St Patrick's RC High School

On-line and ICT Safety and Acceptable Use Policy

Committee:	**Pupil Welfare**
Reviewed on:	**Spring 2021 - 2022**
Reviewed by:	**Mr M Connelly**
Next Review:	**Spring 2022 - 2023**
	Not statutory

Signed: **…….. (Headteacher)**

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On-line and ICT Safety Acceptable Use Policy

School Mission Statement

"Our outstanding school community is guided by the gospel values, of love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, integrity, humility and truth faith and worship are lived, taught and celebrated. We recognise the importance of service to others and the opportunity to be witnesses to Christ in our community

All are unique and strive for personal growth. We celebrate the pursuit of academic excellence, applaud ambition and value the achievements of all. Our pupils are expected to achieve their best and use their learning to make a difference in the world they live in."

School British Values Statement

St Patrick's teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour. Teachers do this by not undermining fundamental British values and ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law.

Policy Status

Not Statutory

Rationale

This policy in accordance with the school mission statement reflects our active commitment to promote and safeguard the welfare of students and staff at our school. We believe that students and staff have a fundamental right to feel safe and protected from any form of abuse/exploitation via ICT systems and mobile technologies. Therefore, we aim to provide a secure, environment supported by a robust policy to promote safe practice and empower students and staff to protect themselves.

Our aim is to work with parents, but in the knowledge that children and young people have rights of their own, independent of their parents. Where there is conflict of interests between the parent/carer and the child, the school will operate in a professional manner, which serves the child's interests, re. The 1988 Children's Act. The rights of parents will be respected and the school will strive to ensure parents are informed of concerns raised by its staff with regard to on-line safety issues affecting their child/children.

The school has and will continue to develop a systematic approach towards Online safety.

Scope of the Policy

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

Aims

Our school aims to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors
- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as 'mobile phones')
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate

The 4 key categories of risk

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

- Content – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism
- Contact – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as peer-to-peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes
- Conduct – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, such as making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography), sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
- Commerce – risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scam

Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory safeguarding guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021, and its advice for schools on:

Teaching online safety in schools

Preventing and tackling bullying and cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff

[Relationships and sex education

Searching, screening and confiscation

It also refers to the DfE's guidance on protecting children from radicalisation.

It reflects existing legislation, including but not limited to the Education Act 1996 (as amended), the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the Equality Act 2010. In addition, it reflects the Education Act 2011, which has given teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by, if necessary, searching for and deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

The policy also takes into account the National Curriculum computing programmes of study.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The governing board will co-ordinate regular meetings with appropriate staff to discuss online safety, and monitor Online safety logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

All governors will:

- Ensure that they have read and understand this policy
- Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendix 3)
- Ensure that, where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including Online safety, is adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with SEND because of the importance of recognising that a 'one size fits all' approach may not be appropriate for all children in all situations, and a more personalised or contextualised approach may often be more suitable

The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that staff understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school.

The designated safeguarding lead

Details of the school's DSL and Deputies are set out in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy as well as relevant job descriptions.

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

- Supporting the headteacher in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school
- Working with the headteacher, ICT manager and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents
- Managing all online safety issues and incidents in line with the school child protection policy
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- Updating and delivering staff training on online safety (appendix 3 contains a self-audit for staff on online safety training needs)
- Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary
- Providing regular reports on online safety in school to the headteacher and/or governing board

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

The ICT manager (Managed Service)

The ICT manager is responsible for:

- Putting in place an appropriate level of security protection procedures, such as filtering and monitoring systems, which are reviewed and updated on a regular basis to assess effectiveness and ensure pupils are kept safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material
- Ensuring that the school's ICT systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware, and that such safety mechanisms are updated regularly
- Conducting a full security check and monitoring the school's ICT systems on a monthly basis
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

All staff and volunteers

All staff, including contractors and agency staff, and volunteers are responsible for:

- Maintaining an understanding of this policy
- Implementing this policy consistently
- Agreeing and adhering to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendix 2), and ensuring that pupils follow the school's terms on acceptable use (appendix 1)
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- Responding appropriately to all reports and concerns about sexual violence and/or harassment, both online and offline and maintaining an attitude of 'it could happen here'

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

Parents

Parents are expected to:

- Notify a member of staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding this policy
- Ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet (appendices 1 and 2)

Parents and carers will be responsible for:

- Endorsing (by signature) the Student Acceptable Use Policy Agreement (Homework Diary).
- Endorsing (by signature) the Use of Images Consent Form (Homework Diary)
- Accessing the school ICT systems and Online resources e.g Mathswatch, MyEd, in accordance with the school Acceptable Use Policy.

Parents can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online from the following organisations and websites:

What are the issues? – UK Safer Internet Centre

Hot topics – Childnet International

Parent resource sheet – Childnet International

Healthy relationships – Disrespect Nobody

Visitors and members of the community

Visitors and members of the community who use the school's ICT systems or internet will be made aware of this policy, when relevant, and expected to read and follow it. If appropriate, they will be expected to agree to the terms on acceptable use (appendix 3).

Educating pupils about online safety

Pupils will be taught about online safety as part of the curriculum:

All schools have to teach:

Relationships education and health education in primary schools

Relationships and sex education and health education in secondary schools

In **Key Stage 3**, pupils will be taught to:

- Understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting their online identity and privacy
- Recognise inappropriate content, contact and conduct, and know how to report concerns

Pupils in **Key Stage 4** will be taught:

- To understand how changes in technology affect safety, including new ways to protect their online privacy and identity
- How to report a range of concerns

By the **end of secondary school**, pupils will know:

- Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online
- About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online
- Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them

- What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online
- The impact of viewing harmful content
- That specifically sexually explicit material (e.g. pornography) presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners
- That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail
- How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online
- How to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours
- How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (in all contexts, including online)

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

Where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including Online safety, will be adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with SEND.

Educating parents about online safety

The school will raise parents' awareness of internet safety in letters or other communications home, and in information via our website. Additionally parents will be given the opportunity to participate in Online Training so they can support their son/daughter regards Online Safety. This policy will also be shared with parents.

Online safety will also be covered during parents' evenings.

If parents have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with the headteacher and/or the DSL.

Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the headteacher.

Cyber-bullying

Definition

Cyber-bullying takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites. Like other forms of bullying, it is the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. (See also the school behaviour policy.)

Preventing and addressing cyber-bullying

- To help prevent cyber-bullying, we will ensure that pupils understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure that pupils know how they can report any incidents and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim.
- The school will actively discuss cyber-bullying with pupils, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. Form Tutors will discuss cyber-bullying with their tutor groups and Heads of Year/SLT will increase awareness via whole year assemblies throughout the year
- Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the curriculum to cover cyber-bullying. This includes personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, and other subjects where appropriate.
- All staff, governors and volunteers (where appropriate) receive training on cyber-bullying, its impact and ways to support pupils, as part of safeguarding training
- The school also sends information/leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents so that they are aware of the signs, how to report it and how they can support children who may be affected.
- Where illegal, inappropriate or harmful material has been spread among pupils, the school will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the incident is contained.
- The DSL will consider whether the incident should be reported to the police if it involves illegal material, and will work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

Examining electronic devices

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

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

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

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

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

Any searching of pupils will be carried out in line with the DfE's latest guidance on screening, searching and confiscation and the school's COVID-19 risk assessment. A record of searches will be kept and updated.
Any complaints about searching for or deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices will be dealt with through the school complaints procedure.

Acceptable use of the internet in school

All pupils, parents, staff, volunteers and governors are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendices 1-2). Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use if relevant.

Use of the school's internet must be for educational purposes only, or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of an individual's role.

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

More information is set out in the acceptable use agreements in appendices 1-2.

Pupils using mobile devices in school

Pupils may bring mobile devices into school, but are not permitted to use them during:

- Lessons
- Tutor group time
- Clubs before or after school, or any other activities organised by the school

Any use of mobile devices in school by pupils must be in line with the acceptable use agreement (see appendix 1).

Any breach of the acceptable use agreement by a pupil may trigger disciplinary action in line with the school behaviour policy, which may result in the confiscation of their device.

Staff using work devices outside school

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Keeping the device password-protected – strong passwords are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters (e.g. asterisk or currency symbol)

- Ensuring their hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device
- Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time
- Not sharing the device among family or friends
- Installing anti-virus and anti-spyware software
- Keeping operating systems up to date – always install the latest updates

Staff members must not use the device in any way which would violate the school's terms of acceptable use, as set out in appendix 2.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from the IT Manager of the Managed Service (RM)

How the school will respond to issues of misuse

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

Where a staff member misuses the school's ICT systems or the internet, or misuses a personal device where the action constitutes misconduct, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the Staff Disciplinary Procedures. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident.

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

Training

All new staff members will receive training, as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation.

All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year as part of Safeguarding training, as well as relevant updates as required (for example through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings).

By way of this training, all staff will be made aware that:

Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues, and that children are at risk of online abuse

Children can abuse their peers online through:

- Abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages
- Non-consensual sharing of indecent nude and semi-nude images and/or videos, especially around chat groups
- Sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who don't want to receive such content

Physical abuse, sexual violence and initiation/hazing type violence can all contain an online element

Training will also help staff:

- develop better awareness to assist in spotting the signs and symptoms of online abuse

- develop the ability to ensure pupils can recognise dangers and risks in online activity and can weigh the risks up
- develop the ability to influence pupils to make the healthiest long-term choices and keep them safe from harm in the short term

The DSL and Deputies will undertake child protection and safeguarding training, which will include Online safety, at least every 2 years. They will also update their knowledge and skills on the subject of online safety at regular intervals, and at least annually.

Governors will receive training on safe internet use and Online safeguarding issues as part of their safeguarding training.

Volunteers will receive appropriate training and updates, if applicable.

More information about safeguarding training is set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

Monitoring arrangements

The DSL and/or Deputies will log behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety

Illegal Activities

The school believes that the activities referred to in the following section would be illegal and that users, should not engage in these activities in school or outside school or when using school equipment or systems.

- Child sexual abuse images.
- Promotion or conduct of illegal acts, e.g. under the child protection, obscenity, computer misuse and fraud legislation.
- Adult material that potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act in the UK.
- Criminally racist material in UK.
- Pornography.
- Promotion of any kind of discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion and belief, age and disability.
- Promotion of racial or religious hatred.
- Threatening behaviour, including promotion of physical violence or mental harm.
- Terrorism/radicalisation.

Where the school believes any illegal activities referred to above have taken place The school will take disciplinary action giving due regard to Safeguarding, Behaviour for Learning, Anti-bullying, Pupil Exclusion, Whistleblowing, Acceptable Use and Staff Disciplinary policies and the following external persons /agencies will be informed:

- LA Safeguarding Officer and Director of Children's Services.
- Greater Manchester Police.
- Chairman of Governors and Governors' Pupil Welfare Committee.
- RM Education – ICT Managed Service Provider.
- Project Manager – Salford School Security
- iPad Technical Support

Unacceptable Activities

The school will take disciplinary action in line with Safeguarding, Behaviour for Learning, Exclusion and Staff Disciplinary policies where of any member of the school community has:

- Used or passed on information which may be sensitive, offensive to other members of the school community or breaches the integrity of the ethos of the school or brings the school into disrepute.
- Used school systems to run a private business.
- Used systems, applications, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering or other safeguards employed by SCC and / or the school.
- Uploaded, downloaded or transmitted commercial software or any copyrighted materials belonging to third parties, without the necessary licensing permissions.
- Revealed or publicised confidential or proprietary information (e.g. financial personal information, databases, computer/network access codes and passwords).
- Created or propagated computer viruses or other harmful files.
- Carried out sustained or instantaneous high volume network traffic (downloading / uploading files) that caused network congestion and hindered others in their use of the internet.
- Used on-line gaming (non-educational) sites.
- Gambled – on-line.
- Accessed the internet for personal or social use (e.g. online shopping, banking etc.) during lesson time.
- File shared e.g. music, films etc. during lesson time.
- Used social non-educational networking sites during lesson time.
- Used of video broadcasts g e.g. YouTube (non-educational) during lesson time.
- Used external data storage devices (e.g. USB) that have not been encrypted (password protected and checked for viruses).

Restricted Activities

- Using school e-mail for personal use is forbidden (except for staff during break, lunch and after-school).
- Staff may access the internet for personal (e.g. Online shopping) use during breaks, lunch before and after school.
- Use of You tube videos for showing to students (educational purposes) is permitted
- Educational Online gaming may be used by students, on occasion, under the supervision of a member of staff.
- It is acceptable for staff to use the school website for blogs to communicate with pupils and to use on-line communities.
- Use of School Twitter/Instagram/Facebook accounts to communicate with pupils and Online communities is also acceptable.

Further Information and Support

The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UCCIS) www.education.gov.uk/ukccis

www.ceop.police.uk (The Child Exploitation and online Protection Centre)

R u cybersafe?

On-line safety tips about how to stay safe on-line:

http://www.salford.gov.uk/rucybersafe.htm

For online safety Practice Guidance for those who work with, volunteer with, and have a duty of Care to Safeguard Children and Young People:

http://www.salford.gov.uk/d/e-Safety-Practice-Guidance.pdf

This policy will be reviewed every year by the DSL. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board. The review (such as the one available here) will be supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks pupils face online. This is important because technology, and the risks and harms related to it, evolve and change rapidly.

Links with other policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection policy
- Behaviour policy
- Staff disciplinary procedures
- Data protection policy
- Complaints procedure

Appendix 1: KS3 and KS4 acceptable use agreement (pupils and parents/carers)

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS/CARERS	
Name of pupil:	
I will read and follow the rules in the acceptable use agreement policy **When I use the school's ICT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in school I will:** • Always use the school's ICT systems and the internet responsibly and for educational purposes only • Only use them when a teacher is present, or with a teacher's permission • Keep my username and passwords safe and not share these with others • Keep my private information safe at all times and not give my name, address or telephone number to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer • Tell a teacher (or sensible adult) immediately if I find any material which might upset, distress or harm me or others • Always log off or shut down a computer when I'm finished working on it **I will not:** • Access any inappropriate websites including: social networking sites, chat rooms and gaming sites unless my teacher has expressly allowed this as part of a learning activity • Open any attachments in emails, or follow any links in emails, without first checking with a teacher • Use any inappropriate language when communicating online, including in emails • Create, link to or post any material that is pornographic, offensive, obscene or otherwise inappropriate • Log in to the school's network using someone else's details • Arrange to meet anyone offline without first consulting my parent/carer, or without adult supervision **If I bring a personal mobile phone or other personal electronic device into school:** • I will not use it during lessons, tutor group time, clubs or other activities organised by the school, without a teacher's permission • I will use it responsibly, and will not access any inappropriate websites or other inappropriate material or use inappropriate language when communicating online **I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don't follow the rules.**	
Signed (pupil):	**Date:**
Parent/carer's agreement: I agree that my child can use the school's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for pupils using the school's ICT systems and internet, and for using personal electronic devices in school, and will make sure my child understands these.	
Signed (parent/carer):	**Date:**

Appendix 2: acceptable use agreement (staff, governors, volunteers and visitors)

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR STAFF, GOVERNORS,VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS	
Name of staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor:	
When using the school's ICT systems and accessing the internet in school, or outside school on a work device (if applicable), I will not: • Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal or pornographic nature (or create, share, link to or send such material) • Use them in any way which could harm the school's reputation • Access social networking sites or chat rooms • Use any improper language when communicating online, including in emails or other messaging services • Install any unauthorised software, or connect unauthorised hardware or devices to the school's network • Share my password with others or log in to the school's network using someone else's details • Take photographs of pupils without checking with teachers first • Share confidential information about the school, its pupils or staff, or other members of the community • Access, modify or share data I'm not authorised to access, modify or share • Promote private businesses, unless that business is directly related to the school	
• I will only use the school's ICT systems and access the internet in school, or outside school on a work device, for educational purposes or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of my role. • I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the school's ICT facilities and systems. • I will take all reasonable steps to ensure that work devices are secure and password-protected when using them outside school, and keep all data securely stored in accordance with this policy and the school's data protection policy. • I will let the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and ICT manager know if a pupil informs me they have found any material which might upset, distress or harm them or others, and will also do so if I encounter any such material. • I will always use the school's ICT systems and internet responsibly, and ensure that pupils in my care do so too.	
Signed (staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor):	**Date:**