

St Saviour's Catholic Primary and Nursery School



Online Safety Policy 2026-2028

Legal Status:	Non-Statutory
Last Review:	April 2024
Review date:	May 2026
Next Review:	May 2028
Responsible Person:	Governing Body

Mission Statement

"Keeping Jesus at the heart of everything we do."

Aims

St Saviour's Catholic Primary and Nursery 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
- 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, misinformation, disinformation, conspiracy theories, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation, extremism and AI-generated harmful or misleading content.
- **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 statutory safeguarding guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education and its advice for schools on preventing and tackling bullying, searching, screening and confiscation, and teaching online safety in schools. It also refers to the Department'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 DfE filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges, UKCIS guidance on sharing nudes and semi-nudes (updated March 2024), and 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, monitor online safety logs as provided by the DSL and review the effectiveness of filtering and monitoring arrangements annually.

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 IT systems and the internet (appendix 2)
- 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 designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

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, IT manager and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged on CPOMs 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
- 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
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged on CPOMs 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

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

The IT Technician

The IT manager is responsible for:

- an appropriate level of security protection procedures, such as filtering and monitoring systems, which are reviewed regularly and at least annually 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, misinformation and disinformation, and AI-generated harmful content
- Ensuring that the school's IT systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware, and that such safety mechanisms are updated regularly
- Conducting a full security check and regular monitoring the school's IT systems on a regular basis
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files
- Supporting the school to review filtering and monitoring arrangements at least annually and to use DfE self-assessment tools where helpful.

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 IT systems and the internet, and ensuring that pupils follow the school's terms on acceptable use
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged on CPOMs 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 IT systems and internet (appendices 2 and 3), and support the safe and age-appropriate use of devices, apps and online services at home

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

- What are the issues?, UK Safer Internet Centre: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/what-are-issues>
- Hot topics, Childnet International: <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics>
- Parent factsheet, Childnet International: <http://www.childnet.com/ufiles/parents-factsheet-09-17.pdf>
- Healthy relationships: <https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/>
- NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Visitors and members of the community

Visitors and members of the community who use the school's IT 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 2).

Educating pupils about online safety

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

In **Key Stage 1**, pupils will be taught to:

- Use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private
- Identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies

Pupils in **Key Stage 2** will be taught to:

- Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly
- Recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- Identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact

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

- That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not
- That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous
- The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them
- How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met
- How information and data is shared and used online
- What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)
- How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know

- How to question the reliability of online information, including misinformation, disinformation, conspiracy theories and AI-generated or manipulated content, and how to report concerns.

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. This policy will also be shared with parents.

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. Staff will discuss cyber-bullying with their classes, and the issue will be addressed in assemblies.

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 (see section 11 for more detail).

In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, the school will follow the processes set out in the school behaviour policy. 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

Where an incident involves nude or semi-nude imagery, staff must not view, copy, print, share, store or delete the imagery or ask a pupil to do so. The incident must be referred to the DSL immediately. Only the DSL (or equivalent) should consider whether it is necessary to view imagery in exceptional circumstances to safeguard a child or young person. The school will use appropriate filtering and monitoring systems and monitor online activity, where relevant, to ensure use of school systems complies with this policy and to help safeguard pupils and staff.

If inappropriate material other than nude or semi-nude imagery 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*

* Staff may also confiscate devices for evidence to hand to the police, if a pupil discloses that they are being abused and that this abuse includes an online element.

Any searching of pupils will be carried out in line with:

- The DfE's latest guidance on [screening, searching and confiscation](#)
- UKCIS guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

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 agree to the acceptable use of the school's IT systems and the internet. 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.

The school will use appropriate filtering and monitoring systems and monitor online activity, where relevant, to ensure use of school systems complies with this policy and to help safeguard pupils and staff.

Pupils using mobile devices in school

Pupils in Y5&6 may bring mobile devices into school. Phones must be switched off when they enter the school and placed in a container in their classroom. All phones are kept switched off during the day and away in classroom store rooms. Pupils are not to be given their phone until the end of the school day.

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.

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from our IT technician.

How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a pupil misuses the school's IT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in the behaviour policy. 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 IT 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, the risks of online radicalisation, misinformation and disinformation, and emerging risks such as AI-generated content.

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
- Online harms also include misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories, including harmful or misleading AI-generated content.

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 safeguarding training, which will include online safety, regularly. They will also update their knowledge and skills on the subject of online safety at regular intervals.

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.

13. Links with other policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- Safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Staff disciplinary procedures
- Data protection policy and privacy notices
- Complaints procedure

Appendix 1: Social Media cheat sheet for staff

Don't accept friend requests from pupils on social media

10 rules for school staff on social media

1. Change your display name – use your first and middle name, use a maiden name, or put your surname backwards instead
2. Change your profile picture to something unidentifiable, or if not, ensure that the image is professional
3. Check your privacy settings regularly
4. Be careful about tagging other staff members in images or posts
5. Don't share anything publicly that you wouldn't be just as happy showing your pupils
6. Don't use social media sites during school face to face hours
7. Don't make comments about your job, your colleagues, our school or your pupils online – once it's out there, it's out there
8. Don't associate yourself with the school on your profile (e.g. by setting it as your workplace, or by 'checking in' at a school event)
9. Don't link your work email address to your social media accounts. Anyone who has this address (or your personal email address/mobile number) is able to find you using this information
10. Consider uninstalling the Facebook/Instagram/Twitter app from your phone. The app recognises wifi connections and makes friend suggestions based on who else uses the same wifi connection (such as parents or pupils)

Check your privacy settings

- Change the visibility of your posts and photos to '**Friends only**', rather than 'Friends of friends'. Otherwise, pupils and their families may still be able to read your posts, see things you've shared and look at your pictures if they're friends with anybody on your contacts list
- Don't forget to check your **old posts and photos** to limit the visibility of previous posts
- The public may still be able to see posts you've '**liked**', even if your profile settings are private, because this depends on the privacy settings of the original poster
- **Google your name** to see what information about you is visible to the public
- Remember that **some information is always public**; your display name, profile picture, cover photo, user ID (in the URL for your profile), country, age range and gender

What to do if...

A parent or pupil adds you on social media

- In the first instance, ignore and delete the request. Block them from viewing your profile
- Check your privacy settings again, and consider changing your display name or profile picture
- If they ask you about the friend request in person, tell them that you're not allowed to accept friend requests from parents or pupils and that if they persist, you'll have to notify senior leadership. If they persist, take a screenshot of their request and any accompanying messages
- Notify the senior leadership team or the Headteacher about what's happening
- There is some flexibility around parents and staff communicating via social media if the staff member has a child in the school and the staff member socialises with parents in the same class. In this case, the staff member must not discuss work/school or post anything about our school online.

You're being harassed on social media, or somebody is spreading something offensive about you

- **Do not** retaliate or respond in any way
- Save evidence of any abuse by taking screenshots and recording the time and date it occurred
- Report the material to Facebook or the relevant social network and ask them to remove it
- If the perpetrator is a current pupil or staff member, our mediation and disciplinary procedures are usually sufficient to deal with online incidents
- If the perpetrator is a parent or other external adult, a senior member of staff should invite them to a meeting to address any reasonable concerns or complaints and/or request they remove the offending comments or material
- If the comments are racist, sexist, of a sexual nature or constitute a hate crime, you or a senior leader should consider contacting the police

Appendix 2: Acceptable use agreement for older pupils – Y3 to Y6

Acceptable use of the school's IT facilities and internet: agreement for pupils and parents/carers

Name of pupil:

When using the school's IT facilities and accessing the internet in school, I will not:

- Use them for a non-educational purpose
- Use them without a teacher being present, or without a teacher's permission
- Use them to break school rules
- Access any inappropriate websites
- Access social networking sites (unless my teacher has expressly allowed this as part of a learning activity)
- Use chat rooms
- 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
- Share any semi-nude or nude images, videos or livestreams, even if I have the consent of the person or people in the photo
- Share my password with others or log in to the school's network using someone else's details
- Bully other people

I understand that the school will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the school's IT facilities and systems.

I will immediately let a teacher or other member of staff know if I find any material which might upset, distress or harm me or others.

I will always use the school's IT systems and internet responsibly.

I understand that the school can discipline me if I do certain unacceptable things online, even if I'm not in school when I do them.

Signed (pupil):

Date:

Appendix 3: Acceptable use agreement for younger pupils (Y1&2)

Acceptable use of the school's IT facilities and internet: agreement for pupils and parents/carers

Name of pupil:

When I use the school's IT facilities (like computers and equipment) and get on the internet in school, I will not:

- Use them without asking a teacher first, or without a teacher in the room with me
- Use them to break school rules
- Go on any inappropriate websites
- Go on Facebook or other social networking sites (unless my teacher said I could as part of a lesson)
- Use chat rooms
- Open any attachments in emails, or click any links in emails, without checking with a teacher first
- Use mean or rude language when talking to other people online or in emails
- Send any photos or videos of myself to other people
- Share my password with others or log in using someone else's name or password
- Bully other people

I understand that the school will check the websites I visit and how I use the school's computers and equipment. This is so that they can help keep me safe and make sure I'm following the rules.

I will tell a teacher or a member of staff I know immediately if I find anything on a school computer or online that upsets me, or that I know is mean or wrong.

I will always be responsible when I use the school's IT systems and internet.

I understand that the school can discipline me if I do certain unacceptable things online, even if I'm not in school when I do them.

Signed (pupil):

Date: