

**St Matthew's C.E. Primary School**



## **E-Safety Policy 2023**

**Review date Spring 2024**

*My prayer is not that you take  
them out of the world but that  
you protect them from the evil  
one.*

***John 17 vs 15***

## **Introduction**

At St Matthew's Primary School we are committed to ensuring that children learn how to use computers, ICT and modern technologies safely so that they:

- Are able to use ICT safely to support their learning in school
- Know how to use a range of ICT equipment safely
- Are able to use ICT and modern technologies outside school in a safe manner, including using ICT as a tool for communication
- Are prepared for the constant changes in the world of technology and understand how to use new and emerging technologies in a safe manner
- Know what to do if they feel unsafe when it comes to using technology and ICT

This policy outlines the steps the school takes to protect children from harm when using ICT and also how the school proactively encourages children to develop a safe approach to using ICT whether in school or at home.

(See also appendix 3 – Incident work flow)

## **The Law**

Our E-Safety Policy has been written by the school, using advice from HCC and government guidance. The Policy is part of the school's Strategic Development Plan and related to other policies including Positive Learning, Safeguarding and Data Protection policies.

As legislation is often amended and new regulations introduced the references made in this policy may be superseded. For an up to date list of legislation applying to schools please refer to the Department for Education website at [www.education.gov.uk/schools](http://www.education.gov.uk/schools).

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

**The Headteacher, alongside the E-safety officer (Catherine Lee) will:**

- \* Ensure the policy is implemented, communicated and compliance with the policy is monitored
- \* Ensure staff training in e-safety is provided and updated annually as part of safeguarding training
- \* Ensure immediate action is always taken if any risks or dangers are identified i.e. reporting of inappropriate websites
- \* Ensure that all reported incidents of cyber bullying are investigated
- \* Ensure appropriate web filtering software is used to protect users from potentially damaging/offensive material

**Teachers and Staff will:**

- Keep passwords private and only use their own login details, which are stored securely.

- Monitor and supervise pupils' internet usage and use of other IT resources
- Adhere to the Acceptable Use Agreement
- Promote e-safety and teach e-safety units as part of computing curriculum
- Engage in e-safety training
- Only download attachments/material onto the school system if they are from a trusted source
- When capturing images, videos or sound clips of children, only use school cameras or recording devices

It is essential that pupils, parents/carers and the public at large have confidence in the school's decisions and services. The principles set out in this policy are designed to ensure that staff members use social media responsibly so that confidentiality of staff members and the reputation of the school and the County Council are safeguarded. In this context, staff members must be conscious at all times of the need to keep their personal and professional lives separate.

#### **Governors will:**

- Ensure that the school is implementing this policy effectively
- Adhere to the acceptable use agreement when in school
- Have due regard for the importance of e-safety in school

#### **Teaching and Learning**

The school will actively teach E-safety at an age-appropriate level. The school follows a scheme of work for each year group covering: what should and shouldn't be shared online, password control and cyber bullying among other topics. E-safety will also be embedded throughout learning whenever children are using ICT in other lessons.

#### **Monitoring safe and secure systems**

Internet access is regulated by Drift IT Services supplied filtered broadband connection which blocks access to unsuitable websites. Antivirus software has been installed on all computers and is to be maintained and updated regularly. Staff passwords are changed regularly and must be strong passwords. Staff take responsibility for safeguarding confidential data saved to laptops, ie use of strong passwords. If personal data has to be saved to other media, eg data sticks, it is to be encrypted or strong password protected. Staff with access to the ICT systems containing confidential and personal data are to ensure that such data is properly protected at all times. Teaching staff have remote access to the school server. This reduces the need for portable data storage and therefore increases security. Remote access is fully password protected.

### **Safe use of the Internet and Web Filtering**

- \* All staff and pupils will have access to the internet through the school's network
- \* All staff, volunteers who have use of the school's IT equipment, must read and sign the Staff Acceptable Use Agreement.
- \* All children must read and sign the Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement.
- \* If a site containing inappropriate material is encountered, children must report it to an adult who will report it to the Headteacher to pass to HCC
- \* If an adult finds a site that they consider unsuitable they should report it to the Headteacher

### **The use of Email**

All teaching and support staff are provided with a school email address. Staff should use this address when sending work-related emails. All emails should be professional in nature and staff should be aware that all emails can be retrieved at a later date should this be necessary. Staff emails should never be used to forward 'chain' or 'junk' email. Staff should not communicate with pupils via email

### **The school website**

- The school web site complies with statutory DFE requirements
- Images that include pupils will be selected carefully and only used if parents have given permission for such images to be posted on line.

### **Social Networking, Social Media and Personal Publishing (blogging)**

The school recognises that it has a duty to help keep children safe when they are accessing such sites at home, and to this end the school will cover such issues within the curriculum. Pupils will not access social networking sites, e.g. Facebook or Twitter in school. They will be taught about how to stay safe when using such sites at home. School and class blogs are run through the school website and are password protected.

### **Staff private use of social media:**

- No reference should be made in social media to students / pupils, parents / carers / school staff or issues / situations related to the school
- They do not engage in online discussion on personal matters relating to members of the school community
- Personal opinions should not be attributed to the school
- Security settings on personal social media profiles should be regularly checked to minimise risk of loss of personal information.

- Teachers are instructed not to run social network spaces for student use on a personal basis or to open up their own spaces to their students, but to use the schools' preferred system for such communications.
- Staff are not permitted to maintain a Social Media relationship with any pupil, current or alumni until such time that the pupil turns 18.

### **The Use of Cameras, Video and Audio Recording Equipment**

Staff may only use the school's photographic or video devices to support school trips and curriculum activities. Photos should only be uploaded to the school system or website. They should never upload images to the internet unless specific arrangements have been agreed with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher, nor circulate them in electronic form outside the school. It is never acceptable to use photographic or video devices in changing rooms or toilets.

### **Personal mobile phones and mobile devices**

- Use of mobiles is discouraged throughout the school, particularly in certain areas. The areas which should be considered most vulnerable include: toilets and changing areas, including where children change for swimming.
- The School reserves the right to search the content of any mobile or handheld devices on the school premises where there is a reasonable suspicion that it may contain undesirable material, including those which promote pornography, violence or bullying. Staff mobiles or hand held devices may be searched at any time as part of routine monitoring at the direction of the head teacher.
- Staff are not permitted to use their own mobile phones or devices for contacting children, young people or their families within or outside of the setting in a professional capacity.
- Children must not wear in school wrist devices capable of taking photos, connecting to the internet or making calls.
- Any children who bring in a mobile device must leave it in the office during the day.

### **Management of online safety incidents**

- There is strict monitoring and application of the e-safety policy and a differentiated and appropriate range of sanctions; all members of the school are encouraged to be vigilant in reporting issues, in the confidence that issues will be dealt with quickly and sensitively, through the school's escalation processes; support is actively sought from other agencies as

needed (i.e. MASH, UK Safer Internet Centre helpline, CEOP, Prevent Officer, Police, IWF) in dealing with online safety issues;

- Monitoring and reporting of online safety incidents takes place and contribute to developments in policy and practice in online safety within the school;
- Parents/carers are specifically informed of online safety incidents involving young people for whom they are responsible;
- The Police will be contacted if one of our staff or pupils receives online communication that we consider is particularly disturbing or breaks the law;
- We will immediately refer any suspected illegal material to the appropriate authorities – Police, Internet Watch Foundation and inform MASH.

### **Working in Partnership with Parents**

Parents' attention will be drawn to the e-safety policy through the school newsletters, information evenings and on the school website. A partnership approach with parents will be encouraged. Parents will be requested to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement as part of the Home School Agreement on entry to the school.

### **Protecting School Staff**

In order to protect school staff we require that parents do not comment on school issues or staff using social networking sites. Any concerns or complaints should be discussed directly with the school. The school will take action if there is evidence that inappropriate comments about staff have been placed on the internet in a public arena.

### **Safeguarding – scope of this policy**

(See also Safeguarding and behaviour policies)

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

The school will deal with such incidents within this policy and associated behaviour and anti-bullying policies and will, where known, inform parents /

carers of incidents of inappropriate e-safety behaviour that take place out of school.

Appendix 1: Pupil and Parent Acceptable Use Agreement

Appendix 2: Staff and Volunteer Acceptable Use Agreement and Policy

Appendix 3: Incident Workflow

**St Matthew's Primary School**  
**ICT Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement**  
**and E-Safety Rules**

- ☐ I will log on using my own username.
- ☐ I will tell an adult straight away if something on the computer has upset me or worried me so if I find anything or anyone online that makes me feel uncomfortable, unsafe or uneasy in any way, I will **tell an adult** immediately.
- ☐ I will be polite and friendly to everyone I speak to on the computer so I will make sure that all online contact with other children and adults is **responsible, polite and sensible**.
- ☐ I will only send pictures, videos or words that are kind and friendly so I will only upload or add images, video, sounds or text that are **appropriate, kind and truthful** and will not possibly upset someone.
- ☐ I will not tell anyone on the computer my name, how old I am or where I live so I will keep my personal details **private** when I'm online.
- ☐ I know that my teachers will always check to see if I am being friendly and sensible on the computer and the internet and they will speak to my parents and carers if I am not.
- ☐ I will behave sensibly when I am on the computer because I am responsible for the way I behave online, and I know that these rules are to keep me safe.

**Think before you click!**

Dear Parent/ Carer

Computing, including the internet, email, digital and mobile technologies has become an important part of learning in our school. We expect all children to act safely and be responsible when using any Information Communication Technology (ICT). Please read and discuss these E-Safety rules with your child and return the slip at the bottom of this page. If you have any concerns or would like some explanation please contact your class teacher.

**Parent/ carer signature**

We have discussed this and .....(child name) agrees to follow the E-Safety rules and to support the safe use of ICT at St Matthew's Primary School.

Parent/ Carer Signature .....

Class ..... Date .....



**St Matthew's Primary School**  
**ICT Staff and Volunteer Acceptable Use Agreement**  
**and E-Safety Rules**

I understand that I must use school ICT systems in a responsible way, to ensure that there is no risk to my safety or to the safety and security of the ICT systems and other users.

**For my Professional and Personal Safety**

- ☐ I understand that the school may monitor my use of the ICT systems, email and other digital communications
- ☐ I understand that the rules set out in this agreement also apply to use of school ICT systems (eg laptops, email out of school)
- ☐ I understand that the school ICT systems are primarily intended for educational use and that I will only use the systems for personal or recreational use within the policies and rules set down by the school
- ☐ I will not disclose my username or password to anyone else, nor will I try to use any other person's username and password
- ☐ I will report immediately any illegal, inappropriate or harmful material or incident.

**I will communicate with others in a professional manner, I will not use aggressive or inappropriate language and I appreciate that others may have different opinions**

- ☐ I will ensure that when I take and/or publish images of others I will do so with their permission and in accordance with the school's policy on the use of digital/video images. I will not use my personal equipment to record these images unless I have permission to do so.
- ☐ I will not use social networking sites in school unless it is part of the curriculum
- ☐ I will only communicate with students/pupils and parents/carers using official school systems. Any such communication will be professional in tone and manner
- ☐ I will not engage in any on line activity that may compromise my professional responsibilities or the reputation of the school
- ☐ When I use my personal hand held / external devices in school (/laptops/mobile phones/USB devices etc), I will follow the rules set out in this agreement in the same way as if I was using school equipment. I will also follow any additional rules set by the school about such use. I will ensure that any such devices are protected by up to date anti-virus software and are free from viruses
- ☐ I will only open attachments to emails if the source is known and trusted

- ☐ I will not try to access, download or distribute any materials which are illegal or inappropriate or may cause harm or distress to others.
- ☐ I will not try (unless I have permission) to make large downloads or uploads that might take up internet capacity and prevent other users from being able to carry out their work
- ☐ I will not install or attempt to install or copy programmes of any type on a machine, or store programmes on a computer, nor will I try to alter computer settings without the specific permission of the Headteacher
- ☐ I understand that the data protection policy requires that any staff or pupil data to which I have access will be kept private and confidential, except when it is deemed necessary that I am required by law or by school policy to disclose such information to an appropriate authority. I will use an encrypted memory stick or save on the school system

### **When using social networking sites and email outside of school**

- ☐ I understand that I have a professional responsibility when using social networking sites for personal use. As such I will refrain from making school-related comments on social networking sites and under no circumstances will I refer to children, parents or staff on social networking sites
- ☐ I will never use social networking sites to communicate about school related issues and should anyone attempt to make contact regarding a school matter I will refer them to the appropriate channels via school rather than answering directly
- ☐ I will never run social network spaces for student use on a personal basis or to open up their own spaces to their students, but to use the schools' preferred system for such communications.
- ☐ I will never maintain a Social Media relationship with any pupil, current or alumni until such time that the pupil turns 18.

### **I understand that I am responsible for my actions in and out of school:**

- ☐ I understand that this Acceptable Use Policy applies not only to my work and use of school ICT equipment in school, but also applies to my use of school ICT systems and equipment out of school and my use of personal equipment in school or in situations related to my employment by the school
- ☐ I understand that if I fail to comply with this Acceptable Use Agreement I could be subject to disciplinary action
- ☐ I have read and understand the above, and agree to use the school ICT systems (both in and out of school) and my own devices (in school and when carrying out communications related to the school) within these guidelines

Signed----- Date-----

## Incident Workflow

