



Whitecross Nursery School Online Safety Policy

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| Reviewed by | Kate Parker |
| Date of last review | March 2026 |
| Date of next review | March 2027 |
| Ratified by the Governing Body | |

This policy will be reviewed sooner if there is a change to legislation or guidance that may affect it. Any changes will be communicated to all stakeholders.

Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Aims | 1 |
| 2. Legislation and guidance | 2 |
| 3. Roles and responsibilities | 2 |
| 4. Educating pupils about online safety | 5 |
| 5. Educating parents/carers about online safety | 5 |
| 6. Cyber-bullying | 6 |
| 7. Acceptable use of the internet in school | 6 |
| 8. Staff using work devices outside school | 7 |
| 9. Training for staff, governors and volunteers | 7 |
| 10. Monitoring arrangements | 8 |
| 11. Links with other policies | 8 |

1. Aims

Our school aims to:

- › 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:

- › [Meeting digital and technology standards](#)
- › [Preventing and tackling bullying and cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff](#)
- › [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.

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 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 and requirements for training, and monitor online safety logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

The governing board will make sure that the school teaches pupils how to keep themselves and others safe, including online.

The governing board will make sure that 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's 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 the school's safeguarding needs

All governors will:

- › Make sure they have read and understand this policy
- › Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet.
- › Make sure that online safety is a running and interrelated theme when devising and implementing the whole-school or college approach to safeguarding and related policies and/or procedures

3.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for making sure that staff understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school.

Making sure 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
- › Providing governors with assurance that filtering and monitoring systems are working effectively and reviewed regularly

- › Working with the business 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
- › Responding to safeguarding concerns identified by filtering and monitoring
- › Making sure that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- › Making sure that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- › Updating and delivering staff training on online safety
- › 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
- › 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 Lead IT Support

The Lead 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 make sure pupils are kept safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material
- › Making sure that the school's ICT 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 ICT systems.
- › Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files
- › Making sure that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 5) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- › Making sure 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.

3.5 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 ICT systems and the internet and making sure that pupils follow the school's terms on acceptable use Policy.
- › 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 following the school reporting procedure.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

4. Educating pupils about online safety

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

All schools have to teach:

- › [Relationships education and health education](#) in primary schools

In **Key Stage (KS) 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

5. Educating parents/carers about online safety

The school will work in partnership with parents to ensure children stay safe online at school and at home. Parents will be provided with information about the school's approach to online safety and their role in protecting their children.

Parents will be made aware of the various ways in which their children may be at risk online, including, but not limited to:

- › Child sexual abuse, including grooming.
- › Exposure to radicalising content.
- › Sharing of indecent imagery of children e.g. sexting.
- › Cyberbullying.
- › Exposure to age-inappropriate content, e.g. pornography.
- › Exposure to harmful content, e.g. content that encourages self-destructive behaviour.

Parents will be informed of the ways in which they can prevent their child from accessing harmful content at home, e.g. by implementing parental controls to block age-inappropriate content.

The school will raise parents/carers' awareness of internet safety in letters or other communications home, and in information via our website.

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 1 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

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

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

Cyberbullying against children or staff is not tolerated under any circumstances. Incidents of cyberbullying are dealt with quickly and effectively wherever they occur in line with the Anti-bullying Policy.

7. Acceptable use of the internet in school

All pupils, parents/carers, staff, volunteers and governors are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet. Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use, if relevant.

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.

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 can be made up of 3 random words, in combination with numbers and special characters if required, or generated by a password manager
- › 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 promptly installing the latest updates

Staff members must not use the device in any way that would violate the school's terms of acceptable use policy.

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

9. Training for staff, governors and volunteers

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 and deputies 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.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The DSL logs behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety via CPOMS.

This policy will be reviewed every year. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board. The review 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.

11. 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
- › ICT and internet acceptable use policy