britton.

The following group was consulted during the creation of this Online Safety policy: SLT

The policy was completed on: 23.03.25.

The policy was approved by Oakdale Primary Governing Body : May 2025.

The policy is due for review no later than: May 2026.

Implementation of the policy

- The Senior Leadership Team will ensure all members of school staff are aware of the contents of the school Online Safety Policy and the use of any new technology within school.
- All staff, pupils, occasional and external users of our school ICT equipment will be given on arrival the Safeguarding Guide for Visitors and the Staff Mobile Phone Policy.
- All amendments will be published and awareness sessions will be held for all members of the school community.
- Online safety will be taught as part of the curriculum in an age-appropriate way to all pupils.
- The Online Safety Policy will be made available to parents, carers and others via the school website or other online learning tools/apps.

The following local and national guidance are acknowledged and included as part of our Online Safety Policy:

1. Peterborough LCSB Guidance

Oakdale Safeguarding procedures will be followed where an online safety issue occurs which gives rise to any concerns related to child protection. In particular we acknowledge the specific guidance in:

<https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/>

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/healthcare/safeguarding-children>

Oakdale Safeguarding procedures covers awareness of, and response to, issues related to child abuse and the internet.

In particular, we note and will follow the advice given where actions are to be taken where an Employee has Concerns about a Colleague. Concerns about staff conduct online or any circumstance should follow the Whistleblowing Policy.

2. Government Guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), and its advice for schools on:

- [Teaching online safety in schools](#)
- [Preventing and tackling bullying](#) and [cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff](#)
- [Relationships and sex education](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation](#)
- [Protecting children from radicalisation](#).

It reflects existing legislation, including but not limited to the [Education Act 1996](#) (as amended), the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#) and the [Equality Act 2010](#). In addition, it reflects the [Education Act 2011](#), which has given teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by, if necessary, searching for and deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

- [Generative artificial intelligence \(AI\) in education](#) (DfE Updated January 2025)
- [Guidance Online Safety Act: explainer](#) (Department for Science, Innovation & Technology October 2023 - Updated 17 March 2025)

2. Responsibilities of the School Community

We believe that online safety is the responsibility of the whole school community and that everyone has their part to play in ensuring all members of the community are able to benefit from the opportunities that technology provides for learning and teaching. The following responsibilities demonstrate how each member of the community will contribute.

The senior leadership team accepts the following responsibilities:

- The headteacher and governing body will take ultimate responsibility for the online safety of the school community
- Appoint a senior member of staff to the role of designated safeguarding lead (DSL) to take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety)
- Kirsti Britton/ DSL (supported by the Deputy DSL's Cathrine Sadlier and Ilona Wrigley, also Clare McDonagh/ the online safety lead) to take day to day responsibility for online safety. Biannual training will be arranged through external providers to keep abreast of the latest technologies/trends.
- Ensure adequate technical support is in place to maintain a secure ICT system
- Ensure policies and procedures are in place to ensure the integrity of the school's information and data assets
- Ensure liaison with the governors
- Develop and promote an online safety culture within the school community
- Ensure that all staff, pupils and other users agree to the Acceptable Use Policy and that new staff have online safety included as part of their induction procedures
- Make appropriate resources, training and support available to all members of the school community to ensure they are able to carry out their roles effectively with regard to online safety
- Monitor online Class Behaviour logs and where necessary to record monitor MyConcern logs; ensure that the correct procedures are followed should an online safety incident occur in school and review incidents to see if further action is required

Responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Review this role alongside the online safety lead role (if relevant) to ensure it matches the responsibilities in your school:

- Be the first point of contact in school on all online safety matters
- Be aware of and understand the risks to young people from online activities such as grooming for sexual exploitation, sexting, online bullying, radicalisation and others.
- Any AI-related incidents, such as data breaches or inappropriate outputs, must be reported promptly.
- Attend regular training and updates on online safety issues. Stay up to date through use of online communities, social media and relevant websites/newsletters.
- Ensure delivery of an appropriate level of training in online safety issues (Joint responsibility with Online Safety Lead)
- Create and maintain online safety policies and procedures (Joint responsibility with Online Safety Lead)

- Ensure that staff and pupils know the procedure to follow should they encounter any material or communication that makes them feel uncomfortable and how to report an online safety incident
- Monitor any online safety incidents which are recorded on the Class Behavioral Log and respond to any incidents recorded on MyConcern
- Liaise with the Local Authority, the Local Safeguarding Children’s Partnership and other relevant agencies as appropriate
- Understand and raise awareness of the issues and risks surrounding the sharing of personal or sensitive information.
- Raise awareness of the particular issues which may arise for vulnerable pupils in the school’s approach to online safety ensuring that staff know the correct child protection procedures to follow.

Responsibilities of the Online Safety Lead

- Promote an awareness and commitment to online safety throughout the school
- Take day to day responsibility for online safety within the school reporting to the DSL
- Develop an understanding of current online safety issues, guidance and appropriate legislation through regular training (Joint responsibility with DSL)
- Create and maintain online safety policies and procedures (Joint responsibility with DSL)
- Ensure that online safety education is embedded across the curriculum and when/where appropriate ensure that good practice guides for online safety are displayed in classrooms and around the school
- Ensure that online safety is promoted to parents and carers
- Ensure that any person who is not a member of school staff, who makes use of the school ICT equipment in any context, is made aware of the Safeguarding Guide for Visitors and the Staff Mobile Phone Policy
- Monitor and report on online safety issues to the DSL, the leadership team and the safeguarding/online safety governor as appropriate
- To promote the positive use of technologies and the internet
- To ensure that the school Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Policies are reviewed at prearranged time intervals.

Responsibilities of all Staff

- Read, understand and help promote

the school’s online safety policies and guidance

- Read, understand and adhere to the staff AUP
- Take responsibility for ensuring the safety of sensitive school data and information
- Develop and maintain an awareness of current online safety issues, legislation and guidance relevant to their work
- Maintain a professional level of conduct in their personal use of technology at all times
- Ensure that all digital communication with pupils is on a professional level and only through school based systems, **NEVER** through personal email, text, mobile phone, social network or other online medium
- Embed online safety messages in learning activities where appropriate
- Supervise pupils carefully when engaged in learning activities involving technology
- Ensure that pupils are told what to do should they encounter any material or receive a communication which makes them feel uncomfortable
- Ensure any online safety incidents are recorded and are kept up to date on the Class Behavioral Log and/or on MyConcern
- Respect, and share with pupils the feelings, rights, values and intellectual property of others in their use of technology in school and at home

Additional Responsibilities of Technical Staff

- Support the school in providing a safe technical infrastructure to support learning and teaching
- Ensure appropriate technical steps, including filtering and monitoring, are in place to safeguard the security of the school IT system, sensitive data and information. Review these regularly to ensure they are up to date
- Ensure that provision exists for misuse detection and detection and prevention of malicious attack
- At the request of the Leadership Team conduct periodic checks on files, folders, email, internet use and other digital content to ensure that the Acceptable Use Policy is being followed
- Report any online safety related issues that come to their attention to the DSL and/or online safety lead, including the regular monitoring of online pupil activity with the use of Securly. Technical staff will ensure an accredited monitoring system is used. Monitoring reports and logs will be examined weekly. These will be sent to the office, DSL lead and Headteacher.
- Ensure that procedures are in place for new starters and leavers to be correctly added to and removed from all relevant electronic systems, including password management
- Ensure that suitable access arrangements are in place for any external users of the schools IT equipment
- Liaise with the local authority, internet providers and others as necessary on online safety issues
- Document all technical procedures and review them for accuracy at appropriate intervals
- Ensure appropriate backup procedures exist so that critical information and systems can be recovered in the event of a disaster

Responsibilities of Pupils

- Read, understand and adhere to the pupil AUP and follow all safe practice guidance
- Take responsibility for their own and each others' safe and responsible use of technology wherever it is being used, including judging the risks posed by the personal technology owned and used by them outside of school
- Ensure they respect the feelings, rights, values and intellectual property of others in their use of technology in school and at home
- Understand what action should be taken if they feel worried, uncomfortable, vulnerable or at risk whilst using technology, or if they know of someone to whom this is happening
- Report all online safety incidents to appropriate members of staff
- Discuss online safety issues with family and friends in an open and honest way
- To know, understand and follow school policies on the use of mobile phones, smart watches, digital cameras and handheld devices
- To know, understand and follow school policies regarding online bullying

Responsibilities of Parents and Carers

- Help and support the school in promoting online safety
- Read, understand and promote the pupil AUP with their children
- Discuss online safety concerns with their children, show an interest in how they are using technology, and encourage them to behave safely and responsibly when using technology
- Consult with the school if they have any concerns about their child's use of technology
- To agree to and sign the home-school agreement/prospectus/policy which clearly sets out the use of photographic and video images of pupils
- To agree to and sign the home-school agreement/policy containing a statement regarding their personal use of social networks in relation the school:

We will support the school approach to online safety and not deliberately post comments or upload any images, sounds or text that could upset or offend any member of the school community or bring the school into disrepute.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

- Ensure there is a whole school approach to online safety which is reflected in relevant policies, the school curriculum, teacher training, the DSL role and parental engagement
- Read, understand, contribute to and promote the school's online safety policies and guidance as part of the school's overarching safeguarding procedures
- Support the work of the school in promoting and ensuring safe and responsible use of technology in and out of school, including encouraging parents to become engaged in online safety awareness
- To have an overview of how the school IT infrastructure provides safe access to the internet and the steps the school takes to protect personal and sensitive data
- Ensure appropriate funding and resources are available for the school to implement the online safety strategy
- Ensure the school has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness

3. Acceptable Use Policies

The AUP is shared with staff biannually and pupils will be expected to agree to them yearly (during online safety week) and follow their guidelines. We will ensure that external groups and visitors to school who use our ICT facilities are made aware of the Safeguarding Guide for Visitors and the Staff Mobile Phone Policy.

School Acceptable Use Policy documents

- Acceptable Use Policy for Parents/Carers & Pupils
- Acceptable Use Policy for School Staff
- Acceptable Use Policy for Home Learning
- Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones

- For temporary or supply staff and visitors to school they are made aware of the Safeguarding Guide for Visitors and the Staff Mobile Phone Policy

4. Training / Induction

Technology use changes at a fast pace, and we recognise the importance of regular staff training. All newly appointed staff will cover online safety responsibilities at induction. The online safety lead will attend regular training updates as necessary (minimum biannually), and keep up to date through online resources and networks. All school staff will receive regular updates at least annually on risks to pupils online from the online safety lead/ DSL and attend online or external training as necessary.

5. Learning and Teaching

We believe that the key to developing safe and responsible behaviours online for everyone within our school community lies in effective education. We know that the internet and other technologies are embedded in our pupils' lives, not just in school but outside as well, and we believe we have a duty to help prepare our pupils to benefit safely from the opportunities that these present.

We deliver a planned and progressive scheme of work to teach online safety knowledge and understanding and to ensure that pupils have a growing understanding of how to manage the risks involved in online activity. Online safety is taught in specific Computing and PSHE/RSHE lessons and also embedded across the curriculum, with pupils being given regular opportunities to apply their skills.

We teach pupils how to search for information and to evaluate the content of websites for accuracy when using them in any curriculum area. Staff and pupils will be reminded that third party content should always be appropriately attributed so as not to breach copyright laws.

We discuss, remind or raise relevant online safety messages with pupils routinely wherever suitable opportunities arise. This includes the need to protect personal information and to consider the consequences their actions may have on others. Staff will model safe and responsible behaviour in their own use of technology during lessons.

We will remind pupils about the responsibilities to which they have agreed through the AUP.

Pupils will be made aware of where to seek advice or help if they experience problems when using the internet and related technologies.

6. Remote education and home learning

In response to emergency closures or a child needing to be educated off-site the school uses the following online learning resources: Zoom, Teams, Google Classroom, Schoolcloud, pupil/parent email

These will be used as necessary in circumstances where a child or group of children must quarantine or self-isolate, or when the school needs to close in an emergency for any reason. The Acceptable Use Policy will apply to school resources which are accessed in the home environment. An additional Acceptable Use Policy will be used if remote education takes place which involves live online contact between teachers and pupils using a webcam or text messaging app/software. Parents and carers will be informed of the online resources pupils are expected to access and which staff pupils will communicate with online.

The following DfE guidance will be used:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education> (DfE March 2021- Update November 2022)

7. How parents and carers will be involved

We believe it is important to help all our parents and carers develop sufficient knowledge, skills and understanding to be able to help keep themselves and their children safe.

To achieve this, we will offer opportunities for finding out more information through meetings, the school newsletter and website.

We will ask all parents to discuss and review the pupil's AUP with their child. When children start school, we also ask parents to sign the home school agreement which includes a statement about their use of social networks in situations where it could reflect on our school's reputation and on individuals within the school community.

We request our parents to support the school in applying the Online Safety Policy.

8. Managing and Safeguarding IT systems

The school will ensure that access to the school IT system is as safe and secure as reasonably possible.

Servers and other key hardware or infrastructure are located securely with only appropriate staff permitted access. Servers, workstations and other hardware and software are kept updated as appropriate. A firewall is maintained and virus and malware protection is installed on all appropriate hardware and is kept active and up-to-date. Staff have virus protection installed on all laptops used for school activity.

All administrator or master passwords for school IT systems are kept secure.

The wireless network is protected by a secure log on which prevents unauthorized access. New users can only be given access by named individuals e.g. a member of technical support.

We do not allow anyone except technical staff to download and install software onto the network. Staff are allowed administrator rights to download software on school provided laptops.

Filtering

In order to be compliant with the Prevent Duty (2023) and Safeguarding Children in Education (2024), the school will:

- As part of the Prevent duty, carry out an annual review of the school action plan including a review of the risk to pupils of exposure to extremist content in school
- Ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent access to illegal and extremist content. Web filtering of internet content is provided by Talk Straight; the provider is an IWF member and blocks access to illegal child abuse images and content. The provider filters the police assessed list of unlawful terrorist content produced on behalf of the home office. The school is satisfied that web filtering manages most inappropriate content including extremism, discrimination, substance abuse, pornography, piracy, copyright theft, self-harm and violence. However, it is not possible to guarantee that access to unsuitable or inappropriate material will never occur and we believe it is important to build resilience in pupils in monitoring their own internet activity.
- Inform all users about the action they should take if inappropriate material is accessed or discovered on a computer. Deliberate access of inappropriate or illegal material will be treated as a serious breach of the AUP and appropriate sanctions taken.

- Expect teachers to check websites they wish to use prior to lessons to assess the suitability of content.

Monitoring

In order to be compliant with the Prevent Duty (2023) and Safeguarding Children in Education (2024), the school will:

- Use the findings of the annual review of the school action plan to put appropriate internet and network monitoring systems in place.
- Pupils are supervised by staff while using the internet as this reduces the risk of exposure to extremist, illegal or inappropriate material; direct supervision also enables school staff to take swift action should such material be accessed either accidentally or deliberately.
- Use the monitoring system Securly which allows pupil activity to be reviewed weekly or as relevant.

Access to school systems

The school decides which users should and should not have internet access, the appropriate level of access and the level of supervision they should receive. There are robust systems in place for managing network accounts and passwords, including teacher level and administrative passwords for our safeguarding system - MyConcern. Suitable arrangements are in place for visitors to the school who will use a visitor log in. Visitors will not access MyConcern to report a safeguarding concern but will be given a Child Protection Record sheet on arrival.

All users are provided with a log in appropriate to their key stage or role in school. Pupils are taught about safe practice in the use of their log in and passwords.

Staff are given appropriate guidance on managing access to laptops which are used both at home and school and in creating secure passwords.

Access to personal, private or sensitive information and data is restricted to authorised users only, with proper procedures being followed for authorising and protecting login and password information.

Remote access to school systems is covered by specific agreements and is never allowed to unauthorised third party users.

Passwords

- We ensure that a secure and robust username and password convention exists for all system access (email, network access, school management information system).
- We provide all staff with a unique, individually-named user account and password for access to IT equipment, email and information systems available within school.
- Pupils from Year 1 upwards will have a unique, individually-named user account and password for access to IT equipment and information systems available within school. Early Years pupils are not given any passwords.

- All staff and pupils have responsibility for the security of their usernames and passwords and are informed that they must not allow other users to access the systems using their log on details. They must immediately report any suspicion or evidence that there has been a breach of security.

9. Using the internet

We provide the internet to

- Support teaching, learning and curriculum development in all subjects
- Support the professional work of staff as an essential professional tool
- Enhance the school's management information and business administration systems
- Enable electronic communication and the exchange of curriculum and administration data with the LA, the examination boards and others

Users are made aware that they must take responsibility for their use of, and their behaviour whilst using the school IT systems or a school provided laptop or device and that such activity can be monitored and checked.

All users of the school IT or electronic equipment will abide by the relevant Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) at all times, whether working in a supervised activity or working independently,

Pupils are informed via online lessons and staff are kept up-to-date about the actions to take if inappropriate material is discovered.

Using email

Email is regarded as an essential means of communication and the school provides all members of the school community with an email account for school-based communication. Communication by email between staff, pupils and parents will only be made using the school email account and should be professional and related to school matters only. Email messages on school business should be regarded as having been sent on headed notepaper and reflect a suitable tone and content and should ensure that the good name of the school is maintained. There are systems in place for storing relevant electronic communications which take place between school and parents.

It is the personal responsibility of the email account holder to keep their password secure.

School will set clear guidelines about when pupil-staff communication via email is acceptable and staff will set clear boundaries for pupils on the out-of-school times when emails may be answered.

Under no circumstances will staff contact pupils, parents or conduct any school business using a personal email addresses.

Responsible use of personal web mail accounts on school systems is permitted outside teaching hours.

Publishing content online

E.g. using the school website, learning platform, blogs, wikis, podcasts, social network sites, livestreaming

School website:

The school maintains editorial responsibility for any school-initiated web site or publishing online to ensure that the content is accurate and the quality of presentation is maintained. The school maintains the integrity of the school web site by ensuring that responsibility for uploading material is always moderated and that passwords are protected.

The point of contact on the web site is the school address, email and telephone number. Contact details for staff published are school provided.

Identities of pupils are protected at all times. Photographs of identifiable individual pupils are not published on the website and school obtains permission from parents for the use of pupils' photographs. Group photographs do not have a name list attached.

Creating online content as part of the curriculum:

As part of the curriculum, we encourage pupils to create online content. However, we use Google Classroom which is a closed online protected group. Pupils are still taught safe and responsible behaviour in the creation and publishing of online content. Pupils will only be allowed to post or create content on sites where members of the public have access when this is part of a school related activity. Appropriate procedures to protect the identity of pupils will be followed.

We take all steps to ensure that any material published online is the author's own work, gives credit to any other work included and does not break copyright.

Online material published outside the school:

Staff and pupils are encouraged to adopt similar safe and responsible behaviours in their personal use of blogs, wikis, social networking sites and other online publishing outside school as they are in school.

Material published by pupils, governors and staff in a social context which is considered to bring the school into disrepute or considered harmful to, or harassment of another pupil or member of the school community will be considered a breach of school discipline and treated accordingly.

Using images, video and sound

We recognise that many aspects of the curriculum can be enhanced by the use of multimedia and that there are now a wide and growing range of devices on which this can be accomplished. Pupils are taught safe and responsible behaviour when creating, using and storing digital images, video and sound.

Digital images, video and sound recordings are only taken with the permission of participants and their parents; images and video are of appropriate activities and are only taken of pupils wearing appropriate dress. Full names of participants are not used either within the resource itself, within the file-name or in accompanying text online.

We ask all parents/carers to sign an agreement about taking and publishing photographs and video of their children (in publications and on websites) and this list is checked whenever an activity is being photographed or filmed.

We secure additional parental consent specifically for the publication of pupils' photographs in newspapers, which ensures that parents know they have given their consent for their child to be named in the newspaper and possibly on the website.

For their own protection staff or other visitors to school never use a personal device (mobile phone, digital camera or digital video recorder) to take photographs of pupils.

We are happy for parents to take photographs at school events, but they will be told that photographs are for their own personal use and if they have taken photographs of children other than their own, they should not be uploaded to social media sites.

Using video conferencing, web cameras and online meeting apps

We use video conferencing to enhance the curriculum by providing learning and teaching activities that allow pupils to link up with people in other locations and see and hear each other. We ensure that staff and pupils take part in these opportunities in a safe and responsible manner. All video conferencing activity is supervised by a suitable member of staff. Pupils do not operate video conferencing equipment, answer calls or set up meetings without permission from the supervising member of staff.

Video conferencing equipment is switched off and secured when not in use and online meeting rooms are closed and logged off when not in use.

All participants are made aware if a video conference is to be recorded. Permission is sought if the material is to be published.

Some video conferencing recordings (e.g. online assemblies) may be uploaded to our closed online protected group e.g. Google Classroom, adhering to the parental permissions list.

Using mobile phones

Personal mobile phones belonging to pupils are permitted on school premises but must be switched off at the school gates and not be used within school hours. Personal devices are brought onto school premises by pupils at their own risk. The school does not accept liability for loss or damage of personal devices. The use of mobile phones by pupils is covered by a separate acceptable use policy.

During lesson time we expect all mobile phones belonging to staff to be put be muted and place in a locked cupboard unless there is a specific agreement for this not to be the case.

Where required for safety reasons in off-site activities, staff mobile phones will be used for emergency reasons. Most contact with parents will be arranged so that school office phones are used. Staff will never use personal mobile phones in any situation where their mobile phone number or other personal details may be revealed to a pupil or parent. In off-site activities, where a staff member has to use their own device, they should hide (by inputting 141) their own mobile number for confidentiality purposes.

Unauthorised or secret use of a mobile phone or other electronic device, to record voice, pictures or video is forbidden. Publishing of such material on a web site which causes distress to the person(s) concerned will be considered a breach of school discipline, whether intentional or unintentional. The person responsible for the material will be expected to remove this immediately upon request. If the victim is another pupil or staff member we do not consider it a defense that the activity took place outside school hours.

The sending or forwarding of text messages, emails or other online communication deliberately targeting a person with the intention of causing them distress is online bullying; this will be considered a disciplinary matter.

We make it clear to staff, pupils and parents that the Headteacher has the right to examine content on a mobile phone or other personal device to establish if a breach of discipline has occurred.

Using wearable technology

Wearable technology includes electronic fitness trackers and internet enabled 'smart' watches. Wearable technology is not permitted for children on school premises. Staff members are allowed to use wearable technology in line with our Code of Conduct Policy.

Using mobile devices

We recognise that the multimedia and communication facilities provided by mobile devices (e.g. iPad, iPod, tablet, netbook, Smart phones) can provide beneficial opportunities for pupils. However, their use in lesson time will be with permission from the teacher and within clearly defined boundaries.

Pupils are taught to use them responsibly.

Using other technologies

As a school we will keep abreast of new technologies and evaluate both the benefits for learning and teaching and also the risks from an online safety point of view.

We will regularly review the online safety policy to reflect any new technology that we use, or to reflect the use of new technology by pupils.

Staff or pupils using a technology not specifically mentioned in this policy, or a personal device whether connected to the school network or not, will be expected to adhere to similar standards of behaviour to those outlined in this document.

10. Protecting school data and information

School recognises the obligation to safeguard staff and pupils' sensitive and personal data including that which is stored and transmitted electronically. We regularly review our practices and procedures to ensure that they meet this basic obligation.

The school is a registered Data Controller under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018 and we comply at all times with the requirements of that registration. All access to personal or sensitive information owned by the school will be controlled appropriately through technical and non-technical access controls.

Pupils are taught about the need to protect their own personal data as part of their online safety awareness and the risks resulting from giving this away to third parties.

Suitable procedures, and where necessary training, are in place to ensure the security of such data including the following:

- Staff are provided with a secure cloud storage for storing sensitive data or alternatively use an encrypted USB memory stick
- All computers or laptops holding sensitive information are set up with strong passwords, password protected screen savers and screens are locked when they are left unattended
- Staff are provided with appropriate levels of access to the school management information system holding pupil data. Passwords are not shared and administrator passwords are kept securely
- Staff are aware of their obligation to keep sensitive data secure when working on computers outside school
- All devices taken off site, e.g. laptops, tablets, removable media are secured to protect sensitive and personal data and not left in cars or insecure locations.
- When we dispose of old computers and other equipment we take due regard for destroying information which may be held on them
- Remote access to computers is by authorized personnel only
- We have full back up and recovery procedures in place for school data

Management of assets

Details of all school-owned hardware and software are recorded in an inventory.

All redundant IT equipment is disposed of through an authorised agency. This will include a written receipt for the item including an acceptance of responsibility for the destruction of any personal data.

- Disposal of any ICT equipment will conform to [Regulations: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment \(WEEE\)](#) (2018 – Updated 11th December 2023)

11. Responding to online safety incidents

All online safety incidents are recorded on MyConcern which is regularly reviewed.

Any incidents where pupils do not follow the Acceptable Use Policy will be dealt with following the school's normal behaviour or disciplinary procedures.

In situations where a member of staff is made aware of a serious online safety incident concerning pupils or staff, they will inform the DSL.

Instances of **online bullying** will be taken very seriously by the school and dealt with using the school's anti-bullying procedures. School recognises that staff as well as pupils may be victims and will take appropriate action in either situation, including instigating restorative practices to support the victim.

Incidents which create a risk to the security of the school network, or create an information security risk, will be referred to the school's online safety lead and technical support and appropriate advice sought and action taken to minimise the risk and prevent further instances occurring, including reviewing any policies, procedures or guidance. If the action breaches school policy, then appropriate sanctions will be applied. The school will decide if parents need to be informed if there is a risk that pupil data has been lost.

School reserves the right to monitor equipment on their premises and to search any technology equipment, including personal equipment with permission, when a breach of this policy is suspected.

Dealing with a Child Protection issue arising from the use of technology:

If an incident occurs which raises concerns about child protection or the discovery of indecent images on the computer, then the procedures outlined in the Peterborough Safeguarding Procedures and Guidance will be followed. (See Appendix)

Dealing with complaints and breaches of conduct by pupils:

- Any complaints or breaches of conduct will be dealt with promptly
- Responsibility for handling serious incidents will be given to the DSL and a senior member of staff
- Parents and the pupil will work in partnership with staff to resolve any issues arising
- Restorative practice will be used to support the victims
- There may be occasions when the police must be contacted. Early contact will be made to establish the legal position and discuss strategies

The following activities constitute behaviour which we would always consider unacceptable (and possibly illegal):

- accessing inappropriate or illegal content deliberately
- deliberately accessing downloading and disseminating any material deemed offensive, obscene, defamatory, in breach of the Equalities Act or violent/threatening violence
- online peer on peer abuse and sexual harassment
- continuing to send or post material regarded as harassment or of a bullying nature after being warned

- staff using digital communications to communicate with pupils in an inappropriate manner (for instance, using personal email accounts, personal mobile phones, or inappropriate communication via social networking sites)

The following activities are likely to result in disciplinary action:

- any online activity by a member of the school community which is likely to adversely impact on the reputation of the school
- accessing inappropriate or illegal content accidentally and failing to report this
- inappropriate use of personal technologies (e.g. mobile phones) at school or in lessons
- sharing files which are not legitimately obtained e.g. music files from a file sharing site
- using school or personal equipment to send a message, or create content, that is offensive or bullying in nature or could bring the school into disrepute
- attempting to circumvent school filtering, monitoring or other security systems
- circulation of commercial, advertising or 'chain' emails or messages
- revealing the personal information (including digital images, videos and text) of others by electronic means (e.g. sending of messages, creating online content) without permission
- using online content in such a way as to infringe copyright or which fails to acknowledge ownership (including plagiarising of online content)
- transferring sensitive data insecurely or infringing the conditions of the Data Protection Act 2018

The following activities would normally be unacceptable; in some circumstances they may be allowed e.g. as part of planned curriculum activity or by a system administrator to problem solve

- accessing social networking sites, chat sites, instant messaging accounts, email or using a mobile phone for personal use during lesson time
- accessing non-educational websites (e.g. gaming or shopping websites) during lesson time
- sharing a username and password with others or allowing another person to log in using your account
- accessing school ICT systems with someone else's username and password
- deliberately opening, altering, deleting or otherwise accessing files or data belonging to someone else

12. Reviewing online safety

An bi-annual review of the online safety policy and practice will be carried out using an up-to-date self-review tool.

Appendix:

Where the school suspects that an incident may constitute a Safeguarding issue, the usual Safeguarding procedures will be followed. This process is illustrated in the following diagram.

You come across a child protection concern involving technology ...

