

# St Faith & St Martin Church of England Junior School



Esafety & Online Safety Policy

## Development / Monitoring / Review of this Policy

This Online Safety policy has been developed by a working group made up of:

- Headteacher / Senior Leaders
- Online Safety Officer / Coordinator
- Staff – including Teachers, Support Staff, Technical staff
- Governors
- Parents and Carers
- Community users

Consultation with the whole school has taken place through communication via the publication of the policy on the school website and our annual survey to parents offering staff/parents a chance to review this policy and share their views.

## Schedule for Development / Monitoring / Review

This Online Safety policy was approved on:	<i>December 2024</i>
The implementation of this Online Safety policy will be monitored by the:	<i>Senior Leadership Team</i>
Monitoring will take place at regular intervals:	<i>Annually</i>
The Governing Body will receive a report on the implementation of the Online Safety Policy generated by the monitoring group (which will include anonymous details of online safety incidents) at regular intervals:	<i>Annually</i>
The Online Safety Policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly in the light of any significant new developments in the use of the technologies, new threats to online safety or incidents that have taken place. The next anticipated review date will be:	<i>December 2025</i>
Should serious online safety incidents take place, the following external persons / agencies should be informed:	Lincolnshire Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO) Paul Fisher & Rachel Powis 01522 554674 LADO@lincolnshire.gcsx.gov.uk

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- Logs of reported incidents
- Monitoring logs of internet activity (including sites visited) / filtering
- Internal monitoring data for network activity
- Surveys / questionnaires of
  - students / pupils
  - parents / carers
  - staff

## Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all members of the *school* community (including staff, students / pupils, volunteers, parents / carers, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of school ICT systems, both in and out of the *school*.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers Headteachers to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of students / pupils when they are off the *school* site and empowers members of staff to impose disciplinary penalties for inappropriate behaviour. This is pertinent to incidents of cyber-bullying or other Online Safety incidents covered by this policy, which may take place outside of the *school*, but is linked to membership of the school. The 2011 Education Act increased these powers with regard to the searching for and of electronic devices and the deletion of data. In the case of both acts, action can only be taken over issues covered by the published Behaviour Policy.

The *school* 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.

## Roles and Responsibilities

The following section outlines the online safety roles and responsibilities of individuals and groups within the *school*:

### Governors:

*Governors* are responsible for the approval of the Online Safety Policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy. This will be carried out by the *Governors* receiving regular information about online safety incidents and monitoring reports. A member of the *Governing Body* has taken on the role of *Online Safety Governor (Safeguarding Governor)*. The role of the *Online Safety Governor* will include:

- regular meetings with the Online Safety Co-ordinator / Officer
- attendance at Online Safety Group meetings
- regular monitoring of online safety incident logs
- regular monitoring of filtering / change control logs
- reporting to relevant *Governors* meeting.

## Headteacher and Senior Leaders:

- The *Headteacher* has a duty of care for ensuring the safety (including online safety) of members of the school community, though the day to day responsibility for online safety will be delegated to the *Online Safety Co-ordinator*.
- 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. (see flow chart on dealing with online safety incidents – included in a later section – “Responding to incidents of misuse” and relevant *Local Authority HR* disciplinary procedures).
- *The Headteacher / Senior Leaders are responsible for ensuring that the Online Safety Coordinator and other relevant staff receive suitable training to enable them to carry out their online safety roles and to 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. This is to provide a safety net and also support to those colleagues who take on important monitoring roles.*
- *The Senior Leadership Team will receive regular monitoring reports from the Online Safety Co-ordinator when an incident occurs.*

## Online Safety Coordinator:

- leads the Online Safety Group
- takes day to day responsibility for online safety issues and has a leading role in establishing and reviewing the school online safety policies / documents
- ensures that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident taking place.
- provides training and advice for staff
- liaises with the Local Authority / relevant body
- liaises with school technical staff
- receives reports of online safety incidents and creates a log of incidents to inform future online safety developments.
- Online Safety BOOST, which the school subscribes to, includes access to Whisper, an anonymous reporting app that installs onto a school website and extends the schools ability to capture reports from staff, children and parents <https://boost.swgfl.org.uk/>

- meets regularly with Online Safety *Governor / Director* to discuss current issues, review incident logs and filtering / change control logs
- attends relevant meeting / committee of *Governors / Directors*
- reports regularly to Senior Leadership Team

## Network Manager / Technical staff:

The Network Manager / Technical Staff responsible for ensuring:

- that the *school's* technical infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack
- that the *school* meets required online safety technical requirements and any *Local Authority* Online Safety Policy Guidance that may apply.
- that users may only access the networks and devices through a properly enforced password protection policy, in which passwords are regularly changed
- *the filtering policy (if it has one), is applied and updated on a regular basis and that its implementation is not the sole responsibility of any single person*
- that 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
- that the use of the *network / internet / remote access / email* is regularly monitored in order that any misuse / attempted misuse can be reported to the *Headteacher; Online Safety Coordinator* for investigation
- *that monitoring software / systems are implemented and updated as agreed in school policies*

## Teaching and Support Staff

Are responsible for ensuring that:

- they have an up to date awareness of online safety matters and of the current *School* Online Safety Policy and practices
- they have read, understood and signed the Staff Acceptable Use Policy / Agreement (AUP)
- they report any suspected misuse or problem to the *Headteacher; Online Safety Coordinator* for investigation / action / sanction

- all digital communications with students / pupils / 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
- students / pupils understand and follow the Online Safety Policy and acceptable use policies
- students / pupils have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations
- they monitor the use of digital technologies, mobile devices, cameras etc in lessons and other school activities (where allowed) and implement current policies with regard to these devices
- in lessons where internet use is pre-planned students / pupils 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.

## Designated Safeguarding Lead

Should be trained in Online Safety issues and be aware of the potential for serious child protection / safeguarding issues to arise from:

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

## Students / Pupils:

- are responsible for using the *school* digital technology systems in accordance with the Student / Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement
- have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations
- need to understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and know how to do so
- will be expected to know and understand policies on the use of mobile devices and digital cameras. They should also know and understand policies on the taking / use of images and on cyber-bullying.

- 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 / Carers

Parents / Carers play a crucial role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use the internet / mobile devices in an appropriate way. The *school* will take every opportunity to help parents understand these issues through *parents' evenings, newsletters, letters, website and information about national / local online safety campaigns / literature*. Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the *school* in promoting good online safety practice and to follow guidelines on the appropriate use of:

- digital and video images taken at school events
- access to parents' sections of the website and on-line student / pupil records
- their children's personal devices in the School

## Policy Statements

### Education – Students / Pupils

Whilst regulation and technical solutions are very important, their use must be balanced by educating *students / pupils* to take a responsible approach. The education of *students / pupils* in online safety is therefore an essential part of the school's online safety provision. Children and young people need the help and support of the school to recognise and avoid online safety risks and build their resilience.

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 should be provided as part of Computing / PHSE / other lessons and should be regularly revisited
- Key online safety messages should be reinforced as part of a planned programme of assemblies and tutorial / pastoral activities
- Students / pupils should be taught in all lessons to be critically aware of the materials / content they access on-line and be guided to validate the accuracy of information.
- Students / pupils should be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet

- Students / pupils should be supported in building resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making.
- *Students / pupils should be helped to understand the need for the student / pupil 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 students / pupils 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 / pupils are allowed to freely search the internet, staff should be vigilant in 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 (eg racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request that the Technical Staff (or other relevant designated person) can temporarily remove 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.*

## Education – Parents / Carers

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 on-line 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 therefore seek to provide information and awareness to parents and carers through:

- *Curriculum activities*
- *Letters, newsletters, web site,*
- *Parents / Carers evenings / sessions*
- *High profile events / campaigns e.g. Safer Internet Day*
- *Reference to the relevant web sites / publications e.g. [swgfl.org.uk](http://swgfl.org.uk) [www.saferinternet.org.uk/](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/) <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>*

## Education – The Wider Community

The school will provide opportunities for local community groups / members of the community to gain from the school's online safety knowledge and experience. This may be offered through the following:

- *Providing family learning courses in use of new digital technologies, digital literacy and online safety*
- *Online safety messages targeted towards grandparents and other relatives as well as parents.*
- *The school website will provide online safety information for the wider community*
- *Supporting community groups e.g. Early Years Settings, Childminders, youth / sports / voluntary groups to enhance their Online Safety provision*

## Education & Training – Staff / Volunteers

It is essential that all staff 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 training will be made available to staff. This will be regularly updated and reinforced. An audit of the online safety training needs of all staff will be carried out regularly. [Online Safety BOOST includes unlimited online webinar training for all, or nominated, staff \(https://boost.swgfl.org.uk/\)](https://boost.swgfl.org.uk/)
- All new staff should receive online safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the School Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Agreements. [Online Safety BOOST includes an array of presentations and resources that can be presented to new staff \(https://boost.swgfl.org.uk/\)](https://boost.swgfl.org.uk/)
- *It is expected that some staff will identify online safety as a training need within the performance management process.*
- *The Online Safety Coordinator / Officer (or other nominated person) will receive regular updates through attendance at external training events 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 Online Safety Coordinator / Officer (or other nominated person) will provide advice / guidance / training to individuals as required.*

## Training – Governors

**Governors should take part in online safety training / awareness sessions**, with particular importance for those who are members of any subcommittee / group involved in technology / online safety / health and safety /safeguarding. This may be offered in a number of ways:

- Attendance at training provided by the Local Authority / National Governors Association / or other relevant organisation (e.g. SWGfL).
- Participation in school training / information sessions for staff or parents.

## Technical – infrastructure / equipment, filtering and monitoring

The school will be 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. It will also need to ensure that the relevant people named in the above sections will be effective in carrying out their online safety responsibilities:

- School technical systems will be managed in ways that ensure that the School meets recommended technical requirements
- There will be regular reviews and audits of the safety and security of School technical systems
- Servers, wireless systems and cabling must be securely located and physical access restricted
- All users will have clearly defined access rights to School technical systems and devices.
- The “master / administrator” passwords for the School ICT system, used by the Network Manager (or other person) must also be available to the *Headteacher* or other nominated senior leader and kept in a secure place (eg School safe)
- **Internet access is filtered for all users.** Illegal content (child sexual abuse images) is filtered by the broadband or filtering provider by actively employing the Internet Watch Foundation CAIC list. Content lists are regularly updated and internet use is logged and regularly monitored. There is a clear process in place to deal with requests for filtering changes.
- Internet filtering should ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet.
- Appropriate security measures are in place to protect the servers, firewalls, routers, wireless systems, work stations, mobile devices etc from accidental or malicious

attempts which might threaten the security of the school systems and data. The school infrastructure and individual workstations are protected by up to date virus software.