



Taunton Deane
Partnership College

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility

On-line Safety Policy

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Scope of the Policy

This Online Safety Policy outlines the commitment of Taunton Deane Partnership College to safeguard members of our school community online in accordance with statutory guidance and best practice.

This Online Safety Policy applies to all members of the school community (including staff, students, management committee members, volunteers, parents and carers, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of school digital systems, both in and out of the school. It also applies to the use of personal digital technology on the school site (where allowed).

Taunton Deane Partnership College will deal with such incidents within this policy and associated behaviour and anti-bullying policies and will, where known, inform parents/carers of incidents of inappropriate online safety behaviour that take place out of school.

Schedule for development, monitoring and review

The implementation of the Online Safety Policy will be monitored by an Online Safety working group. The group will meet once every term and a report will be presented to the Management Committee annually in July. Any serious online safety incidents will be reported to the Somerset LADO and/or the police as appropriate.

The impact of the Online Safety Policy will be monitored using:

- logs of reported incidents
- Filtering and monitoring logs
- surveys/questionnaires of students, parents/carers and staff (from September 2024)

Roles and responsibilities

Headteacher and senior leaders

- The Headteacher has a duty of care for ensuring the safety (including online safety) of members of the school community and fostering a culture of safeguarding, though the day-to-day responsibility for online safety is held by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, as defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Business Manager should be aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safety allegation being made against a member of staff.
- The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that the Designated Safeguarding Lead / Online Safety Lead, IT provider, and other relevant staff carry out their responsibilities effectively and receive suitable training to enable them to carry out their roles and train other colleagues, as relevant.
- The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher will ensure that there is a system in place to allow for monitoring and support of those in school who carry out the internal online safety monitoring role.
- The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher will receive regular monitoring reports from the Business Manager and IT Provider.
- The Deputy Headteacher and Business Manager will work with the responsible Management Committee Member, the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and IT service providers in all aspects of filtering and monitoring.

TDPC Management Committee

Management Committee members are responsible for the approval of the Online Safety Policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy e.g. by asking the questions posed in the UKCIS document “Online Safety in Schools and Colleges – questions from the Governing Body”.

This review will be carried out by the Management Committee whose members will receive regular information about online safety incidents and monitoring reports. A member of the Management Committee will take on the role of Online Safety Governor to include:

- regular meetings with the Designated Safeguarding Lead / Online Safety Lead
- regularly receiving (collated and anonymised) reports of online safety incidents
- checking that provision outlined in the Online Safety Policy (e.g. online safety education provision and staff training is taking place as intended)
- Ensuring that the filtering and monitoring provision is reviewed and recorded, at least annually. (The review will be conducted by members of the SLT, the DSL, and the IT service provider and involve the responsible Member) - in-line with the [DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards](#)
- reporting to Management Committee Meeting at least annually
- Receiving (at least) basic cyber-security training to enable the Management Committee Members to check that the school meets the [DfE Cyber-Security Standards](#)

The Management Committee will also support the school in encouraging parents/carers and the wider community to become engaged in online safety activities.

Designated Safety Lead (DSL)

The DSL will:

- hold the lead responsibility for online safety, within their safeguarding role.
- Receive relevant and regularly updated training in online safety to enable them to understand the risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online
- meet regularly with the online safety management committee member to discuss current issues, review (anonymised) incidents and filtering and monitoring logs and ensuring that annual (at least) filtering and monitoring checks are carried out
- attend relevant management committee meetings
- report regularly to headteacher/senior leadership team
- be responsible for receiving reports of online safety incidents and handling them and deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies, ensuring that all incidents are recorded.
- liaise with staff and IT providers on matters of safety and safeguarding and welfare (including online and digital safety)
- lead the Online Safety Group
- receive reports from the Business Manager and IT Provider of online safety issues, being aware of the potential for serious child protection concerns and ensure that these are logged to inform future online safety developments
- have a leading role in establishing and reviewing the school online safety policies/documents

- promote an awareness of and commitment to online safety education / awareness raising across the school and beyond
- liaise with curriculum leaders to ensure that the online safety curriculum is planned, mapped, embedded and evaluated
- ensure that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident taking place and the need to immediately report those incidents
- identify sources of training and advice for staff/governors/parents/carers/students
- liaise with external IT provider, pastoral staff and support staff (as relevant)
- receive regularly updated training to allow them to understand how digital technologies are used and are developing (particularly by students) with regard to the areas defined In Keeping Children Safe in Education:
 - content
 - contact
 - conduct
 - commerce
 -

Teaching Staff

Teaching Staff will work with the DSL to develop a planned and co-ordinated online safety education programme e.g. [ProjectEVOLVE](#) .

This will be provided through:

- PSHE and SRE programmes

Teaching and support staff

School staff are responsible for ensuring that:

- they have an awareness of current online safety matters/trends and of the current school Online Safety Policy and practices
- they understand that online safety is a core part of safeguarding
- they have read, understood, and signed the staff acceptable use agreement
- they immediately report any suspected misuse or problem to the DSL and/or Business Manager for investigation/action, in line with the school safeguarding procedures
- all digital communications with students and parents/carers are on a professional level and only carried out using official school systems
- ensure students understand and follow the Online Safety Policy and acceptable use agreements, have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations
- they supervise and monitor the use of digital technologies, mobile devices, cameras, etc., in lessons and other school activities (where allowed) and implement current policies regarding these devices
- in lessons where internet use is pre-planned students are guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches
- there is a zero-tolerance approach to incidents of online-bullying, sexual harassment, discrimination, hatred etc
- they model safe, responsible, and professional online behaviours in their own use of technology, including out of school and in their use of social media.

IT Provider

It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the IT provider carries out all the online safety measures that the school's obligations and responsibilities require. It is also important that the provider follows and implements school Online Safety Policy and procedures.

The IT Provider is responsible for ensuring that:

- they are aware of and follow the school Online Safety Policy and Technical Security Policy to carry out their work effectively in line with school policy
- the school technical infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack
- the school meets (as a minimum) the required online safety technical requirements as identified by the [DfE Meeting Digital and Technology Standards in Schools & Colleges](#) and guidance from local authority or other relevant body
- there is clear, safe, and managed control of user access to networks and devices
- they keep up to date with online safety technical information in order to effectively carry out their online safety role and to inform and update others as relevant
- the use of technology is regularly and effectively monitored in order that any misuse/attempted misuse can be reported to the Business Manager for investigation and action
- the filtering policy is applied and updated on a regular basis and its implementation is not the sole responsibility of any single person
- monitoring systems are implemented and regularly updated as agreed in school policies

Students

- are responsible for using the school digital technology systems in accordance with the learner acceptable use agreement and Online Safety Policy
- should understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and know how to do so
- should know what to do if they or someone they know feels vulnerable when using online technology.
- should understand the importance of adopting good online safety practice when using digital technologies out of school and realise that the school's Online Safety Policy covers their actions out of school, if related to their membership of the school.

Parents and carers

The school will take every opportunity to help parents and carers understand these issues through:

- publishing the school Online Safety Policy on the school website
- providing them with a copy of the students' acceptable use agreement
- publish information about appropriate use of social media relating to posts concerning the school.
- seeking their permissions concerning digital images, cloud services etc
- parents'/carers' meetings, newsletters, website, social media and information about national/local online safety campaigns and literature.

Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the school in:

- reinforcing the online safety messages provided to students in school.

- the safe and responsible use of their children’s personal devices in the school (where this is allowed)

Online Safety Group

The Online Safety Group provides a consultative group that has wide representation from the school community, with responsibility for issues regarding online safety and monitoring the Online Safety Policy including the impact of initiatives. The group will also be responsible for regular reporting to senior leaders and the Management Committee.

The Online Safety Group has the following members:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead
- senior leaders
- online safety governor
- IT Consultant (will input but unlikely to attend meetings)
- teacher and support staff members
- students (from September 2024)
- parents/carers (from September 2024)
-

Members of the Online Safety Group will assist the DSL/OSL with:

- the production/review/monitoring of the school Online Safety Policy/documents
- the production/review/monitoring of the school filtering policy and requests for filtering changes
- mapping and reviewing the online safety education provision – ensuring relevance, breadth and progression and coverage
- reviewing network/filtering/monitoring/incident logs, where possible
- encouraging the contribution of students to staff awareness, emerging trends and the school online safety provision
- consulting stakeholders – including staff/parents/carers about the online safety provision
- monitoring improvement actions identified through use of the 360-degree safe self-review tool.

Professional Standards

There is an expectation that required professional standards will be applied to online safety as in other aspects of school life i.e., policies and protocols are in place for the use of online communication technology between the staff and other members of the school and wider community, using officially sanctioned school mechanisms.

Online Safety Policy

The school Online Safety Policy:

- sets expectations for the safe and responsible use of digital technologies for learning, administration, and communication
- allocates responsibilities for the delivery of the policy
- is regularly reviewed in a collaborative manner, taking account of online safety incidents and changes/trends in technology and related behaviours
- establishes guidance for staff in how they should use digital technologies responsibly, protecting themselves and the school and how they should use this understanding to help safeguard students in the digital world
- describes how the school will help prepare students to be safe and responsible users of online technologies
- establishes clear procedures to identify, report, respond to and record the misuse of digital technologies and online safety incidents, including external support mechanisms
- is supplemented by a series of related acceptable use agreements
- is made available to staff at induction and available at all times in the staff information folder
- is published on the school website.

Acceptable use

The school has defined what it regards as acceptable/unacceptable use and this is shown in the tables below. Please read in conjunction with the Mobile Phone Policy.

Acceptable use agreements

The Online Safety Policy and acceptable use agreements define acceptable use at the school. The acceptable use agreements will be communicated/re-enforced through

- staff induction and handbook
- posters/notices around where technology is used
- communication with parents/carers
- built into education sessions
- school website
- peer support.

User actions		Acceptable	Acceptable at certain times	Acceptable for nominated users	Unacceptable	Unacceptable and illegal
Users shall not access online content (including apps, games, sites) to make, post, download, upload, data transfer, communicate or pass on, material, remarks, proposals or comments that contain or relate to:	<p>Any illegal activity for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child sexual abuse imagery* • Child sexual abuse/exploitation/grooming • Terrorism • Encouraging or assisting suicide • Offences relating to sexual images i.e., revenge and extreme pornography • Incitement to and threats of violence • Hate crime • Public order offences - harassment and stalking • Drug-related offences • Weapons / firearms offences • Fraud and financial crime including money laundering <p>N.B. Schools should refer to guidance about dealing with self-generated images/sexting – UKSIC Responding to and managing sexting incidents and UKCIS – Sexting in schools and colleges</p>					X
Users shall not undertake activities that might be classed as cyber-crime under the Computer Misuse Act (1990)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using another individual's username or ID and password to access data, a program, or parts of a system that the user is not authorised to access (even if the initial access is authorised) • Gaining unauthorised access to school networks, data and files, through the use of computers/devices • Creating or propagating computer viruses or other harmful files • Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (e.g., financial / personal information, databases, computer / network access codes and passwords) • Disable/Impair/Disrupt network functionality through the use of computers/devices • Using penetration testing equipment (without relevant permission) <p>N.B. Schools will need to decide whether these should be dealt with internally or by the police. Serious or repeat offences should be reported to the police. The National Crime Agency has a remit to prevent students becoming involved in cyber-crime and harness their activity in positive ways– further information here</p>					X
Users shall not undertake activities that are not illegal but are classed as unacceptable in school policies:	Accessing inappropriate material/activities online in a school setting including pornography, gambling, drugs. (Informed by the school's filtering practices and/or AUAs)				X	
	Promotion of any kind of discrimination				X	
	Using school systems to run a private business				X	
	Using systems, applications, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering/monitoring or other safeguards employed by the school				X	

User actions		Acceptable	Acceptable at certain times	Acceptable for nominated users	Unacceptable	Unacceptable and illegal
	Infringing copyright				X	
	Unfair usage (downloading/uploading large files that hinders others in their use of the internet)			X	X	
	Any other information which may be offensive to others or breaches the integrity of the ethos of the school or brings the school into disrepute				X	

Consideration should be given for the following activities when undertaken for non-educational purposes (also see Mobile Phone Policy) Schools may wish to add further activities to this list.	Staff and other adults				Students			
	Not allowed	Allowed	Allowed at certain times	Allowed for selected staff	Not allowed	Allowed	Allowed at certain times	Allowed with staff permission/awareness
Online gaming	X				X			
Online shopping/commerce	X				X			
File sharing	X				X			
Social media	X				X			
Messaging/chat	X				X			
Entertainment streaming e.g. Netflix, Disney+			X		X			
Use of video broadcasting, e.g. YouTube, Twitch, TikTok			X	X	X			
Mobile phones may be brought to school (see mobile phone policy)								

Use of mobile phones for learning at school (see mobile phone policy)								
Use of mobile phones in social time at school (see mobile phone policy)								
Taking photos on mobile phones/cameras (see mobile phone policy)								
Use of other personal devices, e.g. tablets, gaming devices	X				X			
Use of personal e-mail in school, or on school network/wi-fi (on personal phone and not on school network)		X			X			
Use of school e-mail for personal e-mails	X				X			

When using communication technologies, the school considers the following as good practice:

- when communicating in a professional capacity, staff should ensure that the technologies they use are officially sanctioned by the school.
- any digital communication between staff and students or parents/carers (e-mail, text message) must be professional in tone and content. **Personal e-mail addresses, text messaging from personal devices or social media must not be used for these communications.**
- staff should be expected to follow good practice when using personal social media regarding their own professional reputation and that of the school and its community
- users should immediately report to the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication.
- relevant policies and permissions should be followed when posting information online e.g., school website and social media. Only school e-mail addresses should be used to identify members of staff and students.

Reporting and responding

The school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure online safety for all school users but recognises that incidents may occur inside and outside of the school (with impact on the school) which will need intervention. The school will ensure:

- there are clear reporting routes which are understood and followed by all members of the school community which are consistent with the school safeguarding procedures, and with the whistleblowing, complaints and managing allegations policies.
- all members of the school community will be made aware of the need to report online safety issues/incidents
- reports will be dealt with as soon as is practically possible once they are received
- the Designated Safeguarding Lead, and other responsible staff (Business Manager) have appropriate skills and training to deal with online safety risks.

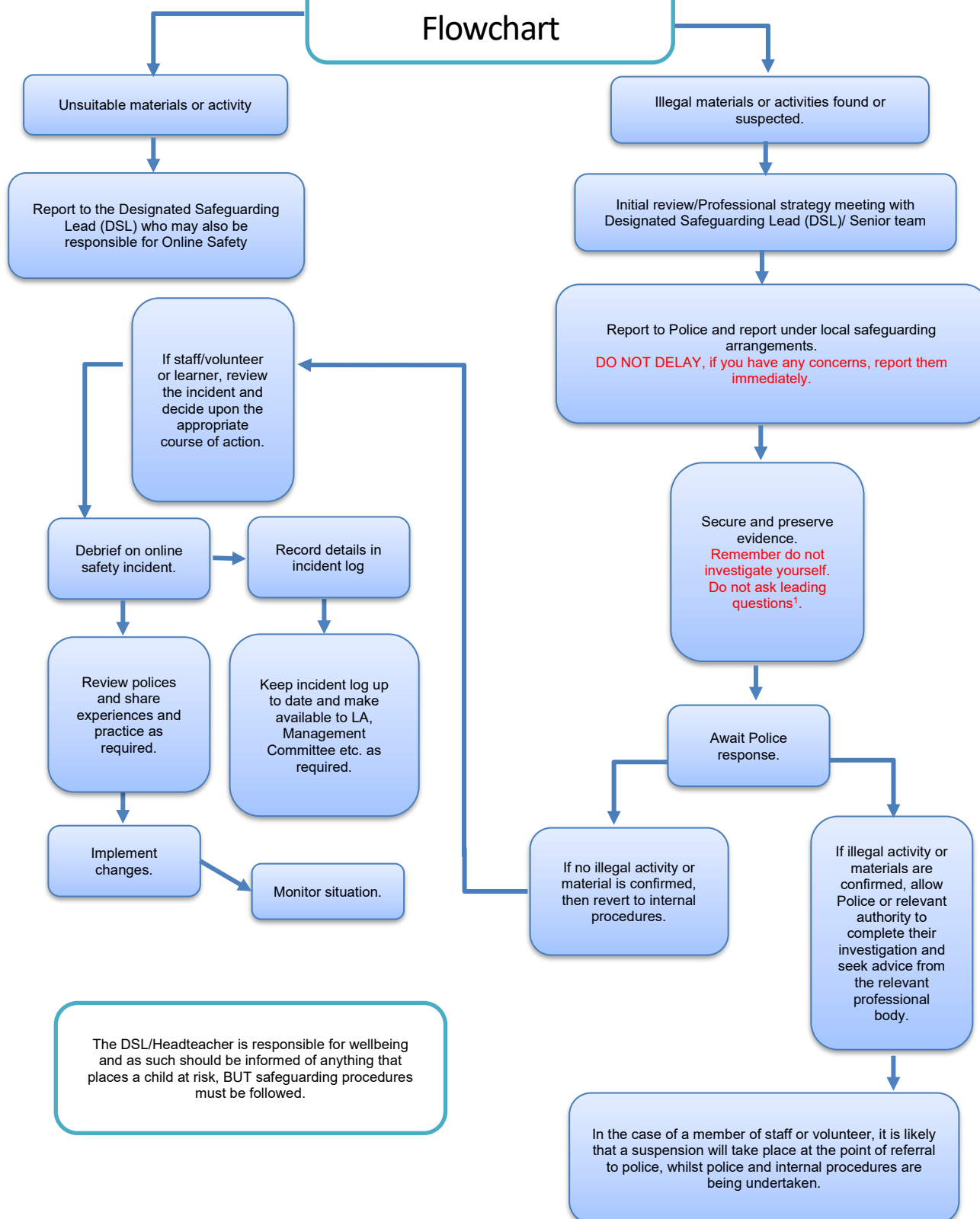
- if there is any suspicion that the incident involves any illegal activity or the potential for serious harm, the incident must be escalated through the agreed school safeguarding procedures, this may include
 - Non-consensual images
 - Self-generated images
 - Terrorism/extremism
 - Hate crime/ Abuse
 - Fraud and extortion
 - Harassment/stalking
 - Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)
 - Child Sexual Exploitation Grooming
 - Extreme Pornography
 - Sale of illegal materials/substances
 - Cyber or hacking offences under the Computer Misuse Act
 - Copyright theft or piracy
- any concern about staff misuse will be reported to the Headteacher, unless the concern involves the Headteacher, in which case the complaint is referred to the Chair of Management Committee and the local authority
- where there is no suspected illegal activity, devices may be checked using the following procedures:
 - one or more senior members of staff should be involved in this process. This is vital to protect individuals if accusations are subsequently reported.
 - conduct the procedure using a designated device that will not be used by students and, if necessary, can be taken off site by the police should the need arise (should illegal activity be subsequently suspected). Use the same device for the duration of the procedure.
 - ensure that the relevant staff have appropriate internet access to conduct the procedure, but also that the sites and content visited are closely monitored and recorded (to provide further protection).
 - record the URL of any site containing the alleged misuse and describe the nature of the content causing concern. It may also be necessary to record and store screenshots of the content on the machine being used for investigation. These may be printed, signed, and attached to the form
 - once this has been completed and fully investigated the group will need to judge whether this concern has substance or not. If it does, then appropriate action will be required and could include the following:
 - internal response or discipline procedures
 - involvement by local authority (as relevant)
 - police involvement and/or action
- it is important that those reporting an online safety incident have confidence that the report will be treated seriously and dealt with effectively
- there are support strategies in place e.g., peer support for those reporting or affected by an online safety incident
- incidents should be logged by the Business Manager
- relevant staff are aware of external sources of support and guidance in dealing with online safety issues, e.g. local authority; police; [Professionals Online Safety Helpline](#); [Reporting Harmful Content](#); [CEOP](#).
- those involved in the incident will be provided with feedback about the outcome of the investigation and follow up actions.
- learning from the incident (or pattern of incidents) will be provided (as relevant and anonymously) to:

- the Online Safety Group for consideration of updates to policies or education programmes and to review how effectively the report was dealt with
- staff, through regular briefings
- students, through lessons
- parents/carers, through newsletters, website
- management committee, through regular safeguarding updates
- local authority /Somerset Children's Safeguarding Partnership

The school will make the flowchart below available to staff to support the decision-making process for dealing with online safety incidents.

Online Safety Incident Flowchart

Online Safety Incident Flowchart



School actions

It is more likely that the school will need to deal with incidents that involve inappropriate rather than illegal misuse. It is important that any incidents are dealt with as soon as possible in a proportionate manner, and that members of the school community are aware that incidents have been dealt with. It is intended that incidents of misuse will be dealt with through normal behaviour/disciplinary procedures as follows:

Responding to Learner Actions

Incidents	Refer to class teacher/tutor	Refer to DSL / Online Safety Lead	Refer to Headteacher	Refer to Police/Social Work	Refer to local authority technical support for advice/action	Inform parents/carers	Remove device/network/Internet access rights	Issue a warning	Further sanction, in line with behaviour policy
Deliberately accessing or trying to access material that could be considered illegal (see list in earlier section on User Actions on unsuitable/inappropriate activities).		X	X	X		X			X
Attempting to access or accessing the school network, using another user's account (staff or learner) or allowing others to access school network by sharing username and passwords	X					X		X	X
Corrupting or destroying the data of other users.			X			X		X	X
Sending an e-mail, text or message that is regarded as offensive, harassment or of a bullying nature	X		X			X		X	X
Unauthorised downloading or uploading of files or use of file sharing.			X			X		X	X
Using proxy sites or other means to subvert the school's filtering system.		X	X			X	X	X	
Accidentally accessing offensive or pornographic material and failing to report the incident.	X	X							
Deliberately accessing or trying to access offensive or pornographic material.		X	X			X			

Receipt or transmission of material that infringes the copyright of another person or infringes the Data Protection Act.	X	X	X			X			
Unauthorised use of digital devices (including taking images)	X	X	X			X			
Unauthorised use of online services	X	X	X			X			
Actions which could bring the school into disrepute or breach the integrity or the ethos of the school.	X	X				X			X
Continued infringements of the above, following previous warnings or sanctions.	X	X					X		

Responding to Staff Actions

Incidents	Refer to line manager	Refer to Headteacher	Refer to local authority	Refer to Police	Refer to Technical Support Staff for action re filtering, etc.	Disciplinary Action - warning	Dismissal
Deliberately accessing or trying to access material that could be considered illegal (see list in earlier section on unsuitable / inappropriate activities)		X	X	X			
Deliberate actions to breach data protection or network security rules.		X			X	X	X
Deliberately accessing or trying to access offensive or pornographic material		X	X	X	X	X	X
Corrupting or destroying the data of other users or causing deliberate damage to hardware or software		X			X	X	X
Using proxy sites or other means to subvert the school's filtering system.		X			X	X	X
Unauthorised downloading or uploading of files or file sharing		X			X	X	
Breaching copyright or licensing regulations.		X				X	
Allowing others to access school network by sharing username and passwords or attempting to access or accessing the school network, using another person's account.		X			X	X	X

Sending an e-mail, text or message that is regarded as offensive, harassment or of a bullying nature	X	X				X	
Using personal e-mail/social networking/messaging to carry out digital communications with students and parents/carers		X				X	
Inappropriate personal use of the digital technologies e.g. social media / personal e-mail		X				X	
Careless use of personal data, e.g. displaying, holding or transferring data in an insecure manner	X	X			X		
Actions which could compromise the staff member's professional standing		X				X	
Actions which could bring the school into disrepute or breach the integrity or the ethos of the school.		X				X	X
Failing to report incidents whether caused by deliberate or accidental actions	X	X				X	
Continued infringements of the above, following previous warnings or sanctions.		X				X	X

Online Safety Education Programme

While regulation and technical solutions are particularly important, their use must be balanced by educating students to take a responsible approach. The education of students in online safety is therefore an essential part of the school's online safety provision. Students need the help and support of the school to recognise and avoid online safety risks and develop their resilience.

The 2021 Ofsted "Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges" highlighted the need for:

"a carefully sequenced RSHE curriculum, based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance, that specifically includes sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online. This should include time for open discussion of topics that children and young people tell us they find particularly difficult, such as consent and the sending of 'nudes'.."

Keeping Children Safe in Education states:

"Governing bodies and proprietors should 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. This will include considering how online safety is reflected as required in all relevant policies and considering online safety whilst planning the curriculum ..."

Online safety should be a focus in all areas of the curriculum and staff should reinforce online safety messages across the curriculum. The online safety curriculum should be broad, relevant and provide progression, with opportunities for creative activities and will be provided in the following ways:

- **A planned online safety curriculum** for all key stages.
- **Lessons are matched to need; are age-related and build on prior learning**
- **Lessons are context-relevant with agreed objectives leading to clear and evidenced outcomes**
- **Learner need and progress are addressed through effective planning and assessment**
- **Digital competency is planned and effectively threaded through the appropriate digital pillars in other curriculum areas e.g. PHSE; SRE; Literacy etc**
- **It incorporates/makes use of relevant national initiatives and opportunities e.g. [Safer Internet Day](#) and [Anti-bullying week](#)**
- **the programme will be accessible to students at different ages and abilities such as those with additional learning needs or those with English as an additional language.**
- vulnerability is actively addressed as part of a personalised online safety curriculum e.g., for victims of abuse and SEND.
- students should be helped to understand the need for the learner acceptable use agreement and encouraged to adopt safe and responsible use both within and outside school. Acceptable use is reinforced across the curriculum, with opportunities to discuss how to act within moral and legal boundaries online, with reference to the Computer Misuse Act 1990. Lessons and further resources are available on the [CyberChoices](#) site.
- staff should act as good role models in their use of digital technologies the internet and mobile devices
- in lessons where internet use is pre-planned, it is best practice that students should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches
- where students are allowed to freely search the internet, staff should be vigilant in supervising the students and monitoring the content of the websites the young people visit
- it is accepted that from time to time, for good educational reasons, students may need to research topics, (e.g. racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff should be able to request the temporary removal of those sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Any request to do so, should be auditable, with clear reasons for the need
- **the online safety education programme should be relevant and up to date to ensure the quality of learning and outcomes.**

Staff/volunteers

The DfE guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education” states:

“All staff should receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training (**including online safety**) at induction. The training should be **regularly updated**. In addition, all staff should receive safeguarding and child protection (**including online safety**) updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, and staff meetings), as required, and at least annually, to continue to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.”

“Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure... that safeguarding training for staff, **including online safety** training, is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the whole school or college safeguarding approach and wider staff training and curriculum planning.”

All staff will receive online safety training and understand their responsibilities, as outlined in this policy. Training will be offered as follows:

- a planned programme of formal online safety and data protection training will be made available to all staff. This will be regularly updated and reinforced. An audit of the online safety training needs of all staff will be carried out regularly.
- the training will be an integral part of the school's annual safeguarding and data protection training for all staff
- all new staff will receive online safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the school online safety policy and acceptable use agreements. It includes explicit reference to classroom management, professional conduct, online reputation and the need to model positive online behaviours.
- the Online Safety Lead and Designated Safeguarding Lead will receive regular updates through attendance at external training events and by reviewing guidance documents released by relevant organisations
- this Online Safety Policy and its updates will be presented to and discussed by staff in staff/team meetings/INSET days
- the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Online Safety Lead will provide advice/guidance/training to individuals as required.

Management Committee

Management Committee members should take part in online safety training/awareness sessions, with particular importance for those who are members of any sub-committee/group involved in technology/online safety/health and safety/safeguarding. This may be offered in several ways such as:

- attendance at training provided by the local authority or other relevant organisation
- participation in school training / information sessions for staff or parents

A higher level of training will be made available to (at least) the Online Safety Committee Member. This will include:

- Cyber-security training (at least at a basic level)
- Training to allow the Committee Member to understand the school's filtering and monitoring provision, in order that they can participate in the required checks and review.

Families

Many parents and carers have only a limited understanding of online safety risks and issues, yet they play an essential role in the education of their children and in the monitoring/regulation of the children's online behaviours. Parents may underestimate how often children and young people come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the internet and may be unsure about how to respond.

The school will seek to provide information and awareness to parents and carers through:

- regular communication, awareness-raising and engagement on online safety issues, curriculum activities and reporting routes
- the students – who are encouraged to pass on to parents the online safety messages they have learned in lessons
- newsletters, website,
- high profile events / campaigns e.g. [Safer Internet Day](#)
- reference to the relevant web sites/publications, e.g. [SWGfL](#); www.saferinternet.org.uk/; www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers

Technology

The school is responsible for ensuring that the school infrastructure/network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible and that policies and procedures approved within this policy are implemented. The school should ensure that all staff are made aware of policies and procedures in place on a regular basis and explain that everyone is responsible for online safety and data protection.

Filtering & Monitoring

The school filtering and monitoring provision is agreed by senior leaders, Management Committee and the IT Service Provider and is regularly reviewed (at least annually) and updated in response to changes in technology and patterns of online safety incidents/behaviours

Day to day management of filtering and monitoring systems requires the specialist knowledge of both safeguarding and IT staff to be effective. The DSL will have lead responsibility for safeguarding and online safety and the IT service provider will have technical responsibility. Checks on the filtering and monitoring system are carried out by the IT Service Provider with the involvement of a senior leader, the Designated Safeguarding Lead and a member of the Management Committee, in particular when a safeguarding risk is identified, there is a change in working practice, e.g. remote access or BYOD or new technology is introduced e.g. using [SWGfL Test Filtering](#)

Filtering

- the school manages access to content across its systems for all users and on all devices using the schools internet provision. The filtering provided meets the standards defined in the DfE Filtering standards for schools and colleges and the guidance provided in the UK Safer Internet Centre [Appropriate filtering](#).
- illegal content (e.g., child sexual abuse images) is filtered by the broadband or filtering provider by actively employing the Internet Watch Foundation URL list and the police assessed list of unlawful terrorist content, produced on behalf of the Home Office. Content lists are regularly updated
- filtering logs are regularly reviewed and alert the Designated Safeguarding Lead to breaches of the filtering policy, which are then acted upon.
- the school has established and effective routes for users to report inappropriate content, recognising that no system can be 100% effective
- there is a clear process in place to deal with, and log, requests/approvals for filtering changes
- provided enhanced/differentiated user-level filtering (allowing different filtering levels for different abilities/ages/stages and different groups of users: staff/students, etc.)
- younger students will use child friendly/age-appropriate search engines e.g. [SWGfL Swiggle](#)
- the school has a mobile phone policy and where personal mobile devices have internet access through the school network, content is managed in ways that are consistent with school policy and practice.
- access to content through non-browser services (e.g. apps and other mobile technologies) is managed in ways that are consistent with school policy and practice.

If necessary, the school will seek advice from, and report issues to, the SWGfL [Report Harmful Content](#) site.

Monitoring

The school has monitoring systems in place to protect the school, systems and users:

- The school monitors all network use across all its devices and services.
- monitoring reports are urgently picked up, acted on and outcomes are recorded by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, all users are aware that the network (and devices) are monitored.
- There are effective protocols in place to report abuse/misuse. There is a clear process for prioritising response to alerts that require rapid safeguarding intervention.
- Management of serious safeguarding alerts is consistent with safeguarding policy and practice.

The school follows the UK Safer Internet Centre Appropriate Monitoring guidance and protects users and school systems through the use of the appropriate blend of strategies informed by the school's risk assessment. These include:

- physical monitoring (adult supervision in the classroom)
- internet use is logged, regularly monitored and reviewed
- filtering logs are regularly analysed and breaches are reported to senior leaders
- pro-active alerts inform the school of breaches to the filtering policy, allowing effective intervention.
- use of a third-party assisted monitoring service to review monitoring logs and report issues to school monitoring lead(s)

Technical Security

The school technical systems will be managed in ways that ensure that the school meets recommended technical requirements:

- responsibility for technical security resides with SLT who may delegate activities to identified roles.
- all users have clearly defined access rights to school technical systems and devices. Details of the access rights available to groups of users will be recorded by the IT service provider and will be reviewed, at least annually, by the SLT/Online Safety Group
- password policy and procedures are implemented. (consistent with guidance from the National Cyber Security Centre)
- the security of their username and password and must not allow other users to access the systems using their log on details.
- all users have responsibility for the security of their username and password and must not allow other users to access the systems using their log on details.
- all school networks and system will be protected by secure passwords. Passwords must not be shared with anyone.
- the administrator passwords for school systems are kept in a secure place, e.g. school safe.
- there is a risk-based approach to the allocation of learner usernames and passwords.
- there will be regular reviews and audits of the safety and security of school technical systems
- servers, wireless systems and cabling are securely located and physical access restricted
- appropriate security measures are in place to protect the servers, firewalls, routers, wireless systems and devices from accidental or malicious attempts which might threaten the security of the school systems and data. These are tested regularly. The school infrastructure and individual workstations are protected by up-to-date endpoint software.
- there are rigorous and verified back-up routines, including the keeping of network-separated (air-gapped) copies off-site or in the cloud,

- the IT Provider is responsible for ensuring that all software purchased by and used by the school is adequately licenced and that the latest software updates (patches) are applied.
- an appropriate system is in place for users to report any actual/potential technical incident/security breach to the relevant person, as agreed
- use of school devices out of school is regulated by an acceptable use statement that a user consents to when the device is allocated to them
- personal use of any device on the school network is regulated by acceptable use statements that a user consents to when using the network
- staff members are not permitted to install software on a school-owned device
- removable media is not permitted unless approved by the SLT/IT service provider
- systems are in place to control and protect personal data and data is encrypted at rest and in transit
- mobile device security and management procedures are in place
- guest users are provided with appropriate access to school systems based on an identified risk profile.

Mobile technologies

The DfE guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education” states:

“The school or college should have a clear policy on the use of mobile and smart technology. Amongst other things this will reflect the fact many children have unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks (i.e. 3G, 4G and 5G). This access means some children, whilst at school or college, sexually harass, bully, and control others 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. Schools and colleges should carefully consider how this is managed on their premises and reflect this in their mobile and smart technology policy and their child protection policy.

The school acceptable use agreements for staff, students, parents, and carers outline the expectations around the use of mobile technologies.

The school allows:

	School devices			Personal devices		
	School owned for individual use	School owned for multiple users	Authorised device ¹	Student owned	Staff owned	Visitor owned
Allowed in school	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Full network access	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Internet only				No	No	No
No network access				Yes	Yes	Yes

Please see separate TDPC Mobile Phone Policy for details of use

¹ Authorised device – purchased by the learner/family through a school-organised scheme. This device may be given full access to the network as if it were owned by the school.

Social media

The school provides the following measures to ensure reasonable steps are in place to minimise risk of harm to students through:

- ensuring that personal information is not published.
- Education/training being provided including acceptable use, age restrictions, social media risks, digital and video images policy, checking of settings, data protection and reporting issues.
- clear reporting guidance, including responsibilities, procedures, and sanctions.
- risk assessment, including legal risk.
- guidance for students, parents/carers

School staff should ensure that:

- No reference should be made in social media to students, parents/carers or school staff.
- they do not engage in online discussion on personal matters relating to members of the school community.
- personal opinions should not be attributed to the school.
- security settings on personal social media profiles are regularly checked to minimise risk of loss of personal information.
- they act as positive role models in their use of social media

When official school social media accounts are established, there should be:

- a process for approval by senior leaders
- clear processes for the administration, moderation, and monitoring of these accounts – involving at least two members of staff
- a code of behaviour for users of the accounts
- systems for reporting and dealing with abuse and misuse
- understanding of how incidents may be dealt with under school disciplinary procedures.

Personal use

- personal communications are those made via personal social media accounts. In all cases, where a personal account is used which associates itself with, or impacts on, the school it must be made clear that the member of staff is not communicating on behalf of the school with an appropriate disclaimer. Such personal communications are within the scope of this policy
- personal communications which do not refer to or impact upon the school are outside the scope of this policy
- where excessive personal use of social media in school is suspected, and considered to be interfering with relevant duties, disciplinary action may be taken

Monitoring of public social media

- As part of active social media engagement, the school may pro-actively monitor the Internet for public postings about the school.
- the school should effectively respond to social media comments made by others according to a defined policy or process.
- when parents/carers express concerns about the school on social media we will urge them to make direct contact with the school, in private, to resolve the matter. Where this cannot be resolved, parents/carers should be informed of the school complaints procedure.

Digital and video images

The development of digital imaging technologies has created significant benefits to learning, allowing staff and students instant use of images that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet. However, staff, parents/carers and students need to be aware of the risks associated with publishing digital images on the internet. Such images may provide avenues for online bullying to take place. Digital images may remain available on the internet forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term. It is common for employers to carry out internet searches for information about potential and existing employees.

The school will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement policies to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm

- when using digital images, staff will inform and educate students about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images.
- staff/volunteers must be aware of those students whose images must not be taken/published. Those images should only be taken on school devices. The personal devices of staff should not be used for such purposes
- in accordance with [guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office](#), parents/carers are welcome to take videos and digital images of their children at school events for their own personal use (as such use is not covered by the Data Protection Act). To respect everyone's privacy and in some cases protection, these images should not be published/made publicly available on social networking sites, nor should parents/carers comment on any activities involving other *students* in the digital/video images
- staff and volunteers are allowed to take digital/video images to support educational aims, but must follow school policies concerning the sharing, storage, distribution and publication of those images
- care should be taken when sharing digital/video images that students are appropriately dressed
- students must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission
- photographs published on the website, or elsewhere that include students will be selected carefully and will comply with Online Safety Policy
- students' full names will not be used anywhere on a website or blog, particularly in association with photographs.
- written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of students are taken for use in school or published on the school website/social media.
- parents/carers will be informed of the purposes for the use of images, how they will be stored and for how long – in line with the school data protection policy
- images will be securely stored in line with the school retention policy
- students' work can only be published with the permission of the learner and parents/carers.

Online Publishing

The school communicates with parents/carers and the wider community and promotes the school through:

- Public-facing website
- Online newsletters

The school website is managed/hosted by Primary Site. The school ensures that online safety policy has been followed in the use of online publishing e.g., use of digital and video images, copyright, identification of young people, publication of school calendars and personal

information – ensuring that there is least risk to members of the school community, through such publications.

Where learner work, images or videos are published, their identities are protected, and full names are not published.

Outcomes

The impact of the Online Safety Policy and practice is regularly evaluated through the review/audit of online safety incident logs; behaviour/bullying reports; surveys of staff, students; parents/carers and is reported to relevant groups:

- there is balanced professional debate about the evidence taken from the reviews/audits and the impact of preventative work e.g., online safety education, awareness, and training
- there are well-established routes to regularly report patterns of online safety incidents and outcomes to school leadership and Management Committee
- parents/carers are informed of patterns of online safety incidents as part of the school's online safety awareness raising
- online safety (and related) policies and procedures are regularly updated in response to the evidence gathered from these reviews/audits/professional debate