



ST BENET BISCOP
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Online Safety Policy

This policy applies to all members of the school community (including staff, learners, 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).

Document Control

Owner: **Mrs L Poulter**

Date of last review: **September 2024**

Date of Governor Approval: 9 October 2024

Review date: **September 2025**

Scope of the Online Safety Policy

This Online Safety Policy outlines the commitment of St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy 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, learners, 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).

St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy 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.

Policy development, monitoring and review

This Online Safety Policy has been developed by:

- *headteacher/senior leaders*
- *online safety lead*
- *technical staff*
- *governors*

Schedule for development, monitoring and review

This Online Safety Policy was approved by the <i>school governing body</i> on:	
The implementation of this Online Safety Policy will be monitored by:	<i>Kevin Shepherd - Headteacher</i> <i>Christine Mills – Link Governor</i> <i>Lesley Poulter Assistant Headteacher – DSL</i>
Monitoring will take place at regular intervals:	<i>During governor link meetings</i>
The Online Safety Policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly in the light of any significant new technological developments, new threats to online safety or incidents that have taken place. The next anticipated review date will be:	<i>September 2025</i>
Should serious online safety incidents take place, the following external persons/agencies should be informed:	<i>All relevant external agencies e.g. police, children’s services etc, Bishop Bewick Academy Trust, DO, Human Resources and all other relevant parties.</i>

Process for monitoring the impact of the Online Safety Policy

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- *logs of reported incidents*
- *monitoring logs of internet activity (including sites visited)*
- *internal monitoring data for network activity*

Policy and leadership

Responsibilities

To ensure the online safeguarding of members of our school community it is important that all members of that community work together to develop safe and responsible online behaviours, learning from each other and from good practice elsewhere, reporting inappropriate online behaviours, concerns, and misuse as soon as these become apparent. While this will be a team effort, the following sections outline the online safety roles and responsibilities of individuals and groups within the school.

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 may be delegated to the Online Safety Lead.
- The headteacher and (at least) another member of the senior leadership team 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/senior leaders are responsible for ensuring that the Online Safety Lead, technical staff, 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/senior leaders 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/senior leaders will receive regular monitoring reports from the Online Safety Lead.

Governors

Governors are responsible for the approval of the Online Safety Policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy. These reviews will be carried out by Christine Mills who will receive regular information about online safety incidents and monitoring reports via safeguarding link meetings. The role of the Online Safety Governor includes:

- regular meetings with the 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)
- reporting to relevant governors group meeting
- The governing body will also support the school in encouraging parents/carers and the wider community to become engaged in online safety activities.

Online Safety Lead – L Poulter

The Online Safety Lead will:

- take day-to-day responsibility for online safety issues, being aware of the potential for serious child protection concerns
- 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
- receive reports of online safety incidents and create a log of incidents to inform future online safety developments
- provide (or identify sources of) training and advice for staff/governors/parents/carers/learners
- liaise with (school/local authority/MAT/external provider) technical staff, pastoral staff and support staff (as relevant)

- meet regularly with the online safety governor to discuss current issues, review (anonymised) incidents and if possible, filtering and monitoring logs
- attend relevant governing body meetings/groups
- report regularly to headteacher/senior leadership team.
- liaises with the local authority/MAT/relevant body.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSLs) – All DSLs – LP / KSW / HOPs / SSMs /SW

The Designated Safeguarding Lead should be trained in online safety issues and be aware of the potential for serious safeguarding issues to arise from:

- sharing of personal data
- access to illegal/inappropriate materials
- inappropriate online contact with adults/strangers
- potential or actual incidents of grooming
- online bullying.

Curriculum Leads

Curriculum Leads will work with the Online Safety Lead to develop a planned and coordinated online safety education programme.

This will be provided through:

- PHSE and RSHE programmes – Core Studies
- mapped cross-curricular programme across KS3 Computing curriculum and Core Studies
- assemblies and pastoral programmes
- through relevant national initiatives and opportunities e.g. Safer Internet Day and Anti-bullying week. Our Healthy Relationships Day and Children’s Mental Health week.

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 (AUA)
- they immediately report any suspected misuse or problem to the DSL team via CPOMS and in person for investigation/action, in line with the school safeguarding procedures
- all digital communications with learners and parents/carers should be on a professional level *and only carried out using official school systems*
- online safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other activities
- ensure learners 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 learners 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*
- have 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.

Network manager/technical staff – L Paxton and P Robins

The network manager/technical staff 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 local authority/MAT 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 DSL team 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 software/systems are implemented and regularly updated as agreed in school policies

Learners

- 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 learners' 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' evenings, 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 learners in school

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.

Policy

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 learners in the digital world
- describes how the school will help prepare learners 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 through normal communication channels including annual safeguarding training, sharepoint and the school website
- 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.

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
- log on screen and digital acceptance
- posters/notices around where technology is used
- communication with parents/carers
- built into education sessions
- school website
- pastoral 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>St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy will 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	<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 					X

User actions	Acceptable	Acceptable at certain times	Acceptable for nominated users	Unacceptable	Unacceptable and illegal
<p>be classed as cyber-crime under the Computer Misuse Act (1990)</p>	<p>authorised to access (even if the initial access is authorised)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy will decide whether these should be dealt with internally or by the police. Serious or repeat offences should be reported to the police. Under the Cyber-Prevent agenda the National Crime Agency has a remit to prevent learners becoming involved in cyber-crime and harness their activity in positive ways – further information here</p>				
<p>Users shall not undertake activities that are not illegal but are classed as unacceptable in school policies:</p>	<p>Accessing inappropriate material/activities online in a school setting including pornography, gambling, drugs. (Informed by the school's filtering practices and/or AUAs)</p>			X	
	<p>Promotion of any kind of discrimination</p>			X	
	<p>Using school systems to run a private business</p>			X	
	<p>Using systems, applications, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering or other safeguards employed by the school</p>			X	
	<p>Infringing copyright</p>			X	
	<p>Unfair usage (downloading/uploading large files that hinders others in their use of the internet)</p>			X	
	<p>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</p>			X	

Consideration should be given for the following activities when undertaken for non-educational purposes: Schools may wish to add further activities to this list.	Staff and other adults				Lower Learners – Black X both Sixth Form – Red			
	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	X		
Online shopping/commerce			X		X		X	
File sharing		X						Both
Social media			X		X		X	
Messaging/chat			X		X		X	
Entertainment streaming e.g. Netflix, Disney+				X	X		X	
Use of video broadcasting, e.g. YouTube, Twitch, TikTok			X		X		X	
Mobile phones may be brought to school		X			X		X	
Use of mobile phones for learning at school	X				X		X	
Use of mobile phones for MIS use on school site				X*				

Use of mobile phones in social time at school			X		X		X	
Taking photos on mobile phones/cameras				X	X		X	
Use of other personal devices, e.g. tablets, gaming devices			X		X		X	
Use of personal e-mail in school, or on school network/wi-fi			X		X		X	
Use of school e-mail for personal e-mails	X				X X			

*For use by on call staff if preferred to on call tablet for example by HOP, SLT. Form tutors registering on yard or registration purposes at the start of session eg lesson, detention attendance. Reason for use of personal mobile on the school can be questioned at any point. **Entries to classcharts during lessons** eg not for registration should be made via the desktop PC in classroom. Personal mobile devices should not used in lessons beyond the directed MIS purposes noted above.

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 learners or parents/carers (e-mail, social media, learning platform, etc.) must be professional in tone and content. *Personal e-mail addresses, text messaging 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 a nominated person – in accordance with the school policy – 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

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:

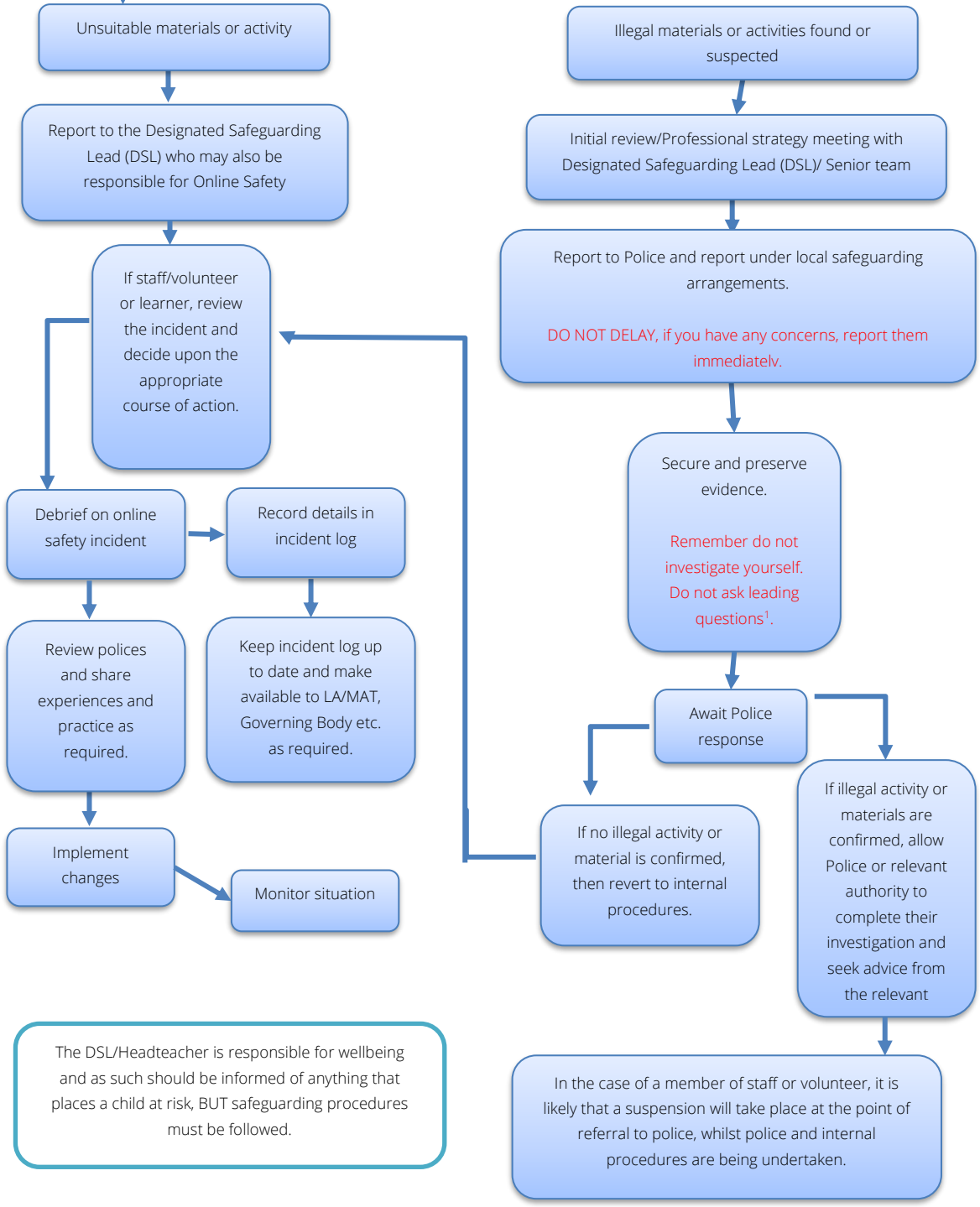
- there are clear reporting routes which are understood and followed by all members of the school community which are consistent with the school safeguarding procedures, and with the whistleblowing, complaints and managing allegations policies.

- 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, Online Safety Lead and other responsible staff 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 (see flowchart and user actions chart), the incident must be escalated through the agreed school safeguarding procedures.
- 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 Governors and the local authority / MAT
- 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 learners 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 incident records.
 - 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 / MAT (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 as per school processes
- 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 to:
 - the link governor for consideration of updates to policies or education programmes and to review how effectively the report was dealt with

- staff, through regular briefings
- learners, through assemblies/lessons
- parents/carers, through newsletters, school social media, website
- governors, through regular safeguarding updates
- local authority/external agencies, as relevant

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



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 could result in:

Incidents	Refer to class teacher/tutor	Refer to Head of Department / DSLs / Deputy Head	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	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	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	X	X
Corrupting or destroying the data of other users.		X	X			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	X	X
Unauthorised downloading or uploading of files or use of file sharing.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Using proxy sites or other means to subvert the school's filtering system.		X	X	Potentially	X	X	X	X	X
Accidentally accessing offensive or pornographic material and failing to report the incident.		X	X	Potentially	X	X	X	X	X

Deliberately accessing or trying to access offensive or pornographic material.		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Receipt or transmission of material that infringes the copyright of another person or infringes the Data Protection Act.		X	X	Potentially		X	X	X	X
Unauthorised use of digital devices (including taking images)		X	X	Potentially		X	X	X	X
Unauthorised use of online services		X	X			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	X	X
Continued infringements of the above, following previous warnings or sanctions.		X	X	X		X	X	X	X

Responding to **Staff** actions **could** result in:

Incidents	Refer to line manager	Refer to Headteacher	Refer to local authority/MAT/HR	Refer to Police	Refer to LA / Technical Support Staff for action re filtering, etc.	Issue a warning	Suspension	Disciplinary action
Deliberately accessing or trying to access material that could be considered illegal (see list in earlier section on unsuitable / inappropriate activities)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Deliberate actions to breach data protection or network security rules.	X	X	X	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		X	X	X
Using proxy sites or other means to subvert the school's filtering system.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Unauthorised downloading or uploading of files or file sharing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	x
Breaching copyright or licensing regulations.	X	X	X			X	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	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	X	X
Using personal e-mail/social networking/messaging to carry out	X	X	X			X	X	X

digital communications with learners and parents/carers								
Inappropriate personal use of the digital technologies e.g. social media / personal e-mail	X	X	X			X	X	X
Careless use of personal data, e.g. displaying, holding or transferring data in an insecure manner	X	X	X			X	X	X
Actions which could compromise the staff member's professional standing	X	X	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	X	X
Failing to report incidents whether caused by deliberate or accidental actions	X	X	X			X	X	X
Continued infringements of the above, following previous warnings or sanctions.	X	X	X			X	X	X

Online Safety Education Programme

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 .

There is a planned online safety curriculum for all year groups and regularly taught in a variety of contexts.

- 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; RSHE, KS3 Computing 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 learners at different ages and abilities such as those with additional learning needs or those with English as an additional language.
- learners 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
- 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 learners 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 learners are allowed to freely search the internet, staff should be vigilant in supervising the learners 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.

Contribution of Learners

The school acknowledges, learns from, and uses the skills and knowledge of learners in the use of digital technologies. We recognise the potential for this to shape the online safety strategy for the school community and how this contributes positively to the personal development of young people. Their contribution is recognised through:

- mechanisms to canvass learner feedback and opinions
- contributing to online safety events with the wider school community e.g. parents' evenings, family learning programmes etc.

Staff/volunteers

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 a 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 (or other nominated person) will receive regular updates through attendance at external training events, (e.g. UKSIC / SWGfL / MAT / LA / other relevant organisations) and by reviewing guidance documents released by relevant organisations
- this Online Safety Policy and its updates will be presented to staff

- the Online Safety Lead (or other nominated person) will provide advice/guidance/training to individuals as required.

Governors

Governors should take part in online safety training/awareness sessions, This may be offered in several ways such as:

- attendance at training provided by the local authority/MAT/ Clennell Education Solutions or other relevant organisation (e.g., SWGfL)
- participation in school training / information sessions for staff or parents (this may include attendance at assemblies/lessons).

A higher level of training will be made available to (at least) the Online Safety Governor.

Families

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
- regular opportunities for engagement with parents/carers on online safety issues through awareness workshops / parent/carer evenings etc
- the learners – who are encouraged to pass on to parents the online safety messages they have learned in lessons and by learners leading sessions at parent/carer evenings.
- letters, newsletters, website, learning platform,
- 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

- the school filtering policies are agreed by senior leaders and technical staff and are regularly reviewed and updated in response to changes in technology and patterns of online safety incidents/behaviours
- the school manages access to content across its systems for all users. The filtering provided meets the standards defined in the UK Safer Internet Centre

- access to online content and services is managed for all users
- illegal content (e.g., child sexual abuse images) is filtered by the broadband or filtering provider by actively employing the Internet Watch Foundation CAIC list and the police assessed list of unlawful terrorist content, produced on behalf of the Home Office. Content lists are regularly updated
- there are established and effective routes for users to report inappropriate content
- there is a clear process in place to deal with requests for filtering changes
- the school has provided enhanced/differentiated user-level filtering (allowing different filtering levels for different groups of users: staff/learners, etc.)
- filtering logs are regularly reviewed and alert the school to breaches of the filtering policy, which are then acted upon.
- 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.
- An appropriate monitoring strategy for all users has been agreed and users are aware that the network is monitored. There is a staff lead responsible for managing the monitoring strategy and processes.
- 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
- Technical monitoring systems are up to date and managed and logs/alerts are regularly reviewed and acted upon.

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 strategy informed by the school's risk assessment. These may 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.
- where possible, school technical staff regularly monitor and record the activity of users on the school technical systems

- 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 are managed in ways that ensure that the school meets recommended technical requirements for the local authority and Bishop Bewick Academy Trust:

- there are 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
- there are rigorous and verified back-up routines, including the keeping of network-separated (air-gapped) copies off-site or in the cloud
- 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 Network and will be reviewed, at least annually
- all users (adults and learners) 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.
- users must immediately report any suspicion or evidence that there has been a breach of security
- all school networks and system will be protected by secure passwords. Passwords must not be shared with anyone. All users will be provided with a username and password by the Network Manager who will keep an up-to-date record of users and their usernames
- the master account passwords for the school systems are kept in a secure place, e.g. school safe.
- passwords should be complex and long
- the Network Manager 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 called helpdesk reporting for users to report any actual/potential technical incident/security breach to the relevant person, as agreed
- 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 (anti-virus) software.
- an agreed system is in place for the provision of temporary access of 'guests', (e.g., trainee teachers, supply teachers, visitors) onto the school systems
- an acceptable use policy and remote learning policy is in place regarding the extent of personal use that users (staff / learners / community users) and their family members are allowed on school devices that may be used out of school
- an agreed acceptable use policy is in place that allows staff to/forbids staff from downloading executable files and installing programmes on school devices
- an agreed acceptable use policy regarding the use of removable media (e.g., memory sticks/CDs/DVDs) by users on school devices.
- systems are in place that prevent the unauthorised sharing of personal data unless safely encrypted or otherwise secured.

Mobile technologies

Mobile technology devices may be school owned/provided or personally owned and might include smartphone, tablet, wearable devices, notebook/laptop or other technology that usually has the capability of utilising the school’s wireless network. The device then has access to the wider internet which may include the school learning platform and other cloud-based services such as e-mail and data storage.

All users should understand that the primary purpose of the use of mobile/personal devices in a school context is educational.

The school acceptable use agreements for staff, learners, 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	Lower school student s owned	Staff owned	Visitor owned	Sixth Form
Allowed in school	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Full network access	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Internet only	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
No network access	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Social media

The school provides the following measures to ensure reasonable steps are in place to minimise risk of harm to learners 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 learners, parents/carers

School staff should ensure that:

- no reference should be made in social media to learners, parents/carers or school staff

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.

- 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

The official school social media accounts are Twitter and posts approved by senior leaders by senior leaders. There are:

- clear processes for the administration, moderation, and monitoring of these accounts – involving at least two members of staff
- 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
- the school permits reasonable and appropriate access to personal social media sites during school hours

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

- the school may use live-streaming or video-conferencing services in line with national and local safeguarding guidance / policies.
- when using digital images, staff will inform and educate learners about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images.

- staff/volunteers must be aware of those learners 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
- staff 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 learners are appropriately dressed
- learners must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission
- photographs published on the website, or elsewhere that include learners will be selected carefully and will comply with Online Safety Policy
- learners' 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 learners 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
- learners' 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
- Twitter
- Online newsletters

The school website is managed by St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy. 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.

Data Protection

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the current data protection legislation.

The school:

- has a Data Protection Policy.
- implements the data protection principles and can demonstrate that it does so
- has paid the appropriate fee to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

- has appointed an appropriate Data Protection Officer (DPO) who has effective understanding of data protection law and is free from any conflict of interest.
- has a 'Record of Processing Activities' in place and knows exactly what personal data is held, where, why and which member of staff has responsibility for managing it
- the Record of Processing Activities lists the lawful basis for processing personal data (including, where relevant, consent). Where special category data is processed, an additional lawful basis is listed
- has an 'information asset register' in place and knows exactly what personal data is held, where, why and which member of staff has responsibility for managing it
- information asset register lists the lawful basis for processing personal data (including, where relevant, consent). Where special category data is processed, an additional lawful basis will have also been listed
- will hold the minimum personal data necessary to enable it to perform its function and will not hold it for longer than necessary for the purposes it was collected for. The school 'retention schedule' supports this
- data held is accurate and up to date and is held only for the purpose it was held for. Systems are in place to identify inaccuracies, such as asking parents to check emergency contact details at suitable intervals
- provides staff, parents, volunteers, teenagers, and older children with information about how the school looks after their data and what their rights are in a clear Privacy Notice
- has procedures in place to deal with the individual rights of the data subject, e.g. one of the dozen rights applicable is that of Subject Access which enables an individual to see/have a copy of the personal data held about them
- carries out Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) where necessary e.g. to ensure protection of personal data when accessed using any remote access solutions, or entering into a relationship with a new supplier
- has undertaken appropriate due diligence and has data protection compliant contracts in place with any data processors
- understands how to share data lawfully and safely with other relevant data controllers.
- has clear and understood policies and routines for the deletion and disposal of data
- reports any relevant breaches to the Information Commissioner within 72hrs of becoming aware of the breach as required by law. It also reports relevant breaches to the individuals affected as required by law. In order to do this, it has a policy for reporting, logging, managing, investigating and learning from information risk incidents
- has a Freedom of Information Policy which sets out how it will deal with FOI requests
- provides data protection training for all staff at induction and appropriate refresher training thereafter. Staff undertaking particular data protection functions, such as handling requests under the individual's rights, will receive training appropriate for their function as well as the core training provided to all staff

When personal data is stored on any mobile device or removable media the:

- data will be encrypted, and password protected.
- device will be password protected.
- device will be protected by up-to-date endpoint (anti-virus) software
- data will be securely deleted from the device, in line with school policy (below) once it has been transferred or its use is complete.

Staff must ensure that they:

- at all times take care to ensure the safe keeping of personal data, minimising the risk of its loss or misuse
- can recognise a possible breach, understand the need for urgency and know who to report it to within the school
- can help data subjects understand their rights and know how to handle a request whether verbal or written and know who to pass it to in the school
- only use encrypted data storage for personal data
- will not transfer any school personal data to personal devices.
- use personal data only on secure password protected computers and other devices, ensuring that they are properly “logged-off” at the end of any session in which they are using personal data
- transfer data using encryption, a secure email account (where appropriate), and secure password protected devices.

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, learners; 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 Governors
- 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
- the evidence of impact is shared with other schools, agencies and LAs to help ensure the development of a consistent and effective local online safety strategy.