

Online Safety Policy

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Purpose

Helen Allison School understands that using online services is an important aspect of raising educational standards, promoting pupil achievement, and enhancing teaching and learning. The use of online services is embedded throughout the school; therefore, there are a number of controls in place to ensure the safety of pupils and staff.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable and ever evolving, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation, and extremism. Other types of content of concern are disinformation, misinformation and conspiracy theories. Disinformation is the deliberate creation and spread of false or misleading content, such as fake news. Misinformation is the unintentional spread of these types of false or misleading content.
- **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: 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:** online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and nonconsensual 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 scams

The measures implemented to protect pupils and staff revolve around these areas of risk. Our school has created this policy with the aim of ensuring appropriate and safe use of the internet and other digital technology devices by all pupils and staff.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff and pupils at National Autistic Society Schools.

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2024) 'Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges'
- DfE (2021) 'Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes'
- DfE (2025) 'Keeping children safe in education 2025'
- DfE (2023) 'Teaching online safety in school'
- DfE (2022) 'Searching, screening and confiscation'
- DfE (2023) 'Generative artificial intelligence in education'
- DfE (2025) 'Generative AI: product safety expectations'
- Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and UK Council for Internet Safety (2024) 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people'
- UK Council for Child Internet Safety (2020) 'Education for a Connected World – 2020 edition'
- National Cyber Security Centre (2020) 'Small Business Guide: Cyber Security'

Related Documents

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Social Media Policy
- Safeguarding Children and Young People (Child Protection) Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Supporting Behaviour in Schools Policy
- Conduct Management Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Supported Home Learning Policy
- Artificial Intelligence Policy

Responsibilities

The School Governance Committee (SGC) will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that this policy is effective and complies with relevant laws and statutory guidance.
- Ensuring the DSL's remit covers online safety.
- Reviewing this policy on an annual basis.

- Ensuring their own knowledge of online safety issues is up-to-date.
- Ensuring all staff undergo safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety, at induction and at regular intervals.
- Ensuring that there are appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place.
- Ensuring that the effectiveness of filtering and monitoring systems is reviewed at least annually in liaison with ICT staff and service providers.
- Ensuring that the SLT and other relevant staff have an awareness and understanding of the filtering and monitoring provisions in place, and manage them effectively and know how to escalate concerns when identified.
- Ensuring that all relevant school policies have an effective approach to planning for, and responding to, online challenges and hoaxes embedded within them.

The Principal will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that online safety is a running and interrelated theme throughout the school's policies and procedures, including in those related to the curriculum, teacher training and safeguarding.
- Supporting the DSL and the deputy DSL by ensuring they have enough time and resources to carry out their responsibilities in relation to online safety.
- Ensuring staff receive regular, up-to-date and appropriate online safety training and information as part of their induction and safeguarding training.
- Communicate with parents and carers where appropriate to keep them up-to-date with current online safety issues and how the school is keeping pupils safe.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be responsible for:

- Taking the lead responsibility for online safety in the school.
- Undertaking training so they understand the risks associated with online safety and can recognise additional risks that pupils with SEND face online.
- Liaising with relevant members of staff on online safety matters as required
- Ensuring online safety is recognised as part of the school's safeguarding responsibilities and that a coordinated approach is implemented.
- Ensuring safeguarding is considered in the school's approach to remote learning.
- Establishing a procedure for reporting online safety incidents and inappropriate internet use, both by pupils and staff, and ensuring all members of the school community understand this procedure.
- Understanding the filtering and monitoring processes in place at the school.
- Ensuring that all safeguarding training given to staff includes an understanding of the expectations, roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring systems at the school.

- Maintaining detailed, secure and accurate written records of reported online safety concerns as well as the decisions and whether or not referrals have been made.
- Understanding the purpose of record keeping.
- Monitoring online safety incidents to identify trends and any gaps in the school's provision, and using this data to update the school's procedures.
- Report to the school's governance committee, via the Principal's report, about online safety on a termly basis.

The IT Department has technical responsibility for:

- Maintaining filtering and monitoring systems.
- Providing filtering and monitoring reports.
- Completing actions following incidents, concerns or checks to systems.

The IT Department will work with the senior leadership team and DSL to:

- Procure, test, install and deploy systems.
- Identify risks and deliver mitigation.
- Carry out reviews to all systems.

The IT Department is responsible for ensuring that:

- They are aware of and follow the school Online Safety Policy to ensure that they carry out their work effectively in line with school policy.
- The school technical infrastructure (including backend systems) is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack.
- There is clear, safe, and managed control of user access to networks and devices.
- They keep up to date with online safety technical information 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 school staff for investigation and action.
- The filtering policy is applied and updated on a regular basis and its implementation is not the sole responsibility of any single person.
- Monitoring systems are implemented and regularly updated as agreed in school policies.

All staff members will be responsible for:

- Taking responsibility for the security of ICT systems and electronic data they use or have access to.
- Modelling good online behaviours.
- Maintaining a professional level of conduct in their personal use of technology.
- Having an awareness of online safety issues.

- Ensuring they are familiar with, and understand, the indicators that pupils may be unsafe online.
- Reporting concerns in line with the school's reporting procedure.
- Where relevant to their role, ensuring online safety is embedded in their teaching of the curriculum.

Pupils will be responsible for:

- Adhering to the Acceptable Use Agreement and other relevant policies.
- Seeking help from school staff if they are concerned about something they or a peer have experienced online.
- Reporting online safety incidents and concerns in line with the procedures within this policy.

Managing Online Safety

All staff will be aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues affecting young people, particularly owing to the rise of social media and the increased prevalence of children using the internet.

The DSL has overall responsibility for the school's approach to online safety, with support from deputies and the Principal where appropriate, and will ensure that there are strong processes in place to handle any concerns about pupils' safety online. The DSL should liaise with the police or children's social care services for support responding to harmful online sexual behaviour.

Handling Online Safety Concerns

Any disclosures made by pupils to staff members about online abuse, harassment or exploitation, whether they are the victim or disclosing on behalf of another child, will be handled in line with the Safeguarding Children and Young People (Child Protection) Policy.

Staff will be aware that harmful online sexual behaviour can progress on a continuum, and appropriate and early intervention can prevent abusive behaviour in the future. Staff will also acknowledge that pupils displaying this type of behaviour are often victims of abuse themselves and should be suitably supported.

The victim of online harmful sexual behaviour may ask for no one to be told about the abuse. The DSL in consultation with the principal and the safeguarding team will consider whether sharing details of the abuse would put the victim in a more harmful position, or whether it is necessary in order to protect them from further harm. Ultimately any decision will balance the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and other young people. The DSL and other appropriate staff members will meet with the victim's parents or carers to discuss the safeguarding measures that are being put in place to support their child and how the report will progress.

The DSL in consultation with the principal and the safeguarding team will assess what response is appropriate to the situation to ensure the safety of the child and any other relevant risks or concerns, and where appropriate will manage such cases in line with the Safeguarding Children and Young People (Child Protection) Policy.

Concerns regarding a staff member's online behaviour are reported to the Principal, who decides on the best course of action in line with the relevant policies. If the concern is about the Principal, it should be reported directly to the Director of Education and Children's Services and the Safeguarding Team, without first notifying the Principal.

Concerns regarding a pupil's online behaviour are reported to the DSL, who investigates concerns with relevant staff members, e.g. the Principal, and manages concerns in accordance with relevant policies depending on their nature, eg the Supporting Behaviour in School Policy and Safeguarding Children and Young People (Child Protection) Policy

Where there is a concern that illegal activity has taken place, the Principal or a member of the school leadership team will contact the police.

We understand that inappropriate online behaviour may be a result of a lack of understanding of inappropriate content or a consequence of normal developmental curiosity. The DSL will assess what response is appropriate to the situation to ensure the safety of the child and any other relevant risks or concerns, and where appropriate will manage such cases in line with the Safeguarding Children and Young People (Child Protection) Policy.

All online safety incidents and the school's response are recorded on CPOMS.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Threatening, intimidating or upsetting text messages.
- Threatening or embarrassing pictures and video clips sent via mobile phone cameras.
- Silent or abusive phone calls or using the victim's phone to harass others, to make them think the victim is responsible.
- Threatening or bullying emails, possibly sent using a pseudonym or someone else's name.
- Unpleasant messages sent via instant messaging.
- Unpleasant or defamatory information posted to blogs, personal websites and social networking sites, eg Facebook.
- Abuse between young people in intimate relationships online ie teenage relationship abuse.
- Discriminatory bullying online ie homophobia, racism, misogyny/misandry.

The school will be aware that all pupils are more at risk of abuse and/or bullying online as a result of their diagnosis of Autism and associated comorbid conditions.

Cyberbullying against pupils or staff is not tolerated under any circumstances. Incidents of cyberbullying are dealt with quickly and effectively wherever they occur in line with the Anti-bullying Policy.

Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse and Harassment

All staff will be aware of the indicators of abuse, neglect and exploitation and understand where the risk of such harms can occur online. Staff will understand that this can occur both in and outside of school, off and online, and will remain aware that pupils are less likely to report concerning online sexual behaviours, particularly if they are using websites that they know adults will consider to be inappropriate for their age.

The following are examples of online harmful sexual behaviour of which staff will be expected to be aware:

- Threatening, facilitating or encouraging sexual violence.
- Upskirting, ie taking a picture underneath a person's clothing without consent and with the intention of viewing their genitals, breasts or buttocks.
- Sexualised online bullying, eg sexual jokes or taunts.
- Unwanted and unsolicited sexual comments and messages.
- Consensual or non-consensual sharing of sexualised imagery.
- Abuse between young people in intimate relationships online, ie teenage relationship abuse.

All staff will be aware of and promote a zero-tolerance approach to sexually harassing or abusive behaviour, and any attempts to pass such behaviour off as trivial or harmless. Staff will be aware that allowing such behaviour could lead to a school culture that normalises abuse and leads to pupils becoming less likely to report such conduct.

Staff will be aware that creating, possessing, and distributing indecent imagery of other children, i.e. individuals under the age of 18, is a criminal offence, even where the imagery is created, possessed, and distributed with the permission of the child depicted, or by the child themselves.

The school will be aware that interactions between the victim of online harmful sexual behaviour and the alleged perpetrator(s) are likely to occur over social media following the initial report, as well as interactions with other pupils taking "sides", often leading to repeat harassment.

The school will respond to all concerns regarding online child-on-child sexual abuse and harassment, regardless of whether the incident took place on the school premises or using school-owned equipment. Concerns regarding online child-on-

child abuse will be reported to the DSL, who will investigate the matter in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Grooming and Exploitation

Grooming is defined as the situation whereby an adult builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child with the intention of manipulating, exploiting and/or abusing them.

Staff will be aware that grooming often takes place online and that pupils who are being groomed are commonly unlikely to report this behaviour for many reasons, eg the pupil may have been manipulated into feeling a strong bond with their groomer and may have feelings of loyalty, admiration, or love, as well as fear, distress and confusion.

Due to the fact pupils are less likely to report grooming than other online offences, it is particularly important that staff understand the indicators of this type of abuse. The DSL will ensure that online safety training covers online abuse, the importance of looking for signs of grooming, and what the signs of online grooming are, including:

- Being secretive about how they are spending their time online.
- Having an older boyfriend or girlfriend, usually one that does not attend the school and whom their close friends have not met.
- Having money or new possessions, e.g. clothes and technological devices, that they cannot or will not explain.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Although CSE often involves physical sexual abuse or violence, online elements may be prevalent, e.g. sexual coercion and encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways through the internet. In some cases, a pupil may be groomed online to become involved in a wider network of exploitation, e.g. the production of child pornography or forced child prostitution and sexual trafficking.

CCE is a form of exploitation in which children are forced or manipulated into committing crimes for the benefit of their abuser, e.g. drug transporting, shoplifting and serious violence. While these crimes often take place in person, it is increasingly common for children to be groomed and manipulated into participating through the internet.

Where staff have any concerns about pupils with relation to CSE or CCE, they will bring these concerns to the DSL without delay, who will manage the situation in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Radicalisation

The school has adopted the Government's definition of radicalisation from the Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales 2023 and also from Keeping Children

Safe in Education 2025 for the purposes of compliance with the Prevent Duty 2023. Radicalisation is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children and young people's behaviour which could indicate that they may need help or protection. Children and young people susceptible to radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views. School staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be susceptible to radicalisation and act proportionately.

Where staff have a concern about a pupil relating to radicalisation and online safety, they will report this to the DSL in line with the expectations of the Safeguarding Children and Young People (Child Protection) Policy.

Mental Health

Staff will be aware that online activity both in and outside of school can have a substantial impact on a pupil's mental state, both positively and negatively. The DSL will ensure that training is available to help ensure that staff members understand popular social media sites and terminology, the ways in which social media and the internet in general can impact mental health, and the indicators that a pupil is suffering from challenges in their mental health. Concerns about the mental health of a pupil will be dealt with in line with the Safeguarding Children and Young People (Child Protection) Policy and Wellbeing and Mental Health Support Policy.

Online Hoaxes and Harmful Online Challenges

For the purposes of this policy, an **"online hoax"** is defined as a deliberate lie designed to seem truthful, normally one that is intended to scaremonger or to distress individuals who come across it, spread on online social media platforms.

For the purposes of this policy, **"harmful online challenges"** refers to challenges that are targeted at young people and generally involve users recording themselves participating in an online challenge, distributing the video through social media channels and daring others to do the same. Although many online challenges are harmless, an online challenge becomes harmful when it could potentially put the participant at risk of harm, either directly as a result of partaking in the challenge itself or indirectly as a result of the distribution of the video online – the latter will usually depend on the age of the pupil and the way in which they are depicted in the video.

Where staff suspect there may be a harmful online challenge or online hoax circulating amongst pupils in the school, they will report this to the DSL immediately.

The DSL will conduct a case-by-case assessment for any harmful online content brought to their attention, establishing the scale and nature of the possible risk to pupils, and whether the risk is one that is localised to the school or the local area, or whether it extends more widely across the country. Where the harmful content is prevalent mainly in the local area, the DSL will consult with the LA about whether quick local action can prevent the hoax or challenge from spreading more widely.

Prior to deciding how to respond to a harmful online challenge or hoax, the DSL and the Principal will decide whether each proposed response is:

- In line with any advice received from a known, reliable source, e.g. the UK Safer Internet Centre, when fact-checking the risk of online challenges or hoaxes.
- Careful to avoid needlessly scaring or distressing pupils.
- Not inadvertently encouraging pupils to view the hoax or challenge where they would not have otherwise come across it, eg where content is explained to younger pupils but is almost exclusively being shared amongst older pupils.
- Proportional to the actual or perceived risk.
- Helpful to the pupils who are, or are perceived to be, at risk.
- Appropriate for the relevant pupils' age and developmental stage.
- Supportive.
- In line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Where the DSL's assessment finds an online challenge to be putting pupils at risk of harm, they will ensure that the challenge is directly addressed to the relevant pupils, eg those within a particular age range that is directly affected or individual pupils at risk where appropriate.

The DSL and Principal will only implement a school-wide approach to highlighting potential harms of a hoax or challenge when the risk of needlessly increasing pupils' exposure to the risk is considered and mitigated as far as possible.

Cyber-Crime

Cyber-crime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. There are two key categories of cyber-crime:

- **Cyber-enabled** – these crimes can be carried out offline; however, are made easier and can be conducted at higher scales and speeds online, eg fraud, purchasing and selling of illegal drugs, and sexual abuse and exploitation.
- **Cyber-dependent** – these crimes can only be carried out online or by using a computer, eg making, supplying or obtaining malware, illegal hacking, and 'booting', which means overwhelming a network, computer or website with internet traffic to render it unavailable.

The school will factor into its approach to online safety the risk that pupils with a particular affinity or skill in technology may become involved, whether deliberately

or inadvertently, in cyber-crime. Where there are any concerns about a pupil's use of technology and their intentions with regard to using their skill and affinity towards it, the DSL will consider a referral to the Cyber Choices programme, which aims to intervene where children are at risk of committing cyber-crime and divert them to a more positive use of their skills and interests.

The DSL and Principal will ensure that pupils are taught, throughout the curriculum, how to use technology safely, responsibly and lawfully.

Online Safety Training for Staff

The DSL will ensure that all safeguarding training given to staff includes elements of online safety, including how the internet can facilitate abuse and exploitation, and understanding the expectations, roles and responsibilities relating to filtering and monitoring systems. All staff will be made aware that pupils are at risk of abuse, by their peers and by adults, online as well as in person, and that, often, abuse will take place concurrently via online channels and in daily life.

Online Safety and the Curriculum

Online safety is embedded throughout the curriculum; however, it is particularly addressed in the following subjects:

- RSHE
- Relationships and health education
- PSHE
- Citizenship
- ICT
- Creative Media

Online safety teaching is always appropriate to pupils' ages and developmental stages.

Pupils are taught the underpinning knowledge and behaviours that can help them to navigate the online world safely and confidently regardless of the device, platform or app they are using. The underpinning knowledge and behaviours pupils learn through the curriculum include the following:

- How to evaluate what they see online.
- How to recognise techniques used for persuasion.
- Acceptable and unacceptable online behaviour.
- How to identify online risks.
- How and when to seek support.
- Knowledge and behaviours that are covered in the government's online media literacy strategy.

The DSL will be involved with the development of the school's online safety curriculum. Pupils will be consulted on the online safety curriculum, where

appropriate, due to their unique knowledge of the kinds of websites they and their peers frequent and the kinds of behaviours in which they engage online.

Relevant members of staff, eg the SENCO, will work together to ensure the curriculum is tailored so that pupils who may be more vulnerable to online harm, receive the information and support they need.

The school will also endeavour to take a more personalised or contextualised approach to teaching about online safety for more susceptible children, and in response to instances of harmful online behaviour from pupils.

Class teachers will review external resources prior to using them for the online safety curriculum, to ensure they are appropriate for the cohort of pupils.

External visitors may be invited into school to help with the delivery of certain aspects of the online safety curriculum. The Principal and DSL will decide when it is appropriate to invite external groups into school and ensure the visitors selected are appropriate.

Before conducting a lesson or activity on online safety, the class teacher and DSL will consider the topic that is being covered and the potential that pupils in the class have suffered or may be suffering from online abuse or harm in this way. The DSL will advise the staff member on how to best support any pupil who may be especially impacted by a lesson or activity. Lessons and activities will be planned carefully so they do not draw attention to a pupil who is being or has been abused or harmed online, to avoid publicising the abuse.

During an online safety lesson or activity, the class teacher will ensure a safe environment is maintained in which pupils feel comfortable to say what they feel and ask questions, and are not worried about getting into trouble or being judged.

If a staff member is concerned about anything pupils raise during online safety lessons and activities, they will make a report in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

If a pupil makes a disclosure to a member of staff regarding online abuse following a lesson or activity, the staff member will follow the reporting procedure outlined in the Safeguarding Children and Young People (Child Protection) Policy.

Use of Technology in the Classroom

A wide range of technology will be used during lessons and around the school, including the following:

- Computers
- Laptops
- Tablets
- Intranet

- Email
- Cameras

Prior to using any websites, tools, apps or other online platforms in the classroom, or recommending that pupils use these platforms at home, the class teacher will review and evaluate the resource. Class teachers will ensure that any internet-derived materials are used in line with copyright law.

Pupils will be supervised when using online materials during lesson time – this supervision is suitable to their age and ability.

Use of Smart Technology

While the school recognises that the use of smart technology can have educational benefits, there are also a variety of associated risks which the school will ensure it manages.

Pupils will be educated on the acceptable and appropriate use of personal devices and will use technology in line with the school's Technology Acceptable Use Agreement for Pupils.

The school recognises that pupils' unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks means that some pupils may use the internet in a way which breaches the school's acceptable use of ICT agreement for pupils.

Inappropriate use of smart technology may include:

- Using mobile and smart technology to sexually harass, bully, troll or intimidate peers and staff.
- Sharing indecent images, both consensually and non-consensually.
- Viewing and sharing pornography and other harmful content.

Pupils will be permitted to use smart devices or any other personal technology whilst in the classroom only with permission of the school. Where it is deemed necessary, the school will ban pupil's use of personal technology whilst on school site.

Where there is a significant problem with the misuse of smart technology among pupils, the school will discipline those involved in line with the school's Supporting Behaviour in School Policy.

The school will hold assemblies, where appropriate, which address any specific concerns related to the misuse of smart technology and outline the importance of using smart technology in an appropriate manner.

The school will seek to ensure that it is kept up to date with the latest devices, platforms, apps, trends and related threats.

The school will consider the 4Cs (content, contact, conduct and commerce) when educating pupils about the risks involved with the inappropriate use of smart technology and enforcing the appropriate disciplinary measures.

Educating Parents and Carers

The school will work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure pupils stay safe online at school and at home. Parents and carers will be provided with information about the school's approach to online safety and their role in protecting their children. Parents will be sent a copy of the Acceptable Use Agreement at the beginning of each academic year and are encouraged to go through this with their child to ensure their child understands the document and the implications of not following it.

Parents will be made aware of the various ways in which their children may be at risk online, including, but not limited to:

- Child sexual abuse, including grooming.
- Exposure to radicalising content.
- Sharing of indecent imagery of pupils, e.g. sexting.
- Cyberbullying.
- Exposure to age-inappropriate content, e.g. pornography.
- Exposure to harmful content, e.g. content that encourages self-destructive behaviour.

Parents will be informed of the ways in which they can prevent their child from accessing harmful content at home, eg by implementing parental controls to block age-inappropriate content.

Parental awareness regarding how they can support their children to be safe online will be raised in the following ways:

- Newsletters
- Online resources

Internet Access

All members of the school community will be encouraged to use the school's internet network, instead of 3G, 4G and 5G networks, as the network has appropriate filtering and monitoring to ensure individuals are using the internet appropriately.

Filtering and Monitoring Online Activity

The DSL will ensure that specific roles and responsibilities are identified and assigned to manage filtering and monitoring systems and to ensure they meet the school's safeguarding needs.

The filtering and monitoring systems within the school will be appropriate to pupils' ages, the number of pupils using the network, how often pupils access the network, and the proportionality of costs compared to the risks. Appropriate staff within the school will undertake termly checks on the filtering and monitoring systems to ensure they are effective and appropriate.

Requests regarding making changes to the filtering system will be directed to the Principal and passed onto the IT team to be actioned. Prior to making any changes to the filtering system, the DSL will conduct a risk assessment. Any changes made to the system will be recorded by the Principal. Reports of inappropriate websites or materials will be made directly to the IT team immediately, who will investigate the matter and make any necessary changes.

Deliberate breaches of the filtering system will be reported to the DSL and Principal, who will escalate the matter appropriately. If a member of staff has deliberately breached the filtering system, they will be disciplined in line with the Conduct Management Policy.

The school's network and school-owned devices will be appropriately monitored. All users of the network and school-owned devices will be informed about how and why they are monitored. Concerns identified through monitoring will be reported to the DSL who will manage the situation in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Network Security

Technical security features, such as anti-virus software, will be kept up-to-date and managed by the IT team. Firewalls will be switched on at all times. The firewalls will be regularly checked to ensure they are running correctly, and to carry out any required updates.

Staff and pupils will be advised not to download unapproved software or open unfamiliar email attachments, and will be expected to report all malware and virus attacks to the IT team.

All staff and pupils will have their own unique usernames and private passwords to access the school's systems. Pupils will be taught to keep credentials secure and safe.

Users will be required to lock access to devices and systems when they are not in use.

Emails

Access to and the use of emails will be managed in line with the Data Protection Policy and the Acceptable Use Agreement,

Pupils who need an email account will be provided with one by the school. Staff will be given approved school email accounts and will only be able to use these accounts at school and when doing school-related work outside of school hours. Prior to being authorised to use the email system, staff must agree to and sign the Acceptable Use Agreement. Any email that contains sensitive or personal information will only be sent using secure and encrypted email.

Staff members are required to report spam and junk mail, to the IT team. Training for staff explaining what a phishing email and other malicious emails might look like, including:

- How to determine whether an email address is legitimate
- The types of address a phishing email could use
- The importance of asking "does the email urge you to act immediately?"
- The importance of checking the spelling and grammar of an email

Is mandatory for all staff. Additionally, test phishing emails are sent and staff who act on these are required to retrain.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The school will take steps to prepare pupils for changing and emerging technologies, eg generative AI and how to use them safely and appropriately with consideration given to pupils' age.

The school will ensure its IT system includes appropriate filtering and monitoring systems to limit pupil's ability to access or create harmful or inappropriate content through generative AI and will adhere to the Government's guidance Generative AI: product safety expectations (DfE 2025).

The school will take steps to ensure that personal and sensitive data is not entered into generative AI tools and that any data entered is not personally identifiable.

The school will make use of any guidance and support that enables it to have a safe, secure and reliable foundation in place before using more powerful technology such as generative AI.

Social Networking

The use of social media by staff and pupils will be managed in line with the Social Media Policy.

The School Website

The Principal will be responsible for the overall content of the school website – they will ensure the content is appropriate, accurate, up-to-date and meets government requirements for independent schools and the Independent School Standards.

Use of Devices

Staff members and pupils will be issued with school-owned devices to assist with their work, where necessary. Requirements around the use of school-owned devices can be found in the school's Device User Agreement.

Remote Learning

All remote learning will be delivered in line with the school's Supported Home Learning Policy. This policy specifically sets out how online safety will be considered when delivering remote education.