

St John's CE Primary

Online safety policy



“Use your God-given gifts to serve others” 1 Peter 4:10

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| Approved by: | BASS Committee |
| Last reviewed on: | Autumn Term 2025 |
| Next review due by: | Summer Term 2026 (in line with changes needed to be in place for 1.9.26) |

All different, all equal, all growing together.

1. Aims

As a Church of England school, St John's Primary School is committed to the values of equality, tolerance and respect for others. It is of paramount importance that our children understand the need for these values to be reflected in their online worlds, as much as in the physical world around them.

- › Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors
- › Identify and support groups of pupils that are potentially at greater risk of harm online than others
- › Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as 'mobile phones')
- › Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate

The 4 key categories of risk

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

- › **Content** – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, misinformation, disinformation (including fake news), conspiracy theories, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, radicalisation and extremism
- › **Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as peer-to-peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit the user for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes
- › **Conduct** – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, such as 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

2. Legislation and 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](#)

It also refers to the DfE's guidance on [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.

The policy also takes into account the National Curriculum computing programmes of study.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The governing board will make sure all staff undergo online safety training as part of child protection and safeguarding training, and ensure staff understand their expectations, roles and responsibilities around filtering and monitoring.

The governing board will also make sure all staff receive regular online safety updates (via email, e-bulletins and staff meetings), as required and at least annually, to ensure they are continually provided with the relevant skills and knowledge to effectively safeguard children.

The governing board will co-ordinate regular meetings with appropriate staff to discuss online safety, requirements for training, and monitor online safety logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

The governing board should ensure children are taught how to keep themselves and others safe, including keeping safe online.

The governing board must ensure the school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place on school devices and school networks, and will regularly review their effectiveness. The board will review the DfE filtering and monitoring standards, and discuss with IT staff and service providers what needs to be done to support the school in meeting the standards, which include:

- Identifying and assigning roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems;
- Reviewing filtering and monitoring provisions at least annually;
- Blocking harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning;
- Having effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs.

The safeguarding governor oversees online safety.

All governors will:

- › Ensure that they have read and understand this policy
- › Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the school's computing systems and the internet (appendix 3)
- › Ensure that online safety is a running and interrelated theme while devising and implementing their whole-school or college approach to safeguarding and related policies and/or procedures
- › Ensure that, where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, is adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This is because of the importance of recognising that a 'one size fits all' approach may not be appropriate for all children in all situations, and a more personalised or contextualised approach may often be more suitable

3.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that staff understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school.

3.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Details of the school's DSL are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy as well relevant job descriptions.

The DSL takes lead responsibility for online safety in school, in particular:

- › Supporting the Headteacher in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school

- › Working with the Headteacher, and governing board to review this policy annually and ensure the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly
- › Taking the lead on understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place on school devices and school networks
- › Working with the ICT manager to make sure the appropriate systems and processes are in place
- › Working with the headteacher, ICT manager and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents
- › Managing all online safety issues and incidents in line with the school's child protection policy
- › Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged (CPOMS) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- › Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged (CPOMS) and dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- › Updating and delivering staff training on online safety (appendix 4 contains a self-audit for staff on online safety training needs)
- › Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary
- › Providing regular reports on online safety in school to the Headteacher and/or governing board
- › Undertaking annual risk assessments that consider and reflect the risks children face
- › Providing regular safeguarding and child protection updates, including online safety, to all staff, at least annually, in order to continue to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard effectively

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.4 The ICT manager

The ICT manager is responsible for:

- › Putting in place an appropriate level of security protection procedures, such as filtering and monitoring systems on school devices and school networks, which are reviewed and updated at least annually to assess effectiveness and ensure pupils are kept safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material.
- › Ensuring that the school's computing systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware, and that such safety mechanisms are updated regularly
- › Conducting a full security check and monitoring the school's computing systems on a weekly basis
- › Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.5 All staff and volunteers

All staff, including contractors and agency staff, and volunteers are responsible for:

- › Maintaining an understanding of this policy
- › Implementing this policy consistently
- › Agreeing and adhering to the terms on acceptable use of the school's computing systems and the internet (appendix 3) and ensuring that pupils follow the school's terms on acceptable use (appendices 1 and 2)
- › Knowing that the DSL is responsible for the filtering and monitoring systems and processes, and being aware of how to report any incidents of those systems or processes failing by logging on CPOMS and reporting to ICT manager.
- › Following the correct procedures by informing the ICT manager if they need to bypass the filtering and monitoring systems for educational purposes

- › Responding appropriately to all reports and concerns about sexual violence and/or harassment, both online and offline, and maintaining an attitude of 'it could happen here'
- › Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged (CPOMS) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- › Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.6 Parents

Parents are expected to:

- › Notify a member of staff or the Headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding this policy
- › Ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet (appendices 1 and 2)

Parents/carers can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online from the following organisations and websites:

- › What are the issues? – [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- › Help and advice for parents/carers – [Childnet](#)
- › Parents and carers resource sheet – [Childnet](#)

3.7 Visitors and members of the community

Visitors and members of the community who use the school's computing systems or internet will be made aware of this policy, when relevant, and expected to read and follow it. If appropriate, they will be expected to agree to the terms on acceptable use. (appendix 3)

4. Educating pupils about online safety

Pupils will be taught about online safety as part of the curriculum:

In **Key Stage 1**, pupils will be taught to:

- › Use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private
- › Identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies

Pupils in **Key Stage 2** will be taught to:

- › Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly
- › Recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- › Identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact

By the **end of primary school**, pupils will know:

- › *That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not.*
- › *That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous*
- › *The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them*
- › *How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met*
- › *How information and data is shared and used online*
- › *How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know*

St John's uses the Teach Computing scheme of work to deliver the Computing Curriculum, which references online safety via the National Curriculum Digital Literacy objectives.

In order to provide what we believe to be sufficient online safety coverage across the school, we ensure that we also specifically teach all of the objectives referenced in the UKCIS framework '[Education for a Connected World](#)'.

We therefore supplement the Teach Computing scheme of work with specific online safety lessons (at least 1 x 1 hour per half term), using resources from Project Evolve online safety scheme of work.

This way, we can be sure to cover all of the online safety objectives from the National Curriculum and the Education for a Connected World Framework.

We embed online safety into all aspects of daily life at St John's – curriculum, circle time, conversations, independence time etc. The Childnet document 'Embedding online safety across the curriculum' is available to all staff to assist with this.

The safe use of social media and the internet will also be covered in other subjects where relevant and is part of the PSHE curriculum.

The school will use assemblies to raise pupils' awareness of the dangers that can be encountered online and may also invite speakers to talk to pupils about this.

5. Educating parents about online safety

The school will raise parents' awareness of internet safety in newsletters or other communications sent home, and in information via our website. This policy will also be shared with parents.

If parents have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with the class teacher who may escalate the issue to a member of SLT and/or the DSL.

The school will let parents/carers know:

- What systems the school uses to filter and monitor online use
- What their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and who from the school (if anyone) their child will be interacting with online

If parents/carers have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with the headteacher and/or the DSL.

Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the headteacher.

6. Cyber-bullying

6.1 Definition

Cyber-bullying takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites. Like other forms of bullying, it is the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. (See also the school behaviour policy.)

6.2 Preventing and addressing cyber-bullying

To help prevent cyber-bullying, we will ensure that pupils understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure that pupils know how they can report any incidents and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim.

The school will actively discuss cyber-bullying with pupils, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. Class teachers will discuss cyber-bullying with their classes, and the issue will be addressed in collective worships.

Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the curriculum to cover cyber-bullying. This includes personal, social, health, economic and relationships (PSHER) education, and other subjects where appropriate.

All staff, governors and volunteers (where appropriate) receive training on cyber-bullying, its impact and ways to support pupils, as part of safeguarding training (see section 11 for more detail).

The school also provides information on cyber-bullying to parents so that they are aware of the signs, how to report it and how they can support children who may be affected.

In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, the school will follow the processes set out in the school behaviour policy. Where illegal, inappropriate or harmful material has been spread among pupils, the school will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the incident is contained.

The DSL will report the incident and provide the relevant material to the police as soon as is reasonably practicable, if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that possessing that material is illegal. They will also work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

6.3 Electronic devices in school

Children at St John's School are not allowed to bring in mobile devices, including phones and Smart Watches. Any child that brings one in will have to leave it in the Office and collect it at the end of the school day. If a child brings a device in and tries to keep it secret, then it will be kept by a member of SLT and parents will be required to collect it.

6.4 Artificial intelligence (AI)

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, pupils and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Gemini.

St John's School recognises that AI has many uses to help pupils learn, but may also have the potential to be used to bully others. For example, in the form of 'deepfakes', where AI is used to create images, audio or video hoaxes that look real. This includes deepfake pornography: pornographic content created using AI to include someone's likeness.

St John's School will treat any use of AI to bully pupils in line with our anti-bullying and our behaviour policy.

Staff should be aware of the risks of using AI tools whilst they are still being developed and should carry out a risk assessment where new AI tools are being used by the school.

Any use of artificial intelligence should be carried out in accordance with our AI usage policy.

7. Acceptable use of the internet in school

All pupils, parents, staff, volunteers and governors are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet, including laptops or mobile devices lent to children at home. Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use if relevant. (See Appendices 1 to 3).

Use of the school's internet must be for educational purposes only, or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of an individual's role.

We will monitor the websites visited by pupils, staff, volunteers, governors and visitors (where relevant) to ensure they comply with the above and restrict access through filtering systems where appropriate. This is done via Securus Monitoring Software and a monthly report is sent to the Headteacher. Any incidents flagged as Grade 3 or more are flagged immediately via an email to the Headteacher and Lead DSL who investigate and act upon. Lower level incidents are also monitored regularly and addressed if a cause for concern.

More information is set out in the acceptable use agreements in appendices 1, 2 and 3.

8. Staff using work devices outside school

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

Keeping the device password-protected – strong passwords are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters (e.g. asterisk or currency symbol)

- › Ensuring their hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device
- › Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time
- › Not sharing the device among family or friends
- › Installing anti-virus and anti-spyware software
- › Keeping operating systems up to date by always installing the latest updates

Staff members must not use the device in any way that would violate the school's terms of acceptable use, as set out in appendix 3.

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from the ICT manager.

9. How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a pupil misuses the school's computing systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in our Behaviour Policy. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident, and will be proportionate. A staff member will log incidents of poor behaviour in relation to online safety/ use of devices on Cpoms.

Where a staff member misuses the school's computing systems or the internet, or misuses a personal device where the action constitutes misconduct, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the staff disciplinary procedures/staff code of conduct. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident. These incidents will be logged on staffsafe.

The school will consider whether incidents which involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the police.

10. Training

All new staff members will receive training, as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation.

All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year as part of safeguarding training, as well as relevant updates as required (for example through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings).

By way of this training, all staff will be made aware that:

- › Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues, and that children are at risk of online abuse
- › Children can abuse their peers online through:
 - Abusive, threatening, harassing and misogynistic messages
 - Non-consensual sharing of indecent nude and semi-nude images and/or videos, especially around chat groups
 - Sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who don't want to receive such content
- › Physical abuse, sexual violence and initiation/hazing type violence can all contain an online element

Training will also help staff:

- Develop better awareness to assist in spotting the signs and symptoms of online abuse
- Develop the ability to ensure pupils can recognise dangers and risks in online activity and can weigh up the risks
- Develop the ability to influence pupils to make the healthiest long-term choices and keep them safe from harm in the short term

The DSL will undertake child protection and safeguarding training, which will include online safety, at least every 2 years. They will also update their knowledge and skills on the subject of online safety at regular intervals, and at least annually.

Governors will receive training on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues as part of their safeguarding training.

Volunteers will receive appropriate training and updates, if applicable.

More information about safeguarding training is set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

11. Monitoring arrangements

The DSLs log behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety. An incident report log can be found in appendix 5.

This policy will be reviewed every year. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board. The review (such as the one available [here](#)) will be supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks pupils face online. This is important because technology, and the risks and harms related to it, evolve and change rapidly.

12. Links with other policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- › Child protection and safeguarding policy
- › Behaviour policy
- › Staff disciplinary procedures
- › Data protection policy and privacy notices
- › Complaints procedure
- › Artificial Intelligence Policy

Appendix 1: EYFS and KS1 acceptable use agreement (pupils and parents/carers)

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Name of pupil:

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS/CARERS

When I use the school's ICT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in school I will:

- Ask a teacher or adult if I can do so before using them
- Only use websites that a teacher or adult has told me or allowed me to use
- Tell my teacher immediately if:
 - I select a website by mistake
 - I receive messages from people I don't know
 - I find anything that may upset or harm me or my friends
- Use school computers for school work only
- Be kind to others and not upset or be rude to them
- Look after the school ICT equipment and tell a teacher straight away if something is broken or not working properly
- Only use the username and password I have been given
- Try my hardest to remember my username and password
- Never share my password with anyone, including my friends
- Never give my personal information (my name, address or telephone numbers) to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer
- Save my work on the school network
- Check with my teacher before I print anything
- Log off or shut down a computer when I have finished using it

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don't follow the rules.

Signed (pupil):

Date:

Parent/carer agreement: I agree that my child can use the school's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for pupils using the school's ICT systems and internet, and will make sure my child understands these.

Signed (parent/carer):

Date:

Appendix 2: KS2, KS3 and KS4 acceptable use agreement (pupils and parents/carers)

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Name of pupil:

I will read and follow the rules in the acceptable use agreement policy.

When I use the school's ICT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in school I will:

- Always use the school's ICT systems and the internet responsibly and for educational purposes only
- Only use them when a teacher is present, or with a teacher's permission
- Keep my usernames and passwords safe and not share these with others
- Keep my private information safe at all times and not give my name, address or telephone number to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer
- Tell a teacher (or sensible adult) immediately if I find any material that might upset, distress or harm me or others
- Always log off or shut down a computer when I've finished working on it

I will not:

- Access any inappropriate websites including: social networking sites, chat rooms and gaming sites unless my teacher has expressly allowed this as part of a learning activity
- Open any attachments in emails, or follow any links in emails, without first checking with a teacher
- Use any inappropriate language when communicating online, including in emails
- Create, link to or post any material that is, offensive or inappropriate
- Log in to the school's network using someone else's details
- Check with my teacher before I print anything
- Arrange to meet anyone offline without first consulting my parent/carer, or without adult supervision

Personal devices:

I will not bring a mobile phone or other device into school, including devices I can take pictures with e.g. smartwatch. *Mobile phones for Year 5/6 who may be travelling to school independently must switch them off on entry to school and take to the office. These may be collected at the end of the day*

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don't follow the rules.

Signed (pupil):

Date:

Parent/carer's agreement: I agree that my child can use the school's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for pupils using the school's ICT systems and internet, and for using personal electronic devices in school, and will make sure my child understands these.

Signed (parent/carer):

Date:

Appendix 3: acceptable use agreement (staff, governors, volunteers and visitors)

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR STAFF, GOVERNORS, VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

Name of staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor:

When using the school's ICT systems and accessing the internet in school, or outside school on a work device (if applicable), I will not:

- Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal or pornographic nature (or create, share, link to or send such material)
- Use them in any way that could harm the school's reputation
- Access social networking sites or chat rooms
- Use any improper language when communicating online, including in emails or other messaging services
- Install any unauthorised software, or connect unauthorised hardware or devices to the school's network
- Share my password with others or log in to the school's network using someone else's details
- Take photographs of pupils without checking with teachers first
- Share confidential information about the school, its pupils or staff, or other members of the community
- Access, modify or share data I'm not authorised to access, modify or share
- Promote private businesses, unless that business is directly related to the school

I will only use the school's ICT systems and access the internet in school, or outside school on a work device, for educational purposes or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of my role.

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the school's ICT facilities and systems.

I will take all reasonable steps to ensure that work devices are secure and password-protected when using them outside school, and keep all data securely stored in accordance with this policy and the school's data protection policy.

I will let the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and ICT manager know if a pupil informs me they have found any material that might upset, distress or harm them or others, and will also do so if I encounter any such material.

I will always use the school's ICT systems and internet responsibly, and ensure that pupils in my care do so too.

Signed (staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor):

Date:

Appendix 4: online safety training needs – self-audit for staff

| ONLINE SAFETY TRAINING NEEDS AUDIT | |
|--|---|
| Name of staff member/volunteer: | Date: |
| Question | Yes/No (add comments if necessary) |
| Do you know the name of the person who has lead responsibility for online safety in school? | |
| Are you aware of the ways pupils can abuse their peers online? | |
| Do you know what you must do if a pupil approaches you with a concern or issue? | |
| Are you familiar with the school's acceptable use agreement for staff, volunteers, governors and visitors? | |
| Are you familiar with the school's acceptable use agreement for pupils and parents/carers? | |
| Are you familiar with the filtering and monitoring systems on the school's devices and networks? | |
| Do you understand your role and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring? | |
| Do you regularly change your password for accessing the school's ICT systems? | |
| Are you familiar with the school's approach to tackling cyber-bullying? | |
| Are there any areas of online safety in which you would like training/further training? | |

Appendix 5: online safety incident report log

| ONLINE SAFETY INCIDENT LOG | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---|
| Date | Where the incident took place | Description of the incident | Action taken | Name and signature of staff member recording the incident |
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