



Online Safety Policy

Approved by Governors

Written

September 2024

To be reviewed

September 2026 (or in light of new legislation)



Whitefield Infant School and Nursery Online Policy



Introduction

This policy applies to all members of the school community (including staff, pupils, parents/carers, visitors and school community users).

Whitefield Infant School and Nursery embraces the positive impact and educational benefits that can be achieved through appropriate use of the Internet and associated communications technologies. We are also aware that inappropriate or misguided use can expose both adults and young people to unacceptable risks and dangers. To that end, Whitefield Infant School and Nursery aims to provide a safe and secure environment which not only protects all people on the premises but also educates them on how to stay safe in the wider world.

Our Online Policy, as part of the wider safeguarding and Child protection agenda, outlines how we will ensure our school community are prepared to deal with the safety challenges that the use of technology brings.

Our Vision

Whitefield Infant School and Nursery's vision for Online Safety is to provide a diverse, balanced and relevant approach to the use of technology. Our pupils will be encouraged to maximise the benefits and opportunities that technology has to offer by following the guidelines in the Lancashire Primary Online Safety framework. We will ensure that children will learn in a safe and secure environment so that they can learn effectively. Our aim is that pupils will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to use 21st Century technology appropriately and responsibly. Pupils will be taught how to recognise the risks associated with this technology and how to deal with them, both inside and outside the school environment.

Scope

This policy and related documents apply at all times to fixed and mobile technologies owned and supplied by the school and to personal devices owned by adults and young people while on the school premises.

The role of the school's Online Safety Champion

Our Online Safety Champion is Adam Ward & the Headteacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection.

The core duties/role of the Online Safety Champion includes:

- Operational responsibility to ensure the development, maintenance & review of the school's eSafety policy & associated documents, including Acceptable Use Policies.

- Ensure that the policy is implemented & that compliance with the policy is actively monitored.
- Ensure all staff are aware of reporting procedures and requirements should an Online Safety incident occur.
- Ensure the Online safety Incident Log is appropriately maintained and regularly reviewed.
- Keep personally up to date with Online Safety issues and guidance through liaison with Local Authority Schools' ICT Team and through advice given by national agencies such as the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP).
- To provide or arrange Online Safety advice/training for staff, parents/carers and governors.
- Ensure that SLT, staff, pupils and governors are updated as necessary.
- Liaise closely with the appropriate staff in school, such as the Home School Engagement Officer & appropriate outside agencies to ensure a co-ordinated approach across relevant Child Protections and Safeguarding areas.

Publicising Online -Safety

Effective communication across the school community is key to achieving the school vision for safe and responsible citizens. To achieve this we will:

- Make this policy, and related documents, available on the school website at:

<http://www.whitefield-inf.lancs.sch.uk/>
- Introduce this policy, and related documents, to all staff at appropriate times. This will be at least once a year or whenever it is updated
- Post relevant Online Safety information in all areas where computers are used
- Provide Online Safety information at parents evenings and through the school newsletter

Policies and practices

The Online Safety policy should be read in conjunction with the following other related policies and documents:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Computing Policy
- Good behaviour, care and Respect Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Security and Data Management

This section of the policy offers clear guidance to users regarding the management of potentially sensitive data.

In line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act (1998), sensitive or personal data is recorded, processed, transferred and made available for access in school. This data must be;

- Accurate
- Secure
- Fairly & lawfully processed
- Processed for limited purposes
- Processed in accordance with the data subject's rights
- Adequate, relevant and not excessive
- Kept no longer than is necessary
- Only transferred to others with adequate protection

In our school, data is kept secure and all staff are informed as to what they can & cannot do with regard to data in the following ways:

- The person responsible for managing information in school is the School Business Manager (SBM), Saima Afzaal.
- Relevant staff know the location of data
- Staff with access to personal data understand their legal responsibilities
- School will ensure that data is appropriately managed both within and outside the school environment
- All staff are aware that they should only use approved means to access, store and dispose of confidential data
- Staff who have remote access to school data must ensure the data remains secure by being aware of the dangers of unsecured wireless access outside school

Mobile devices and removable media

- Data held on mobile devices and removable media is password protected and encrypted
- Devices containing data may be allowed to be removed from the school premises with the knowledge of the Headteacher/School Business Manager/ICT Manager
- Staff are aware that personal devices must not be used to access data on school systems, such as downloading e-mail or files to a Smartphone
- LCC Digital Services ensures the risk of admin data loss is addressed and managed
- RBUSS, under LCC Digital Services, ensures the risk of all other data loss is addressed and managed
- Day to day monitoring of our system back-up is undertaken remotely by LCC digital services RBUSS meaning that RBUSS backup product is installed across multiple servers.
- Pupils, parents/carers and visitors will not be permitted to use any mobile device on the classroom floor or in any areas where there are children.

Use of mobile devices

In our school we recognise the use of mobile devices and removable devices offers a range of opportunities to extend children's learning. However, the following statements must be considered when using these devices:

- Staff are aware that some mobile devices e.g. mobile phones, game consoles or net books can access unfiltered internet content
- Permanent staff are permitted to access guest Wi-Fi using their personal devices. All staff understand that the Acceptable Use Policies apply to this equipment at all times.
- Teaching staff at the school are provided with a laptop for educational use and their own professional development. All staff understand that the Acceptable Use Policies apply to this equipment at all times.

Use of digital media

In our school we are aware of the issues surrounding the use of digital media online. All members of our school understand these issues and need to follow the school's guidance below. School will ensure all users are informed and educated about the risks surrounding taking, using, sharing, publishing and distributing digital media and consider the purpose for which the image will be used e.g. school website, brochure or display. As photographs and video of pupils and staff are regarded as personal data in terms of The Data Protection Act (1998), school will obtain written permission for their use from the individual and/or their parents or carers.

- Permission will be obtained from parents/carers upon the pupil entering the school. Permission is given for 5 years.
- School will not re-use any photographs or videos after 5 years of consent without further consent being sought.
- Full names and personal details will not be used on any digital media, particularly photographs
- Parents/carers who have been invited to attend school events and allowed to take photographs and videos, will be made aware of any conditions prior to the event in writing or verbally at the event.
- Staff recognise and understand the risks associated with publishing images, particularly in relation to use of personal Social Networking sites.
- Staff are aware that photographs/video that are taken using school equipment must only be used for school purposes, and only accessible to the appropriate staff/pupils.
- Staff must not use their own personal media devices to take photographs or videos.
- When taking photographs/video staff will ensure that all subjects are appropriately dressed and not participating in activities that could be misinterpreted
- Staff, parents/carers and pupils will be educated in the dangers of publishing images and videos of pupils or adults on Social Networking sites or websites without consent of the persons involved
- The guidelines for safe practice relating to the use of digital media, as outlined in the school's policy will be monitored annually by the Online Safety Co-ordinator.

Physical Environment / Security

The school endeavours to provide a safe environment for the whole community and we review both physical and network security regularly and monitor who has access to the system consulting with the LA where appropriate.

- Anti-virus software is installed on all computers and updated daily
- Central filtering is provided and managed by Lightspeed Systems with filtering via LCC Digital Services. All staff and students understand that if an inappropriate site is discovered it must be reported to Kim Hardacre who will report it to Lightspeed Systems to be blocked. All incidents will be recorded in the Online Safety log for audit purposes.
- Requests for changes to the filtering will be directed to Kim Hardacre, these will be considered and an appropriate judgement made. Kim Hardacre will consult with the LA or the head teacher if necessary.
- The school uses Sophos Virus protection and central blocking on all school owned equipment to ensure compliance with the Acceptable Use Policies.
- Pupils use is monitored
- Staff use is monitored by the Head
- All staff are issued with their own username and password for network access. Students use class log-ins, which have restricted access to our server.
- Any visitors (including consultants, creative practitioners) who wish to display material in school via interactive whiteboards/screens may do so in two ways:

1. Connect via their own laptop via a VGA lead to the whiteboard

2. Email material to Kim Hardacre who will make it available on our server

NB. External hard drives and pen sticks are not to be used on our PCs and laptops

- A 'guest' log-in is available for use of our internet facility for supply staff/ visitors
- Pupils are issued with a class username and password and understand that this must not be shared

Communication technologies

Email

In our school the following statements reflect our practice in the use of email.

- All staff have access to the Lancashire Grid for Learning service as the preferred school e-mail system & this is used for any work related activity
- Only official email addresses are used to contact staff
- Only key named staff are permitted to manage confidential information
- E-Mail communication is routinely monitored in accordance with Acceptable Use Policy
- Incidents of SPAM are reported to the ICT subject leader, Adam Ward
- Threatening or offensive e-mails are reported to the Online Safety Champion & evidence collected
- Pupils do not have individual e-mail accounts. If required as part of curriculum work, teachers create class accounts (within specific closed environment software packages) & manage these for the duration of a project, after which they are closed.

- In the event of a class requiring an email account for curriculum work, Kim Hardacre will create an account to be used solely for the purpose of the educational activity e.g. Skype. The username and password will not be shared with the pupils.

In our school the following statements outline what we consider to be acceptable and unacceptable use of the following:

Mobile telephones

- *See separate Mobile Phone and Camera Policy*

Instant Messaging

- Pupils to have no access to Instant messaging. If curriculum required It would only be as a part of carefully planned school activities (& with Head teacher permission). And under direct control of the teacher, as a class learning tool.

Web sites and other online publications

- The school website is managed & monitored by a key named member of staff.
- Content uploaded to the website is carefully controlled to ensure high levels of security & adherence to AUP requirements.
- All staff are aware of the importance of ensuring online safety when submitting items for publication on the school website.
- Pupils' work is not displayed in other digital locations

Video conferencing

- Teams is the preferred video conferencing tool as it is easily accessible & straightforward to set up.
- Video conferencing will only take place as part of carefully planned & approved education projects (with Headteacher permission).
- Parental written consent will be secured before video conferencing is undertaken.
- Teachers will be directly responsible for managing video conferencing sessions.
- Under no circumstances will children undertake video conferencing independently.
- Video conference partners will be carefully & systematically vetted to ensure pupil safety (e.g. use of trusted sources - schools, museums, education departments).
- Written & signed agreements will be in place prior to video conferencing sessions in order to ensure preservation of copyright, privacy and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).
- Full training for staff will be provided prior to commencing video conferencing activities.
- Video conferencing will be managed by a teaching team, not individual staff.

Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

The school actively promotes responsible, safe & courteous behaviour when accessing & using technology. Issues such as internet safety, copyright, plagiarism, cyberbullying & respect for

others' work are addressed regularly as a part of ongoing class projects. Staff act as positive role models & trusted adults & have signed AUP agreements.

The school has adapted the Lancashire AUP template agreement format for future AUP policy development, modification & use (see appendix).

Dealing with incidents

Incident Log

The school records and monitors any incidents/offences in relation to online safety via CPOM's (our school Safeguarding record keeping platform) and it is audited on a regular basis by the eSafety Champion/DSL/safeguarding Governor.

Illegal Offences

Any suspected illegal material or activity will be brought to the immediate attention of the Headteacher & referred to external authorities, e.g. Police, CEOP, Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) who will take responsibility for all aspects of investigation. The school recognises the importance of following correct procedures & will not conduct investigations independently.

Inappropriate Usage

Accidental access to inappropriate materials occurs very rarely & children & adults are aware of the necessary actions to take (minimise webpage, turn monitor off & tell a trusted adult immediately). The adult will then inform Kim Hardacre and log the incident on CPOMS using the 'online' category. These procedures are regularly reinforced as an integral part of ICT sessions. Details will be entered on CPOM's and reported to LGfL Lightspeed if necessary.

Infrastructure and Technology

The school provides & maintains an infrastructure & network that offers high levels of security.

Pupil Access

Pupils are only permitted to access the internet & school network as part of their studies. Teaching staff & Assistants are always present during periods of internet & network use. Where possible, selected sites are identified for pupil use & specific monitoring takes place when children navigate the internet more freely. Automatic filtering is in place. Children are reminded regularly about the need to be safe on line. This is a key feature of ICT sessions containing on-line aspects.

Passwords

The school network is password protected. Staff have individual logins. Pupils gain access through class logins & these have been agreed by Senior Managers & the ICT subject leader. Passwords are periodically reviewed & changed.

Software/Hardware

Software used in school is fully licensed & documentation is housed in secure on-site locations. The ICT Manager, Kim Hardacre, retains licences for education software. ICT hardware & software are audited annually.

Managing the network and technical support

The network is managed by key named staff & a representative from the LCC Digital (service level agreement). Servers, wireless systems and cabling are securely located and physical access is restricted. All wireless devices are security enabled & are only accessible through use of secure passcode logins. Security on the network is managed by key named staff with support from LCC Digital Services. Review of safety & security is ongoing & critical updates automatically programmed to activate as required. Network users have clearly defined access rights. Permissions are assigned by key named staff.

All pupils & staff are aware of the need to follow routines in order to preserve network security. On completion of work, users log out & automatic lockdown facilities are activated to protect the network if machines are inadvertently left unattended.

All software is installed using only Administrator login & permissions. Staff are permitted to transfer school work files to the network from portable hard drives & these are automatically scanned for viruses upon connection. Staff are aware of procedures to follow if they believe that security has been breached (key named points of contact).

All teachers have a school laptop. They are aware that this is school property & can be used both on-site & at home expressly for management & teaching purposes. They are not permitted to install additional software without permission & personal files are not to be transferred to or stored on this equipment. Teachers should use only school authorised equipment in school.

Filtering and virus protection

The school subscribes to the Lancashire Grid for Learning/LCC Digital Services broadband & high level internet content filtering is provided by default. Sophos Anti-Virus software is included in the school's subscription & this is configured to receive regular updates. On rare occasions, unsuitable content may get past the filter & pupils are taught to follow set procedures if this occurs (report instantly to staff & turn off monitor).

Education and Training

Online Safety across the curriculum

It is vital that pupils take responsibility to their own Online Safety. School will provide suitable online safety education to all pupils by considering the following:

- Regular, planned discreet Online Safety teaching using planning and resources from 'Project Evolve' scheme of learning

- Additional focus on Online Safety during the National Online Safety Awareness Week
- Online Safety education will be differentiated for pupils with SEND
- Pupils are made aware of the impact of Cyberbullying during both National Online Safety Week & National Anti-bullying Week by teachers. Pupils are advised how to seek help if they are affected by these issues
- Pupils are reminded of safe internet use by classroom displays and Online Safety rules (see appendix 7 & 8)

Online Safety – Raising staff awareness

- A planned formal Online Safety training for all staff takes place annually to update them on their responsibilities outlined in this policy & the schools' ICT policy
- Headteacher/Online Safety Champion will attend training (from a county provider/CEOP) as and when required in order that they can provide advice/guidance or training to individuals
- Staff are made aware of issues which affect their own personal safeguarding e.g. use of Social Networking sites. NO staff member can accept an invite from any pupil past or present to 'add' them on to their friend contacts
- Staff are expected to promote and model responsible use of ICT and digital resources
- Online Safety training is provided within an induction programme for all new staff to ensure that they fully understand the school's Online Safety Policy and the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
- Regular updates on Online Safety Policy, AUP, curriculum resources and general Online Safety issues are discussed in staff/team meetings

Online Safety – Raising parents/carers awareness

'Parents/Carers often either underestimate or do not realise how often children come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the internet and are often unsure about what they would do about it.' (Byron Report, 2008)

School will offer regular opportunities for parents/carers to be informed about Online Safety. These will include the benefits and risks of using various technologies. School will do this by:

- School newsletters, homework books, school website,
- Holding an Online Safety Awareness session at least annually based on demand
- Promote external Online Safety resources/online materials as a handout to all children at National eSafety Week & thereafter.
- We subscribe to Knowsley City Learning Centre who support school by providing Online Safety support through weekly Online Safety newsletters and offer Online Training for staff, parents and governors.

Online Safety - Raising Governors' awareness

Governors with specific responsibilities for Online Safety, ICT, Child Protection and Safeguarding Children & Anti- Bullying will be required to keep themselves up to date. This may be through discussion at Governor meetings, attendance at Local Authority or staff/parent/carers meetings. Our Online Safety Governor is Mrs Karen Wilkinson.

Standards and Inspection

Greater emphasis must be placed on monitoring child protection and safeguarding procedures within our school as technology is moving forward at such a rapid pace. School will consider the following to encompass this by ensuring:

- Online Safety incidents are monitored, recorded and reviewed (see appendix 10)
- New technologies are risk assessed & that they are included in the Online Safety Policy where appropriate
- Online Safety Champion to make necessary any changes to this policy, following regular reported Online Safety incidents which may affect practice within school
- Online Safety Champion to make staff, parents/carers, pupils and governors informed of any changes to policy and practice throughout the school year by use of class ICT lessons, school newsletter/website, staff/governor meetings.