



Online Safety and ICT Policy

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School 2023-2025

This policy is underpinned by our school mission and values:

Mission:

Nurturing our God-Given Talents

Values:

Respect

Resilience

Truth

Faith

Love

Mercy

**Person
Responsible: Mrs C
Pita**

Date: July 2023

Next review due by: Autumn 2025

Contents

1. Aims.....	2
2. Legislation and guidance	2
3. Roles and responsibilities	2
4. Educating pupils about online safety	4
5. Educating parents about online safety	4
6. Cyber-bullying.....	5
7. Acceptable use of the internet in school.....	6
8. Pupils using mobile devices in school	6
9. Staff using work devices outside school.....	6
10. Social Media	7
10. How the school will respond to issues of misuse.....	9
11. Training.....	9
12. Monitoring arrangements	10
13. Links with other policies	10

1. Aims

Our school aims to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of all stakeholders within the school.
- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), and its advice for schools on [preventing and tackling bullying](#) and [searching, screening and confiscation](#). It also refers to the Department'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 co-ordinate with appropriate staff to discuss online safety, and monitor online safety logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

The link governor for ICT and online safety is Paul Drake.

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 ICT systems and the internet (appendix 2)

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

Details of the school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

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

- in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school
- Working with the SLT, ICT leader and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring 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 SLT and/ or governors.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.4 The ICT leader

The ICT leader is responsible for:

- Putting in place appropriate filtering and monitoring systems, which are updated on a regular basis and keep pupils safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material
- Ensuring 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 on a weekly basis
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged 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 and will be managed alongside the technician.

3.5 All staff and volunteers

All staff, including contractors and agency staff, members of the PA 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 ensuring that pupils follow the school's terms on acceptable use
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged 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 of acceptable use in the school's E-Safety Rules.
- Ensure they have read, understood and adhere to the terms of acceptable use in the school's E-Safety Rules

Parents can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online or from the links available on the school website.

3.7 Visitors and members of the community

Visitors and members of the community who use the school's ICT 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.

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

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

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 letters or other communications 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 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.

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 pupils, and the issue will be addressed in assemblies.

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

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

In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, the school will follow the processes set out by the school. 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 consider whether the incident should be reported to the police if it involves illegal material, and will work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

6.3 Examining electronic devices

School staff have the specific power under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (which has been increased by the Education Act 2011) to search for and, if necessary, delete inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices, including mobile phones, iPads and other tablet devices, where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

When deciding whether there is a good reason to examine or erase data or files on an electronic device, staff must reasonably suspect that the data or file in question has been, or could be, used to:

- Cause harm, and/or
- Disrupt teaching, and/or
- Break any of the school rules

If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the staff member in conjunction with the DSL or other member of the senior leadership team to decide whether they should:

- Delete that material, or
- Retain it as evidence (of a criminal offence or a breach of school discipline), and/or
- Report it to the police

Any searching of pupils will be carried out in line with the DfE's latest guidance on [screening, searching and confiscation](#).

Any complaints about searching for or deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices will be dealt with through the school complaints procedure.

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. 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 monitor the websites visited by pupils, staff, volunteers, governors and visitors (where relevant) to ensure they comply with the above.

More information is set out in the acceptable use agreement.

8. Pupils using mobile devices in school

Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile or electronic devices into school or on school led activities.

9. Staff using work devices outside school

Staff members using a work device outside school must not install any unauthorised software on the device and must not use the device in any way which would violate the school's terms of acceptable use.

Staff must ensure that their work device is secure and password-protected, and that they do not share their password with others. They must take all reasonable steps to ensure the security of their work device when using it outside school. Any USB devices containing data relating to the school must be encrypted.

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

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

10. Social Media

10.1 Expectations

- The expectations' regarding safe and responsible use of social media applies to all members of the St. Mary's community.
- The term social media may include (but is not limited to): blogs; wikis; social networking sites; forums; bulletin boards; online gaming; apps; video/photo sharing sites; chatrooms and instant messenger.
- All members of St. Mary's community are expected to engage in social media in a positive, safe and responsible manner, at all times.
 - All members of St. Mary's community are advised not to publish specific and detailed private thoughts, concerns, pictures or messages on any social media services, especially content that may be considered threatening, hurtful or defamatory to others.
- The school will control pupil and staff access to social media whilst using school provided devices and systems on site.
- Concerns regarding the online conduct of any member of the St. Mary's community on social media, should be reported to the school and will be managed in accordance with our Anti-bullying, Complaints Procedure, Behaviour and Child protection policies.

10.2 Staff Personal Use of Social Media

- The safe and responsible use of social networking, social media and personal publishing sites will be discussed with all members of staff as part of staff induction and will be revisited and communicated via regular staff training opportunities.
- Safe and professional behaviour will be outlined for all members of staff (including volunteers) as part of the school Code of conduct within the Acceptable Use Policy.

Reputation

- All members of staff are advised that their online conduct on social media can have an impact on their role and reputation within school. Civil, legal or disciplinary action may be taken if they are found to bring the profession or institution into disrepute, or if something is felt to have undermined confidence in their professional abilities.
- All members of staff are advised to safeguard themselves and their privacy when using social media sites. Advice will be provided to staff via staff training and by sharing appropriate guidance and resources on a regular basis. This will include (but is not limited to):
 - Setting the privacy levels of their personal sites as strictly as they can.
 - Being aware of location sharing services.
 - Opting out of public listings on social networking sites.
 - Logging out of accounts after use.
 - Keeping passwords safe and confidential.
 - Ensuring staff do not represent their personal views as that of the school.
- Members of staff are encouraged not to identify themselves as employees of St. Mary's on their personal social networking accounts. This is to prevent information on these sites from being linked with the school and also to safeguard the privacy of staff members.
- All members of staff are encouraged to carefully consider the information, including text and images, they share and post online and to ensure that their social media use is compatible with their professional role and is in accordance with schools policies and the wider professional and legal framework.
 - Information and content that staff members have access to as part of their employment, including photos and personal information about pupils and their family members or colleagues will not be shared or discussed on social media sites.
- Members of staff will notify the Leadership Team immediately if they consider that any content shared on social media sites conflicts with their role in the school.

Communicating with pupils and parents and carers

- All members of staff are advised not to communicate with or add as 'friends' any current or past pupils (or family members) via any personal social media sites, applications or profiles.
 - Any pre-existing relationships or exceptions that may compromise this will be discussed with Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or the headteacher.
 - If ongoing contact with pupils is required once they have left the school roll, members of staff will be expected to use existing alumni networks or use official school provided communication tools.
- Staff will not use personal social media accounts to make contact with ex- pupils, pupils or parents, nor should any contact be accepted, except in circumstance whereby prior approval has been given by the Headteacher.
- Any communication from pupils and parents received on personal social media accounts will be reported to the schools Designated Safeguarding Lead.

10.3 Pupils' Personal Use of Social Media

- Safe and appropriate use of social media will be taught to pupils as part of an embedded and progressive education approach, via age appropriate sites and resources.
- The school is aware that many popular social media sites state that they are not for children under the age of 13 and therefore we would not expect St. Mary's children to be accessing these sites.
- Any concerns regarding pupils' use of social media, both at home and at school, will be dealt with in accordance with existing school policies including anti-bullying and behaviour. Concerns will also be raised with parents/carers as appropriate, particularly when concerning underage use of social media sites or tools.
- Pupils will be advised:
 - To consider the benefits and risks of sharing personal details on social media sites which could identify them and/or their location. Examples would include real/full name, address, mobile or landline phone numbers, school attended, other social media contact details, email addresses, full names of friends/family, specific interests and clubs.
 - To only approve and invite known friends on social media sites and to deny access to others by making profiles private/protected.
 - Not to meet any online friends without a parent/carer or other responsible adult's permission and only when a trusted adult is present.
 - To use safe passwords.
 - To use social media sites which are appropriate for their age and abilities.
 - How to block and report unwanted communications and report concerns both within school and externally.

11. How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a pupil misuses the school's ICT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in the behaviour policy. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident, and will be proportionate.

Where a staff member misuses the school's ICT 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. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident.

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

11. 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).

The DSL and deputy 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.

12. Monitoring arrangements

The DSL logs behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety. An incident report log is kept by the ICT leader.

13. Links with other policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- Child protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Respect and Behaviour Policy
- Staff disciplinary procedures
- Complaints Policy
- Computing Policy
- Photographic Images of Children Policy.

Acceptable use summary(pupils and parents/carers)

Acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet for pupils and parents/carers

When using the school's ICT systems and accessing the internet in school, children will not:

- Use them for a non-educational purpose
- Use them without a teacher being present, or without a teacher's permission
- Access any inappropriate websites
- Access social networking sites
- Use chat rooms
- 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
- Share passwords with others or log in to the school's network using someone else's details
- Give personal information (including my name, address or telephone number) to anyone without the permission of teachers or parents/carers
- Arrange to meet anyone offline without first consulting parents/carers, or without adult supervision

The school will monitor the websites the children visit.

The children will immediately let a teacher or other member of staff know if they find any material which might upset, distress or harm themselves or others.

Parent/carer agreement: Parents/ carers agree that their child/ children can use the school's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. They 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 their child/ children understands these.

As part of the St. Mary's community, parents/ carers are expected to engage in social media in a positive, safe and responsible manner at all times. They understand the guidance on parental use of mobile devices, the internet and social media, as outlined in the Online Safety Policy, and they will adhere to these.

Acceptable use agreement (staff, governors, volunteers and visitors)

Acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the 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, I will not:

- Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal or pornographic nature
- Use them in any way which 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
- Share my password with others or log in to the school's network using someone else's details

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.

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 leader know if a pupil informs me they have found any material which 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.

I have read and understand the guidance in the Online Safety policy regarding social media and networking sites.

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

Date:

