E-SAFETY POLICY

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1. Introduction

St John's Primary School is committed to ensuring the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers, and governors. We aim to use training, education, and effective procedures to both educate and protect the whole school community when they are online. We recognise that the use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues, including child-on-child abuse. We take any concerns seriously and escalate these where appropriate.

In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education, we aim to address the following four areas of risk:

The 4 Cs of Online Safety (2026 Updated Focus)

- Content: Refers to exposure to harmful, misleading, or inappropriate material, now including a stronger emphasis on AI-generated deepfakes, misinformation, disinformation, and extremist content.
- Contact: Covers risks from contact with strangers or peers, such as online grooming, peer-on-peer pressure, and the misuse of AI to create, alter, or share images without consent.
- Conduct: Relates to the user's online behaviour, focusing on cyberbullying, the impact of digital footprints, and respectful interactions, especially regarding the creation of unauthorized AI imagery.
- Commerce: Addresses financial risks, including online gambling, in-game spending, phishing, scams, and the persuasive tactics of digital marketing targeted at children.

We strive to consistently create a culture that incorporates the principles of online safety across all elements of school life. This helps to support our safeguarding culture as a whole.

KCSIE 2025 introduced key changes in e safety, including use of AI and compliance with filtering and monitoring.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children when online and provide our staff and volunteers with the guidance and means to do this.

2. Roles and responsibilities

All staff must read the Greensand MAT AI strategy document to ensure safe working practices.

2.1 School committee:

- Take overall responsibility for this policy and its implementation
- Read and understand this policy
- Ensure students are taught about online safety
- Ensure staff and governors receive safeguarding training that includes online safety at induction, and that this is regularly updated
- Ensure online safety is a running and interrelated theme whilst devising and implementing their whole school or college approach to safeguarding and related policies and procedures
- Ensure there are appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place and regularly review the effectiveness of these systems

2.2. Headteacher:

- Ensure staff understand this policy
- Ensure the implementation of this policy is consistent across the school
- Ensure any new members of staff learn about our approach to online safety at induction and regularly thereafter
- Understand the filtering and monitoring systems in place, manage them effectively and understand how to escalate concerns

2.3 Designated Safeguarding Lead, including deputies:

- Support the headteacher in implementing this policy
- Work with safeguarding team to address any online safety concerns or incidents, in line with our child protection and safeguarding policy
- Liaise with external safeguarding partners as necessary, including children's social care and the police
- Ensure any online safety incidents are recorded appropriately
- Deliver staff training on online safety
- Provide regular updates regarding online safety incidents to the headteacher
- Understand the filtering and monitoring systems in place, manage them effectively and understand how to escalate concerns
- Ensure that the filtering and monitoring system flags safeguarding concerns to the DSL/ safeguarding team and regular reports are received

2.4 Network/ICT Manager

- Ensure appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are put in place
- Regularly review the filtering and monitoring systems to ensure students are safe from harm online
- Ensure that the school's ICT systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware
- Ensure that the filtering and monitoring system flags safeguarding concerns to the DSL/ safeguarding team and regular reports are received

2.5 All staff and volunteers

- Read and understand this policy
- Assist with the consistent implementation of this policy
- Agree with and follow our acceptable use of IT agreement
- Refer any online safety safeguarding concerns to the DSL or a Deputy DSL
- Respond appropriately to all reports and concerns about sexual violence and/or harassment, both online and offline, maintaining an attitude of 'it could happen here'
- Update parents around what their children are being asked to do online

2.6 Parents

- Notify a member of staff regarding any questions regarding this policy and its implementation
- Ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the acceptable use of IT agreement
- Support their child to behave safely and appropriately online

3. Teaching online safety

In line with 'Teaching online safety in school,' published by the Department for Education in June 2019, updated January 2023, we teach pupils about online safety and harms. Our teaching covers the underpinning knowledge and behaviours that can help pupils to navigate the online world safely and confidently regardless of the device, platform or app. These skills are covered in the curriculum (Computing, PSHE and RSE) as well as in assemblies and through focus activities.

Throughout this, teachers will address online safety and appropriate behaviour in an age appropriate way that is relevant to their pupils' lives, including:

- how to evaluate what they see online
- the risks posed by social media platforms
- how to recognise techniques used for persuasion
- unacceptable online behaviour
- how to identify online risks
- how and when to seek support
- how elements of online activity could adversely affect a pupil's personal safety or the personal safety of others online
- how elements of online activity can adversely affect a pupil's wellbeing

We recognise that there are some pupils, for example looked after children and those with special educational needs, who may be more susceptible to online harm or have less support from family or friends in staying safe online. We will ensure these pupils receive the information and support they need.

In addition, our school completes an annual risk assessment for online safety. We consider the updated non-statutory guidance (Jan 2023) from the DfE on teaching online safety and how we teach these elements.

4. Educating parents about online safety

We recognise that parents can play a significant role in keeping their children safe online. To raise parents' awareness of online safety, we regularly share information in newsletters and send the weekly National College #Wake Up Wednesday bulletin.

5. Acceptable use agreement

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. Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use if relevant.

Use of mobile and smart technology

We recognise that many children have unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks (i.e. 3G, 4G and 5G). Pupils are not permitted to bring phones to school without permission, all phones are switched off on entry to school grounds and handed in to an adult for the duration of the school day. This is to restrict opportunities for any child, whilst at school, to sexually harass their peers via their mobile and smart technology, share indecent images consensually and non-consensually (often via large chat groups), and view and share pornography and other harmful content. Pupils breaching the schools AUP will have their phone confiscated and parents will be contacted.

6. 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 annually as part of our safeguarding training programme, as well as relevant updates (for example through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings).

The DSL and Deputy DSLs 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.

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

7. Further information to support you

For **parents** the following websites could be of use:

- Samaritans: Talking to your child about self-harm and suicide content online
- NSPCC Online Safety Guides for parents
- Report harmful content at https://reportharmfulcontent.com/
- Report concerns to the NSPCC https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-reporting/
- Thinkuknow- how to help your children get the most out of the internet
- Further guidance shared by the DfE can be accessed here

For **students** the following websites could be of use:

- Mind- mental health support
- Togetherall- online community accessible 24/7
- Shout- a free text service available 24 hours a day. You can start a conversation by texting Shout to 85258
- Samaritans' self-help app
- Kooth is an online mental wellbeing community for young person
- Report harmful content at https://reportharmfulcontent.com/child/
- Report concerns to the NSPCC https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-reporting/

For **all staff and volunteers** it is useful to be aware of the resources available to staff and students so that you can signpost them as required. In addition the following resources could be of use:

- UK Safer Internet Safety- teacher guides and resources
- https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/
- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-schools/teaching-online-safety-in-schools