

Online Safety Policy



Name of Owner: Naomi Fan & Jordan Brunelle

Date: March 2026

Date of next review: March 2027

**Requires approval
by Governing Body:** Yes

Southgate School: Online Safety Policy

This policy is shared and signed by all the staff at Southgate School and shared on the school's website for all parents and carers to view. If you have any questions in relation to this policy, please email office@southgateschool.co.uk

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils or staff with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

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1. Introduction

The Online safety policy is in place to guarantee that all staff and pupils are supported to understand how to keep themselves safe when using the internet and associated technologies. The use of technology has changed the educational landscape and it has shown to promote pupil achievement. However the use of technology can also put the users at risk, therefore this document is a key part of the school's overall safeguarding policies and procedures. It shows our commitment to meeting the requirement to keep pupils safe when using technology. We believe the whole school community can benefit from the opportunities provided by the internet and other technologies used in everyday life. The online safety policy supports this by identifying the risks and the steps we are taking to avoid them. The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, 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.
- 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: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, 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 scams.
(DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025)

This policy shows our commitment to developing a set of safe and responsible behaviours that will enable us to reduce the risks whilst continuing to benefit from the opportunities. We wish to ensure that all members of the school community are aware that unlawful or unsafe behaviour is unacceptable and that, where necessary disciplinary or legal action will be taken. We aim to minimise the risk of misplaced or malicious allegations being made against adults who work with pupils.

Our expectations for responsible and appropriate conduct are set out in our Acceptable Use Policies (AUP) which we expect all staff and pupils to follow.

As part of our commitment to online safety, we also recognise our obligation to implement a range of security measures to protect the school network and facilities from attack and inappropriate use and to protect school data and other information assets from loss or inappropriate use.

The scope of this policy

- This policy applies to the whole school community including the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Governing Body (GB), all staff employed directly or indirectly by the school, volunteers, visitors and all pupils.
- The Senior Leadership Team and school governors will ensure that any relevant or new legislation that may impact upon the provision for online safety within school will be reflected within this policy.
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers head teachers, to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site. This is pertinent to incidents of online bullying, or other online safety related incidents covered by this policy, which may take place out of school, but is linked to membership of the school.
- The Education Act 2011 gives the school the power to confiscate and search the contents of any mobile device if the Headteacher believes it contains any material that could be used to bully or harass others.
- The school will clearly detail its management of incidents within this policy, associated behaviour and anti-bullying policies and will, where known, inform

parents and carers of incidents of inappropriate online behaviour that take place out of school.

The person in school taking on the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Naomi Fan

The person in school taking on the role of Online Safety lead is Jordan Brunelle.

The Governor with an overview of Online Safety matters is Richard Baines

This Online Safety policy was created by Naomi Fan and Jordan Brunelle.

The following groups were consulted during the creation of this Online Safety policy: National Online Safety and Global Computing Solutions

The policy was completed on: 13/03/26

The policy was approved by Southgate School Governing Body on: 25.03.26

The policy is due for review no later than: March 2027

Implementation of the policy

- The Senior Leadership Team will ensure all members of school staff are aware of the contents of the school Online Safety Policy and the use of any new technology within school.
- All staff, pupils, occasional and external users of our school ICT equipment will sign the relevant Acceptable Use Policies
- All amendments will be published.
- Online safety will be taught as part of the curriculum in an age-appropriate way to all pupils.
- The Online Safety Policy will be made available to parents, carers and others via the school website or other online learning tools/apps.

The following local and national guidance are acknowledged and included as part of our Online Safety Policy:

- **Kirklees LSCP Guidance**

[The Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Partnership Procedures and Guidance](#)

Kirklees Safeguarding procedures will be followed where an online safety issue occurs which gives rise to any concerns related to child protection. In particular we acknowledge the specific guidance in:

[Section 1.4.5 Child Abuse and Information Communication Technology](#)

This section of the Kirklees Safeguarding procedures covers awareness of, and response to, issues related to child abuse and the internet. In particular we note and will follow the advice given in the following section:

Section 7 Actions to be taken where an Employee has Concerns about a Colleague

This provides guidance on the action to be taken if an employee has either information or reason to suspect that a colleague is accessing indecent images of children.

1. Government Guidance

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

[Teaching online safety in schools](#)

[Preventing and tackling bullying](#) and [cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff](#)

[Sex and Relationships education \(SRE\) and health 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.

The following Kirklees guidance documents are included as part of this Online Safety Policy: **Kirklees Electronic Communications Guidance for School Staff**

Other Guidance includes:

[Appropriate Filtering for Education Settings](#) (UK Safer Internet Centre)

[Appropriate Monitoring for Schools](#) (UK Safer Internet Centre)

2. Kirklees Learning Service Guidance

The following Kirklees guidance documents are included as part of this Online Safety Policy: **Kirklees Electronic Communications Guidance for School Staff**

3. Other Guidance

[Appropriate Filtering for Education Settings](#) (UK Safer Internet Centre)

[Appropriate Monitoring for Schools](#) (UK Safer Internet Centre)

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2. Responsibilities of the School Community

We believe that online safety is the responsibility of the whole school community and that everyone has their part to play in ensuring all members of the community are able to benefit from the opportunities that technology provides for learning and teaching. The following responsibilities demonstrate how each member of the community will contribute.

The senior leadership team accepts the following responsibilities:

- The headteacher and governing body will take ultimate responsibility for the online safety of the school community
- Appoint a senior member of staff to the role of designated safeguarding lead (DSL) to take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety)
- Identify a person (the online safety lead) to take day to day responsibility for online safety; provide them with training; monitor and support them in their work. Please note this is an optional additional role to the DSL to add capacity, and does not replace the DSL's online safety duties outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025
- Ensure adequate technical support is in place to maintain a secure ICT system
- Ensure policies and procedures are in place to ensure the integrity of the school's information and data assets
- Ensure liaison with the governors
- Develop and promote an online safety culture within the school community
- Ensure that all staff, pupils and other users agree to the Acceptable Use Policy and that new staff have online safety included as part of their induction procedures

- Make appropriate resources, training and support available to all members of the school community to ensure they are able to carry out their roles effectively with regard to online safety
- Receive and regularly review online safety incident logs; ensure that the correct procedures are followed should an online safety incident occur in school and review incidents to see if further action is required

Responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Be the first point of contact in school on all online safety matters
- Be aware of and understand the risks to young people from online activities such as grooming for sexual exploitation, sexting, online bullying, radicalisation and others.
- Create and maintain online safety policies and procedures
- Ensure that staff and pupils know the procedure to follow should they encounter any material or communication that makes them feel uncomfortable and how to report an online safety incident
- Liaise with the Local Authority, the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership and other relevant agencies as appropriate
- Understand and raise awareness of the issues and risks surrounding the sharing of personal or sensitive information
- Raise awareness of the particular issues which may arise for vulnerable pupils in the school's approach to online safety ensuring that staff know the correct child protection procedures to follow
- Oversee filtering and monitoring systems.

Responsibilities of the Online Safety Lead

- Promote an awareness and commitment to online safety throughout the school
- Take day to day responsibility for online safety within the school reporting to the DSL
- Lead the school online safety team and/or liaise with technical staff on online safety issues
- Develop an understanding of current online safety issues, guidance and appropriate legislation through regular training
- Ensure delivery of an appropriate level of training in online safety issues
- Attend regular training and updates on online safety issues. Stay up to date through use of online communities, social media and relevant websites/newsletters.
- Ensure that online safety education is embedded across the curriculum
- Ensure that online safety is promoted to parents and carers
- Ensure that any person who is not a member of school staff, who makes use of the school ICT equipment in any context, is made aware of the Acceptable Use Policy
- Monitor and report on online safety issues to the DSL, online safety lead, the leadership team and the safeguarding/online safety governor as appropriate
- Ensure an online safety incident log is kept up to date
- To promote the positive use of technologies and the internet
- To ensure that the school Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Policies are reviewed at prearranged time intervals.

Responsibilities of all Staff

- Read, understand and help promote the school's online safety policies and guidance
- Read, understand and adhere to the staff Acceptable Use Policies
- Take responsibility for ensuring the safety of sensitive school data and information
- Develop and maintain an awareness of current online safety issues, legislation and guidance relevant to their work
- Maintain a professional level of conduct in their personal use of technology at all times
- Ensure that all digital communication with pupils is on a professional level and only through school based systems, **NEVER** through personal email, text, mobile phone, social network or other online medium
- Embed online safety messages in learning activities where appropriate
- Supervise pupils carefully when engaged in learning activities involving technology
- Ensure that pupils are told what to do should they encounter any material or receive a communication which makes them feel uncomfortable
- Report all online safety incidents which occur in the appropriate log and to the DSL/ online safety lead.
- Respect, and share with pupils the feelings, rights, values and intellectual property of others in their use of technology in school and at home.

Additional Responsibilities of Technical Staff

- Support the school in providing a safe technical infrastructure to support learning and teaching
- Ensure appropriate technical steps, including filtering and monitoring, are in place to safeguard the security of the school IT system, sensitive data and information. Review these regularly to ensure they are up to date
- Ensure that provision exists for misuse detection and detection and prevention of malicious attack
- At the request of the Leadership Team conduct periodic checks on files, folders, email, internet use and other digital content to ensure that the Acceptable Use Policy is being followed
- Report any online safety related issues that come to their attention to the **DSL**, online safety lead and/or senior leadership team
- Ensure that procedures are in place for new starters and leavers to be correctly added to and removed from all relevant electronic systems, including password management
- Ensure that suitable access arrangements are in place for any external users of the school's IT equipment
- Liaise with the local authority, internet providers and others as necessary on online safety issues
- Document all technical procedures and review them for accuracy at appropriate intervals
- Ensure appropriate backup procedures exist so that critical information and systems can be recovered when necessary

Responsibilities of Pupils as developmentally appropriate and with necessary support

- Read, understand and adhere to the pupil AUP and follow all safe practice guidance
- Take responsibility for their own and each others' safe and responsible use of technology wherever it is being used, including judging the risks posed by the personal technology owned and used by them outside of school
- Ensure they respect the feelings, rights, values and intellectual property of others in their use of technology in school and at home
- Understand what action should be taken if they feel worried, uncomfortable, vulnerable or at risk whilst using technology, or if they know of someone to whom this is happening
- Report all online safety incidents to appropriate members of staff
- Discuss online safety issues with family and friends in an open and honest way
- To know, understand and follow school policies on the use of mobile phones, digital cameras and handheld devices
- To know, understand and follow school policies regarding online bullying

Responsibilities of Parents and Carers

- Help and support the school in promoting online safety
- Read, understand and promote the pupil AUP with their children
- Discuss online safety concerns with their children, show an interest in how they are using technology, and encourage them to behave safely and responsibly when using technology
- Consult with the school if they have any concerns about their child's use of technology

- To agree to and sign the home-school agreement/prospectus/policy which clearly sets out the use of photographic and video images of pupils
- To agree to and sign the home-school agreement/policy containing a statement regarding their personal use of social networks in relation to the school:

We will support the school's approach to online safety and not deliberately post comments or upload any images, sounds or text that could upset or offend any member of the school community or bring the school into disrepute.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

- Ensure there is a whole school approach to online safety which is reflected in relevant policies, the school curriculum, teacher training, the DSL role and parental engagement
- Read, understand, contribute to and promote the school's online safety policies and guidance as part of the school's overarching safeguarding procedures
- Support the work of the school in promoting and ensuring safe and responsible use of technology in and out of school, including encouraging parents to become engaged in online safety awareness
- To have an overview of how the school IT infrastructure provides safe access to the internet and the steps the school takes to protect personal and sensitive data
- Ensure appropriate funding and resources are available for the school to implement the online safety strategy
- Ensure the school has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness

Responsibility of any external users of the school systems e.g. adult or community education groups.

- Take responsibility for liaising with the school on appropriate use of the school's IT equipment and internet, including providing an appropriate level of supervision where required
- Ensure that participants follow agreed Acceptable Use Procedures

3. Acceptable Use Policies

School has a number of AUPs for different groups of users.

These are shared with all users yearly and staff and pupils will be expected to agree to them and follow their guidelines. We will ensure that external groups and visitors to school who use our ICT facilities are made aware of the appropriate AUP.

School Acceptable Use Policy documents

AUP –All Pupils

AUP- For Pupils who are Independent Users of Technology

AUP – Staff

AUP – Supply staff and visitors

AUP – Community users

4. Training

Technology use changes at a fast pace, and we recognise the importance of regular staff training. All newly appointed staff will have online safety training as part of their induction. The Online Safety Lead will attend regular training updates as necessary, and keep up to date through online resources, newsletters and networks. All school staff will receive regular updates at least once annually on the risks our pupils face online from the Online Safety Lead, and attend external training as necessary.

5. Teaching and Learning

Technology is constantly changing and evolving. Southgate School is committed to maximising the opportunities for all pupils, staff and the wider school community to engage in productive, efficient communication and information sharing. As a school it is our duty to help prepare our pupils to safely benefit from the opportunities that the internet allows.

Computers, mobiles and internet enabled devices are a part of everyone's daily lives and therefore it is essential that we provide our pupils with the skills to make the most of these technologies. As in any other area of life, children are vulnerable and may expose themselves to danger, inappropriate content and illegal means, whether knowingly or unknowingly when using the internet and other technologies. The online safety curriculum is an integral part of our whole-school approach to safeguarding and helping our pupils develop the necessary skills to be able to keep themselves protected in this ever-changing digital world.

We believe that the key to developing safe and responsible behaviours online with our pupils and the wider school community lies in an informative, relevant and age-appropriate online safety curriculum. Online safety education for pupils will be provided through multiple channels including:

- Specific online safety lessons in all classes at an age/ ability appropriate level as a part of the Computing curriculum, PSHE curriculum and any other lessons as teachers deem appropriate.
- Celebrating and promoting online safety through planned assemblies and whole-school activities including Safer Internet Day every year.
- Discussing, reminding and raising specific online safety messages with pupils on a regular basis wherever suitable opportunities arise throughout the curriculum including messages such as; protecting personal information, thinking about the consequences of one's actions online and the impact it may have on others as well as checking the accuracy and validity of information found and used online.
- Our online safety curriculum goes hand in hand with our PSHE curriculum and key themes cross over between the two. This is to make sure all pupils in all classes receive key safety messages in a variety of different ways. This includes but is not limited to; Fake news, online illegal behaviors and the use of social media.

We will remind pupils about the responsibilities to which they have agreed through the acceptable use policy.

When searching the internet for information, pupils will be guided to use age-appropriate search engines. All internet and online use will be monitored.

Pupils will be made aware of where / how to seek advice or help if they experience problems when using the internet and related technologies; i.e. parent or carer, teacher or trusted staff member, or an organisation such as Childline or the CEOP report abuse button.

It is accepted that from time to time, for good educational reasons, pupils may need to research topics (e.g. racism, drugs, and knife crime) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request that the IT technician (and other relevant persons) can temporarily remove those sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Any request to do so, should be auditable, with

clear reasons for the need as well as a clear plan of supervision when searching these sites.

We believe that the key to developing safe and responsible behaviours online for everyone within our school community lies in effective education. We know that the internet and other technologies are embedded in our pupils' lives, not just in school but outside as well, and we believe we have a duty to help prepare our pupils to benefit safely from the opportunities that these present.

We deliver a planned and progressive scheme of work to teach online safety knowledge and understanding and to ensure that pupils have a growing understanding of how to manage the risks involved in online activity. Online safety is taught in specific Computing and PSHE/SRE lessons and also embedded across the curriculum, with pupils being given regular opportunities to apply their skills.

We teach pupils how to search for information and to evaluate the content of websites for accuracy when using them in any curriculum area. Staff and pupils will be reminded that third party content should always be appropriately attributed so as not to breach copyright laws.

We discuss, remind or raise relevant online safety messages with pupils routinely wherever suitable opportunities arise. This includes the need to protect personal information and to consider the consequences their actions may have on others. Staff will model safe and responsible behaviour in their own use of technology during lessons.

Pupils will be made aware of where to seek advice or help if they experience problems when using the internet and related technologies.

6. Remote education and home learning

In response to emergency closures as well as home learning the school uses the following online learning resources:

Class Dojo, Zoom, Reading Eggs, Maths Seeds, Purple Mash, Prodigy Maths, TT-Rockstars, Collins Big Cat Reading and Microsoft Office 365.

All Acceptable Use Policies will apply to school resources which are accessed in the home environment. An additional Acceptable Use Policy will be used if remote education takes place which involves live online contact between teachers and pupils using a webcam or text messaging app/software. Parents and carers will be informed of the online resources pupils are expected to access and which staff pupils will communicate with online.

The following DfE guidance will be used:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education> DfE March 2021

7. Parents and Carers

Parents and carers play a vital role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use mobiles and internet enabled devices in a safe and appropriate way. We believe it is important to help all our parents and carers develop sufficient knowledge, skills and understanding to be able to help keep their children safe. In order to achieve this, we will regularly be sending online safety related updates via ClassDojo, parent mail, school newsletter and school website. As well as these updates we will be hosting regular coffee mornings throughout the academic year. These will be at key points throughout the calendar and give parents an opportunity to express their needs in regards to keeping pupils safe online as well as any support that may be needed.

All parents and carers can access the parents and carers area of the National Online Safety website, which can be accessed via the school website. We ask all parents to discuss the pupil's AUP with their child as appropriate and return a signed copy to the school. We also ask parents to sign the home school agreement which includes a statement about their use of social networks in situations where it could reflect on our school's reputation and on individuals within the school community.

Our termly topic webs also share the online safety learning that pupils will be exposed to and are a key document that is used by the school to share information. This makes sure that school and home remained aligned with the safety of our pupils.

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8. Managing and Safeguarding IT systems

The school will ensure that access to the school IT system is as safe and secure as reasonably possible.

Servers and other key hardware or infrastructure are located securely with only appropriate staff permitted access. Servers, workstations and other hardware and software are kept updated as appropriate. A firewall is maintained and virus and malware protection is installed on all appropriate hardware and is kept active and up-to-date. Staff have virus protection installed on all laptops used for school activity.

All administrator or master passwords for school IT systems are kept secure and available to at least two members of staff e.g. head teacher and member of technical support.

The wireless network is protected by a secure log on which prevents unauthorized access. New users can only be given access by named individuals from Global Computing Solutions.

We do not allow anyone except technical staff to download and install software onto the network.

Our named designated safeguarding lead takes responsibility for ensuring that this schools' filtering and monitoring systems remain effective by overseeing and acting on:

- filtering and monitoring reports
- safeguarding concerns
- checks to filtering and monitoring systems

The filtering and monitoring systems in school are checked and reviewed at least annually to ensure this school meets the DfE guidance 'Meeting digital and technology standards for schools and colleges'.

Filtering

In order to be compliant with the Prevent Duty and Safeguarding Children in Education, the school will:

- As part of the Prevent duty, carry out an annual assessment of the risk to pupils of exposure to extremist content in school
- Ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent access to illegal and extremist content. Web filtering of internet content is provided by Watchguard; the provider is an IWF member and blocks access to illegal child abuse images and content. The provider filters the police assessed list of unlawful terrorist content produced on behalf of the home office. The school is satisfied that web filtering manages most inappropriate content including extremism, discrimination, substance abuse, pornography, piracy, copyright theft, self-harm and violence. However it is not possible to guarantee that access to unsuitable or inappropriate material will never occur and we believe it is important to build resilience in pupils in monitoring their own internet activity.
- Inform all users about the action they should take if inappropriate material is accessed or discovered on a computer. Deliberate access of inappropriate or illegal material will be treated as a serious breach of the AUP and appropriate sanctions taken.
- Expect teachers to check websites they wish to use prior to lessons to assess the suitability of content.

Monitoring

In order to be compliant with the Prevent Duty and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025, the school will:

- Use the findings of the annual Prevent risk assessment to put appropriate internet and network monitoring systems in place.
- Pupils are always supervised by staff while using the internet as this reduces the risk of exposure to extremist, illegal or inappropriate material; direct supervision also enables school staff to take swift action should such material be accessed either accidentally or deliberately.

- Watchguard network monitoring software is used throughout school. This produces reports of inappropriate communications, searches and website access. The reports are checked regularly by the Global Computing Solutions and any cause for concern are immediately passed to the Head Teacher, DSL and Online Safety Lead. The Head Teacher, DSL and Online Safety Lead are also provided with weekly reports or web searches.

Access to school systems

The school decides which users should and should not have internet access, the appropriate level of access and the level of supervision they should receive. There are robust systems in place for managing network accounts and passwords, including safeguarding administrator passwords. Suitable arrangements are in place for visitors to the school who may be granted a temporary log in.

All users are provided with a log in appropriate to their key stage or role in school. Pupils are taught about safe practice in the use of their log in and passwords.

Staff are given appropriate guidance on managing access to laptops which are used both at home and school and in creating secure passwords.

Access to personal, private or sensitive information and data is restricted to authorised users only, with proper procedures being followed for authorising and protecting login and password information.

Remote access to school systems is covered by specific agreements and is never allowed to unauthorised third party users.

Passwords

- We ensure that a secure and robust username and password convention exists for all system access (email, network access, school management information system).

- We provide all staff with a unique, individually-named user account and password for access to IT equipment, email and information systems available within school.
- Where developmentally appropriate, pupils have a unique, individually-named user account and password for access to IT equipment and information systems available within school.
- Each class is provided with a unique individually named user account and password for access to IT equipment and information systems available within school.
- All staff and pupils have responsibility for the security of their usernames and passwords and are informed that they must not allow other users to access the systems using their log on details. They must immediately report any suspicion or evidence that there has been a breach of security.
- The school maintains a log of all accesses by users and of their activities while using the system in order to track any online safety incidents.

9. Using the internet

We provide the internet to

- Support teaching, learning and curriculum development in all subjects
- Support the professional work of staff as an essential professional tool
- Enhance the school's management information and business administration systems
- Enable electronic communication and the exchange of curriculum and administration data with the LA, the examination boards and others

Users are made aware that they must take responsibility for their use of, and their behaviour whilst using the school IT systems or a school provided laptop or device and that such activity can be monitored and checked.

All users of the school IT or electronic equipment will abide by the relevant Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) at all times, whether working in a supervised activity or working independently,

N.B. Additional guidance for staff is included in the **Kirklees Electronic Communications Guidance for Staff** and this is included as part of the school's Online Safety Policy.

Using email

Email is regarded as an essential means of communication and the school provides all members of the school community with an email account for school based communication. Communication by email between staff, pupils and parents/carers will only be made using the school email account and should be professional and related to school matters only. Email messages on school business should be regarded as having been sent on headed notepaper and reflect a suitable tone and content and should ensure that the good name of the school is maintained. There are systems in place for storing relevant electronic communications which take place between school and parents/ carers. Use of the school email system is monitored and checked.

It is the personal responsibility of the email account holder to keep their password secure.

As part of the curriculum, pupils are taught about safe and appropriate use of email. Pupil's access to email is provided through a system that allows communication between only those school users for whom it is developmentally appropriate, and can be closely monitored by staff (e.g. 2Email on the Purple Mash Learning platform or a class email address that is used under staff supervision). Where developmentally appropriate, pupils are informed that misuse of email may result in a loss of access to technology in school.

School will set clear guidelines about when pupil-staff communication via email is acceptable and staff will set clear boundaries for pupils on the out-of-school times when emails may be answered.

Under no circumstances will staff contact pupils, parents/carers or conduct any school business using a personal email address.

Responsible use of personal web mail accounts on school systems is permitted outside teaching hours.

N.B. Additional guidance for staff is included in the **Kirklees Electronic Communications Guidance for Staff** and this is included as part of the school's Online Safety Policy.

Publishing content online

E.g. using the school website, learning platform, blogs, wikis, podcasts, social network sites, livestreaming

School website:

The school maintains editorial responsibility for any school initiated web site or publishing online to ensure that the content is accurate and the quality of presentation is maintained. The school maintains the integrity of the school web site by ensuring that responsibility for uploading material is always moderated and that passwords are protected.

The point of contact on the web site is the school address, email and telephone number. Published contact details for staff are school provided.

Identities of pupils are protected at all times. School obtains permission from parents for the use of pupils' photographs. Group photographs and photographs of identifiable individual pupils do not have a name list attached.

Creating online content as part of the curriculum:

As part of the curriculum pupils are taught safe and responsible behaviour in the creation and publishing of online content. They are taught to publish for a wide range of audiences which might include governors, parents or younger children. Personal publishing of online content is taught via age-appropriate sites that are suitable for educational purposes. They are moderated by the school where possible. Pupils will only be allowed to post or create content on sites where members of the public have access when this is part of a school related activity. Appropriate procedures to protect the identity of pupils will be followed.

We take all steps to ensure that any material published online is the author's own work, gives credit to any other work included and does not break copyright.

Online material published outside the school:

Staff and pupils are encouraged to adopt the same safe and responsible behaviours in their personal use of blogs, wikis, social networking sites and other online publishing outside school as they are in school.

Material published by pupils, governors and staff in a social context which is considered to bring the school into disrepute or considered harmful to, or harassment of another pupil or member of the school community, will be considered a breach of school discipline and treated accordingly.

N.B. Additional guidance for staff is included in the **Kirklees Electronic Communications Guidance for Staff** and this is included as part of the school's online safety Policy.

Using images, video and sound

We recognise that many aspects of the curriculum can be enhanced by the use of multimedia and that there are now a wide and growing range of devices on which this can be accomplished. Pupils are taught safe and responsible behaviour when creating, using and storing digital images, video and sound.

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Digital images, video and sound recordings are only taken with the permission of participants and their parents/ carers; images and video are of appropriate activities and are only taken of pupils wearing appropriate dress. Full names of participants are not used either within the resource itself, within the file-name or in accompanying text online.

We ask all parents/carers to sign an agreement about taking and publishing photographs and video of their children (in publications and on websites) and this list is checked whenever an activity is being photographed or filmed.

We secure additional parental consent specifically for the publication of pupils' photographs in newspapers, which ensures that parents know they have given their consent for their child to be named in the newspaper and possibly on the website.

For their own protection staff or other visitors to school never use a personal device (mobile phone, digital camera or digital video recorder) to take photographs of pupils.

We are happy for parents to take photographs at school events but will always make them aware that they are for personal use only and if they have taken photographs of children other than their own they should not be uploaded to social media sites.

N.B. Additional guidance for staff is included in the **Kirklees Electronic Communications Guidance for Staff** and this is included as part of the school's online safety Policy.

Using video conferencing, web cameras and online meeting apps

We use video conferencing to enhance the curriculum by providing learning and teaching activities that allow pupils to link up with people in other locations and see and hear each other. We ensure that staff and pupils take part in these opportunities in a safe and responsible manner. All video conferencing activity is supervised by a suitable member of staff. Pupils do not operate video conferencing equipment, answer calls or set up meetings without permission from the supervising member of staff.

Video conferencing equipment is switched off and secured when not in use and online meeting rooms are closed and logged off when not in use.

All participants are made aware if a video conference is to be recorded. Permission is sought if the material is to be published.

For their own protection a video conference or other online meeting between a member of staff and pupil(s) which takes place outside school or whilst the member of staff is alone is always conducted with the prior knowledge of the headteacher or line manager and respective parents and carers. It is essential that any video conference or online meeting that takes place is in a communal room. (I.e – not a bedroom)

N. B. Additional guidance for staff is included in the **Kirklees Electronic Communications Guidance for Staff** and this is included as part of the school's Online Safety Policy.

Using mobile phones

Use of mobile phones by pupils is covered by a separate acceptable use policy.

Personal mobile devices belonging to pupils, including mobile phones, are permitted on school premises but must not be used within school hours. Personal devices are brought onto school premises by pupils at their own risk. The school does not accept liability for loss or damage of personal devices.

During lesson time we expect all mobile phones belonging to staff to be switched off and not their person, unless there is a specific agreement for this not to be the case.

Where required for safety reasons in off-site activities, a school mobile phone is provided for staff for contact with pupils, parents/carers or the school. Staff will never use personal mobile phones in any situation where their mobile phone number or other personal details may be revealed to a pupil or parent/carer. *In an emergency, where a staff member doesn't have access to a school-owned device, they should use their own device and hide (by inputting 141) their own mobile number for confidentiality purposes.*

Unauthorized or secret use of a mobile phone or other electronic device, to record voice, pictures or video is forbidden. Publishing of such material on a website which causes distress to the person(s) concerned will be considered a breach of school

discipline, whether intentional or unintentional. The person responsible for the material will be expected to remove this immediately upon request. If the victim is another pupil or staff member we do not consider it a defence that the activity took place outside school hours.

The sending or forwarding of text messages, emails or other online communication deliberately targeting a person with the intention of causing them distress is online bullying; this will be considered a disciplinary matter.

We make it clear to staff, pupils and parents that the Headteacher has the right to examine content on a mobile phone or other personal device to establish if a breach of discipline has occurred.

N. B. Additional guidance for staff is included in the **Kirklees Electronic**

Communications Guidance for Staff and this is included as part of the school's Online Safety Policy.

Using wearable technology

Wearable technology includes electronic fitness trackers and internet enabled 'smart' watches. Wearable technology is permitted on school premises but must not be used within school hours. Personal devices are brought onto school premises by pupils at their own risk. The school does not accept liability for loss or damage of personal devices. Wearable technology is not to be worn during tests or examinations. All school staff should model the correct usage of this technology and not be connected to the internal school wifi system.

Using mobile devices

We recognise that the multimedia and communication facilities provided by mobile devices (e.g. iPad, iPod, tablet, netbook, Smart phones) can provide beneficial opportunities for pupils. However their use in lesson time will be with permission from the teacher and within clearly defined boundaries. Pupils are taught to use them responsibly.

Using other technologies

As a school we will keep abreast of new technologies and evaluate both the benefits for learning and teaching and also the risks from an online safety point of view.

We will regularly review the online safety policy to reflect any new technology that we use, or to reflect the use of new technology by pupils.

Staff or pupils using a technology not specifically mentioned in this policy, or a personal device whether connected to the school network or not, will be expected to adhere to similar standards of behaviour to those outlined in this document.

Artificial Intelligence

Generative AI tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, pupils and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Gemini.

Southgate School recognises that AI has many uses to help pupils learn, pupils may use AI:

- As a research tool to help them find out about new topics and ideas
- When specifically studying and discussing AI in school, for example in IT lessons or art about AI-generated images

All AI-generated content must be properly attributed and appropriate for the pupils' age and educational needs.

AI may also lend itself to cheating and plagiarism. To mitigate this, pupils may not use AI tools:

- During assessments, including internal and external assessments, and coursework

This list of AI misuse is not exhaustive.

Pupils must consider what is ethical and appropriate in their use of AI and must not:

- Generate content to impersonate, bully or harass another person

- Generate or share explicit or offensive content, including, but not limited to, generating inappropriate or sexualised images of pupils
- Input offensive, discriminatory or inappropriate content as a prompt

Southgate School will treat any use of AI to bully pupils very seriously, in line with our behaviour policy.

Staff should be aware of the risks of using AI tools and should carry out a risk assessment where new or existing AI tools are being used by the school.

10. Protecting school data and information

School recognises the obligation to safeguard staff and pupils' sensitive and personal data including that which is stored and transmitted electronically. We regularly review our practices and procedures to ensure that they meet this basic obligation.

The school is a registered Data Controller under the General Data Protection Regulations and we comply at all times with the requirements of that registration. All access to personal or sensitive information owned by the school will be controlled appropriately through technical and non-technical access controls.

Pupils are taught about the need to protect their own personal data as part of their online safety awareness and the risks resulting from giving this away to third parties.

Suitable procedures, and where necessary training, are in place to ensure the security of such data including the following:

- Staff can be provided with encrypted USB memory sticks/secure cloud storage for storing sensitive data
- All computers or laptops holding sensitive information are set up with strong passwords, password protected screen savers and screens are locked when they are left unattended

- Staff are provided with appropriate levels of access to the school management information system holding pupil data. Passwords are not shared and administrator passwords are kept securely
- Staff are aware of their obligation to keep sensitive data secure when working on computers outside school
- All devices taken off site, e.g. laptops, tablets, removable media or phones, are secured to protect sensitive and personal data and not left in cars or insecure locations.
- When we dispose of old computers and other equipment we take due regard for destroying information which may be held on them
- We follow Kirklees procedures for transmitting data securely and sensitive data is not sent via email unless encrypted
- Remote access to computers is by authorized personnel only
- We have full back up and recovery procedures in place for school data
- Where sensitive staff or pupil data is shared with other people who have a right to see the information, for example governors or Kirklees officers, we label the material appropriately to remind them of their duty to keep it secure and securely destroy any spare copies

Management of assets

Details of all school-owned hardware and software are recorded in an inventory.

All redundant IT equipment is disposed of through an authorised agency. This will include a written receipt for the item including an acceptance of responsibility for the destruction of any personal data.

Disposal of any ICT equipment will conform to [The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013](#).

11. Responding to online safety incidents

All online safety incidents are recorded on CPOMS which is regularly reviewed.

Any incidents where pupils do not follow the Acceptable Use Policy will be dealt with following the school's relational approach to behaviour policy.

In situations where a member of staff is made aware of a serious online safety incident concerning pupils or staff, they will inform the DSL or Deputy DSL's within 12 minutes who will then respond in the most appropriate manner.

Instances of **online bullying** will be taken very seriously by the school and dealt with using the school's anti-bullying procedures. School recognises that staff as well as pupils may be victims and will take appropriate action in either situation, including instigating restorative practices to support the victim and education for the perpetrator.

Incidents which create a risk to the security of the school network, or create an information security risk, will be referred to the school's online safety lead and technical support and appropriate advice sought and action taken to minimise the risk and prevent further instances occurring, including reviewing any policies, procedures or guidance. If the action breaches school policy then appropriate sanctions will be applied. The school will decide if parents/carers need to be informed if there is a risk that pupil data has been lost.

School reserves the right to monitor equipment on their premises and to search any technology equipment, including personal equipment with permission, when a breach of this policy is suspected.

Dealing with a Child Protection issue arising from the use of technology:

If an incident occurs which raises concerns about child protection or the discovery of indecent images on the computer, then the procedures outlined in the Kirklees Safeguarding Procedures and Guidance will be followed.

[Section 1.4.4 Child Abuse and Information Communication Technology](#)

Dealing with complaints and breaches of conduct by pupils:

- Any complaints or breaches of conduct will be dealt with promptly
- Responsibility for handling serious incidents will be given to the DSL and a senior member of staff
- Parents/carers and the pupil will work in partnership with staff to resolve any issues arising
- Restorative practice will be used to support the victims and educate perpetrators.
- There may be occasions when the police must be contacted. Early contact will be made to establish the legal position and discuss strategies

The following activities constitute behaviour which we would always consider unacceptable (and possibly illegal):

- accessing inappropriate or illegal content deliberately
- deliberately accessing downloading and disseminating any material deemed offensive, obscene, defamatory, in breach of the Equalities Act or violent/threatening violence
- online peer on peer abuse and sexual harassment
- continuing to send or post material regarded as harassment or of a bullying nature after being warned
- staff using digital communications to communicate with pupils in an inappropriate manner (for instance, using personal email accounts, personal mobile phones, or inappropriate communication via social networking sites)

The following activities are likely to result in appropriate follow up actions:

- any online activity by a member of the school community which is likely to adversely impact on the reputation of the school
- accessing inappropriate or illegal content accidentally and failing to report this

- inappropriate use of personal technologies (e.g. mobile phones) at school or in lessons
- sharing files which are not legitimately obtained e.g. music files from a file sharing site
- using school or personal equipment to send a message, or create content, that is offensive or bullying in nature or could bring the school into disrepute
- attempting to circumvent school filtering, monitoring or other security systems
- circulation of commercial, advertising or 'chain' emails or messages
- revealing the personal information (including digital images, videos and text) of others by electronic means (e.g. sending of messages, creating online content) without permission
- using online content in such a way as to infringe copyright or which fails to acknowledge ownership (including plagiarising of online content)
- transferring sensitive data insecurely or infringing the conditions of the Data Protection Act 2018

The following activities would normally be unacceptable; in some circumstances they may be allowed e.g. as part of planned curriculum activity or by a system administrator to problem solve

- accessing social networking sites, chat sites, instant messaging accounts, email or using a mobile phone for personal use during lesson time
- accessing non-educational websites (e.g. gaming or shopping websites) during lesson time
- sharing a username and password with others or allowing another person to log in using your account
- accessing school ICT systems with someone else's username and password
- deliberately opening, altering, deleting or otherwise accessing files or data belonging to someone else

12. Reviewing online safety

An annual review of online safety policy and practice will be carried out using the 360

Safe self-review tool: <https://360safe.org.uk/>