



ONLINE-SAFETY POLICY

Reviewed January 2025	Review date: January 2026
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Schedule for Development / Monitoring / Review

This online-safety policy was approved by the Governing Body	Date: 28 th January 2025
The implementation of this e-safety policy will be monitored by the:	Online-Safety Coordinator Senior Management Team
Monitoring will take place at regular intervals:	Annually
The Online-Safety Policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly in the light of any significant new developments in the use of the technologies, new threats to online-safety or incidents that have taken place. The next anticipated review date will be:	Date: January 2026
Should serious e-safety incidents take place, the following external persons / agencies should be informed:	LA Safeguarding Officer, Police

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using

- Logs of reported incidents
- Monitoring logs of internet activity (including sites visited)
- Internal monitoring data for network activity
- Surveys / questionnaires of
 - students / pupils
 - parents / carers
 - staff

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all members of the Furzeham Primary School community (including staff, pupils, volunteers, parents / carers, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of school IT systems, both in and out of the school.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers Headteachers to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of students / 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 online-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. In the case of both acts, action can only be taken over issues covered by the published Behaviour 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 online-safety behaviour that take place out of school

Roles and Responsibilities

The following section outlines the online-safety roles and responsibilities of individuals and groups within the school

Governors:

Governors are responsible for the approval of the Online-Safety Policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy. This will be carried out by the Governors receiving regular information about online-safety incidents and monitoring reports.

Headteacher and Senior Leaders:

- The Headteacher has a duty of care for ensuring the safety (including online-safety) of members of the school community, though the day to day responsibility for online-safety will be delegated to the Online-Safety Co-ordinator / Officer.
- The Headteacher and (at least) another member of the Senior Leadership Team / Senior Management Team should be aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online-safety allegation being made against a member of staff.
- The Headteacher / Senior Leaders are responsible for ensuring that the Online-Safety Coordinator / Officer and other relevant staff receive suitable training to enable them to carry out their online-safety roles and to train other colleagues, as relevant.
- The Headteacher / Senior Leaders will ensure that there is a system in place to allow for monitoring and support of those in school who carry out the internal online-safety monitoring role. This is to provide a safety net and also support to those colleagues who take on important monitoring roles.
- The Senior Leadership Team / Senior Management Team will receive regular monitoring reports from the Online-safety Co-ordinator / Officer.

Online-Safety Coordinator / Officer:

- leads the online-safety committee
- takes day to day responsibility for online-safety issues and has a leading role in establishing and reviewing the school e-safety policies / documents
- ensures that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online-safety incident taking place.
- provides training and advice for staff
- liaises with the Local Authority and Trust
- liaises with Trust technical staff
- receives reports of online-safety incidents and creates a log of incidents to inform future online-safety developments
- attends relevant Trust meetings
- reports regularly to Senior Leadership Team

Network Manager / Technical staff:

The Trust Network Manager is responsible for ensuring:

- that the school's technical infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack
- that the school meets required e-safety technical requirements and any Local Authority or Trust Online-Safety Policy Guidance that may apply.
- that users may only access the networks and devices through a properly enforced password protection policy, in which passwords are regularly changed
- that they keep up to date with online-safety technical information in order to effectively carry out their online-safety role and to inform and update others as relevant

- that the use of the network / internet / cloud environment / remote access / email is regularly monitored in order that any misuse / attempted misuse can be reported to the Headteacher / Online-Safety Coordinator / Officer for investigation / action / sanction
- that monitoring software / systems are implemented and updated as agreed in school policies

Teaching and Support Staff

are responsible for ensuring that:

- they have an up to date awareness of online-safety matters and of the current school / academy online-safety policy and practices
- they have read, understood and signed the Staff Acceptable Use Policy / Laptop/ iPad Agreement (AUP)
- they report any suspected misuse or problem to the Headteacher / Online-Safety Coordinator for investigation / action / sanction
- all digital communications with students / pupils / parents / carers should be on a professional level and only carried out using official school systems
- online-safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other activities
- pupils understand and follow the online-safety and acceptable use policies
- pupils have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations
- they monitor the use of digital technologies, mobile devices, cameras etc. in lessons and other school activities (where allowed) and implement current policies with regard to these devices
- in lessons where internet use is pre-planned students / pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches

Child Protection / Safeguarding Designated Person / Officer

should be trained in online-safety issues and be aware of the potential for serious child protection / safeguarding issues to arise from:

- sharing of personal data
- access to illegal / inappropriate materials
- inappropriate on-line contact with adults / strangers
- potential or actual incidents of grooming
- cyber-bullying

Pupils:

- are responsible for using the school digital technology systems in accordance with the Pupil Acceptable Use Policy / SOE3a form and Remote Learning acceptable use agreement which is signed on admission.
- have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations
- need to understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and know how to do so
- will be expected to know and understand policies on the use of mobile devices and digital cameras. They should also know and understand policies on the taking / use of images and on cyber-bullying.
- should understand the importance of adopting good online-safety practice when using digital technologies out of school and realise that the school's Online-Safety Policy covers their actions out of school, if related to their membership of the school

Parents / Carers

Parents / Carers play a crucial role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use the internet / mobile devices in an appropriate way. The school will take every opportunity to help parents understand these issues through parents' evenings, newsletters, letters, website / learning platform and information

about national / local online-safety campaigns / literature. Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the school in promoting good online-safety practice and to follow guidelines on the appropriate use of:

- digital and video images taken at school events
- access to parents' sections of the website / learning platform and online student / pupil records (see Remote Learning policy and Acceptable use agreement for more info)
- their children's personal devices in the school / academy (where this is allowed)

Community Users

Community Users who access school systems / website / VLE as part of the wider school provision will be expected to sign a Community User AUP before being provided with access to school systems.

Policy Statements

Education – pupils

Whilst regulation and technical solutions are very important, their use must be balanced by educating pupils to take a responsible approach. The education of pupils in online-safety is therefore an essential part of the school's online-safety provision. Children and young people need the help and support of the school to recognise and avoid online-safety risks and build their resilience.

Online-safety should be a focus in all areas of the curriculum and staff should reinforce online-safety messages across the curriculum. The online-safety curriculum should be broad, relevant and provide progression, with opportunities for creative activities and will be provided in the following ways:

- A planned online-safety curriculum should be provided as part of Computing / PSHE / other lessons and should be regularly revisited
- Key online-safety messages should be reinforced as part of a planned programme of assemblies and tutorial / pastoral activities
- Students / pupils should be taught in all lessons to be critically aware of the materials / content they access on-line and be guided to validate the accuracy of information.
- Students / pupils should be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet
- Students / pupils should be helped to understand the need for the student / pupil Acceptable Use Agreement and encouraged to adopt safe and responsible use both within and outside school
- Staff should act as good role models in their use of digital technologies the internet and mobile devices
- in lessons where internet use is pre-planned, it is best practice that students / pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches.
- Where students / pupils are allowed to freely search the internet, staff should be vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites the young people visit.
- It is accepted that from time to time, for good educational reasons, students may need to research topics (e.g. racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request that the Network manager 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.

Education – parents / carers

Many parents and carers have only a limited understanding of online-safety risks and issues, yet they play an essential role in the education of their children and in the monitoring / regulation of the children's on-line behaviours. Parents may underestimate how often children and young people come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the internet and may be unsure about how to respond.

The school will therefore seek to provide information and awareness to parents and carers through:

- Curriculum activities
- Letters, newsletters, website,
- Parents / Carers evenings / sessions
- High profile events / campaigns eg Safer Internet Day
- Reference to the relevant web sites / publications eg www.swgfl.org.uk
www.saferinternet.org.uk/ <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

Education – The Wider Community

The school / academy will provide opportunities for local community groups / members of the community to gain from the school's / academy's e-safety knowledge and experience. This may be offered through the following:

- Providing family learning courses in use of new digital technologies, digital literacy and online-safety
- Online-Safety messages targeted towards grandparents and other relatives as well as parents.
- The school website will provide online-safety information for the wider community

Education & Training – Staff / Volunteers

It is essential that all staff receive online-safety training and understand their responsibilities, as outlined in this policy. Training will be offered as follows:

- A planned programme of formal online-safety training will be made available to staff. This will be regularly updated and reinforced. An audit of the online-safety training needs of all staff will be carried out regularly.
- All new staff should receive online-safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the school online-safety policy and Acceptable Use Agreements.
- The Online-Safety Coordinator / Officer (or other nominated person) will receive regular updates through attendance at external training events (eg from SWGfL / LA / other relevant organisations) and by reviewing guidance documents released by relevant organisations.
- This Online-Safety policy and its updates will be presented to and discussed by staff in staff / team meetings / INSET days.
- The Online-Safety Coordinator / Officer (or other nominated person) will provide advice / guidance / training to individuals as required.

Training – Governors

Governors should take part in online-safety training / awareness sessions, with particular importance for those who are members of any sub-committee / group involved in technology / online-safety / health and safety / child protection. This may be offered in a number of ways:

- Attendance at training provided by the Local Authority / National Governors Association / or other relevant organisation (eg SWGfL).
- Participation in school training / information sessions for staff or parents

Technical – infrastructure / equipment, filtering and monitoring

The school will be responsible for ensuring that the school infrastructure / network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible and that policies and procedures approved within this policy are implemented. It will also need to ensure that the relevant people will be effective in carrying out their online-safety responsibilities:

- School technical systems will be managed in ways that ensure that the school meets recommended technical requirements
- There will be regular reviews and audits of the safety and security of school technical systems
- Servers, wireless systems and cabling must be securely located and physical access restricted

- All users will have clearly defined access rights to school / academy technical systems and devices.
- The “master / administrator” passwords for the school ICT system, used by the Network Manager (or other person) must also be available to the Headteacher or other nominated senior leader and kept in a secure place (e.g school safe)
- Internet access is filtered for all users. Illegal content (child sexual abuse images) is filtered by the broadband or filtering provider by actively employing the Internet Watch Foundation CAIC list. Content lists are regularly updated and internet use is logged and regularly monitored.
- School technical staff regularly monitor and record the activity of users on the school technical systems and users are made aware of this in the Acceptable Use Agreement.
- Appropriate security measures are in place to protect the servers, firewalls, routers, wireless systems, work stations, mobile devices etc. from accidental or malicious attempts which might threaten the security of the school systems and data. These are tested regularly. The school infrastructure and individual workstations are protected by up to date virus software.

Use of digital and video images

The development of digital imaging technologies has created significant benefits to learning, allowing staff and students / pupils instant use of images that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet. However, staff, parents / carers and students / pupils need to be aware of the risks associated with publishing digital images on the internet. Such images may provide avenues for cyber bullying to take place. Digital images may remain available on the internet forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term. It is common for employers to carry out internet searches for information about potential and existing employees. The school will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement policies to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm:

- When using digital images, staff should inform and educate students / pupils about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images. In particular they should recognise the risks attached to publishing their own images on the internet eg on social networking sites.
- In accordance with guidance from the Information Commissioner’s Office, parents / carers are welcome to take videos and digital images of their children at school events for their own personal use (as such use is not covered by the Data Protection Act). To respect everyone’s privacy and in some cases protection, these images should not be published / made publicly available on social networking sites, nor should parents / carers comment on any activities involving other pupils in the digital / video images.
- Staff and volunteers are allowed to take digital / video images to support educational aims, but must follow school policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images. Those images should only be taken on school equipment, the personal equipment of staff should not be used for such purposes.
- Care should be taken when taking digital / video images that students / pupils are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.
- Students / pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission
- Photographs published on the website, or elsewhere that include students / pupils will be selected carefully and will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images.
- Students’ / Pupils’ full names will not be used anywhere on a website or blog, particularly in association with photographs.
- Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of students / pupils are published on the school website /social media / local press

Communications

When using communication technologies the school considers the following as good practice:

- The official school email service may be regarded as safe and secure and is monitored. Users should be aware that email communications are monitored. Staff and pupils should therefore use only the school email service to communicate with others when in school, or on school systems (e.g. by remote access).
- Users must immediately report, to the nominated person – in accordance with the school policy, the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication.
- Any digital communication between staff and pupils or parents / carers (email, chat, VLE etc) must be professional in tone and content. These communications may only take place on official (monitored) school systems. Personal email addresses, text messaging or social media must not be used for these communications.
- Whole class / group or individual email addresses may be used at KS1, while pupils at KS2 and above will be provided with individual school email addresses for educational use.
- Pupils should be taught about online-safety issues, such as the risks attached to the sharing of personal details. They should also be taught strategies to deal with inappropriate communications and be reminded of the need to communicate appropriately when using digital technologies.
- Personal information should not be posted on the school website and only official email addresses should be used to identify members of staff.

Social Media - Protecting Professional Identity

All schools, academies and local authorities have a duty of care to provide a safe learning environment for pupils and staff. Schools/academies and local authorities could be held responsible, indirectly for acts of their employees in the course of their employment. Staff members who harass, cyberbully, discriminate on the grounds of sex, race or disability or who defame a third party may render the school or local authority liable to the injured party. Reasonable steps to prevent predictable harm must be in place.

The school provides the following measures to ensure reasonable steps are in place to minimise risk of harm to pupils, staff and the school through limiting access to personal information:

- Training to include: acceptable use; social media risks; checking of settings; data protection; reporting issues.
- Clear reporting guidance, including responsibilities, procedures and sanctions
- Risk assessment, including legal risk

School staff should ensure that:

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

The school's use of social media for professional purposes will be checked regularly by the senior risk officer and online-safety committee to ensure compliance with the Social Media, Data Protection, Communications, Digital Image and Video Policies

Responding to incidents of misuse

It is hoped that all members of the school community will be responsible users of digital technologies, who understand and follow school policy. However, there may be times when infringements of the policy could take place, through careless or irresponsible or, very rarely, through deliberate misuse.

In the event of suspicion, all steps in this procedure should be followed:

- Have more than one senior member of staff / volunteer involved in this process. This is vital to protect individuals if accusations are subsequently reported.
- Conduct the procedure using a designated computer that will not be used by young people and if necessary can be taken off site by the police should the need arise. Use the same computer for the duration of the procedure.
- It is important to ensure that the relevant staff should have appropriate internet access to conduct the procedure, but also that the sites and content visited are closely monitored and recorded (to provide further protection).
- Record the URL of any site containing the alleged misuse and describe the nature of the content causing concern. It may also be necessary to record and store screenshots of the content on the machine being used for investigation. These may be printed, signed and attached to the form (except in the case of images of child sexual abuse – see below)
- Once this has been completed and fully investigated the group will need to judge whether this concern has substance or not. If it does then appropriate action will be required and could include the following:
 - Internal response or discipline procedures
 - Involvement by Local Authority or national / local organisation (as relevant).
 - Police involvement and/or action
- If content being reviewed includes images of child abuse then the monitoring should be halted and referred to the Police immediately. Other instances to report to the police would include:
 - incidents of 'grooming' behaviour
 - the sending of obscene materials to a child
 - adult material which potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act
 - criminally racist material
 - other criminal conduct, activity or materials
- Isolate the computer in question as best you can. Any change to its state may hinder a later police investigation.

It is important that all of the above steps are taken as they will provide an evidence trail for the school and possibly the police and demonstrate that visits to these sites were carried out for child protection purposes. The completed form should be retained by the group for evidence and reference purposes.

Password Security

Policy Statements

- All users will have clearly defined access rights to school technical systems and devices. Details of the access rights available to groups of users will be recorded by the Network Manager and will be reviewed, at least annually, by the Online-Safety Co-ordinator
- All school networks and systems will be protected by secure passwords that are regularly changed
- The "administrator" passwords for the school systems, used by the technical staff must also be available to the Headteacher or other nominated senior leader and kept in a secure place e.g. school safe
- Passwords for new users, and replacement passwords for existing users will be allocated by the Network Manager (schools may wish to have someone other than the school's technical staff carrying out this role e.g. an administrator who is easily accessible to users). Any changes carried out must be notified to the manager of the password security policy (above).
- All users (adults and young people) will have responsibility for the security of their username and password must not allow other users to access the systems using their log on details and must immediately report any suspicion or evidence that there has been a breach of security.

- Users will change their passwords at regular intervals – as described in the staff and pupil sections below
- The level of security required may vary for staff and pupil accounts and the sensitive nature of any data accessed through that account)
- requests for password changes should be authenticated by the Network Manager to ensure that the new password can only be passed to the genuine user (the school will need to decide how this can be managed – possibly by requests being authorised by a line manager for a request by a member of staff or by a member of staff for a request by a pupil)

Staff passwords:

- All staff users will be provided with a username and password by the Network Manager who will keep an up to date record of users and their usernames.
- It is the user's responsibility to ensure that they change the default password
- must not include proper names or any other personal information about the user that might be known by others
- temporary passwords e.g. used with new user accounts or when users have forgotten their passwords, shall be enforced to change immediately upon the next account log-on
- passwords shall not be displayed on screen.
- passwords should be different for different accounts, to ensure that other systems are not put at risk if one is compromised and should be different for systems used inside and outside of school
- should be different for different accounts, to ensure that other systems are not put at risk if one is compromised
- should be different for systems used inside and outside of school

Student / pupil passwords

- All users (at KS2 and above) will be provided with a username and password by the Network Manager who will keep an up to date record of users and their usernames.
- Pupils will be taught the importance of password security

Training / Awareness

It is essential that users should be made aware of the need for keeping passwords secure, and the risks attached to unauthorised access / data loss. This should apply to even the youngest of users, even if class logons are being used.

Members of staff will be made aware of the school's password policy:

- at induction
- through the school's online-safety policy and password security policy
- through the Acceptable Use Agreement

Pupils / students will be made aware of the school's password policy:

- in lessons (the school should describe how this will take place)
- through the Acceptable Use Agreement

Audit / Monitoring / Reporting / Review

The IT Manager will ensure that full records are kept of:

- User i.d. and requests for password changes
- User logons
- Security incidents related to this policy

Filtering

Introduction

The filtering of internet content provides an important means of preventing users from accessing material that is illegal or is inappropriate in an educational context. The filtering system cannot, however, provide a 100% guarantee that it will do so, because the content on the web changes dynamically and new technologies are constantly being developed. It is important, therefore, to understand that filtering is only one element in a larger strategy for online-safety and acceptable use. It is important that the school has a filtering policy to manage the associated risks and to provide preventative measures which are relevant to the situation in this school.

Responsibilities

The responsibility for the management of the school's filtering policy will be held by the Headteacher. They will manage the school filtering, in line with this policy and will keep records / logs of changes and of breaches of the filtering systems.

To ensure that there is a system of checks and balances and to protect those responsible, changes to the school filtering service must:

- be logged in change control logs
- be reported to the Head teacher every term

All users have a responsibility to report immediately to the Network Manager any infringements of the school's filtering policy of which they become aware or any sites that are accessed, which they believe should have been filtered.

Users must not attempt to use any programs or software that might allow them to bypass the filtering / security systems in place to prevent access to such materials.

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Internet access is filtered for all users. Differentiated internet access is available for staff and customised filtering changes are managed by the school. Illegal content is filtered by broadband or filtering provider by actively employing the Internet Watch Foundation CAIC list and other illegal content lists. Filter content lists are regularly updated and internet use is logged and frequently monitored. The monitoring process alerts the school to breaches of the filtering policy, which are then acted upon. There is a clear route for reporting and managing changes to the filtering system. Where personal mobile devices are allowed internet access through the school network, filtering will be applied that is consistent with school practice.

- The School maintains and supports the managed filtering service provided by the Internet Service Provider Lightspeed.
- In the event of the technical staff needing to switch off the filtering for any reason, or for any user, this must be logged and carried out by a process that is agreed by the Headteacher
- Mobile devices that access the school internet connection (whether school or personal devices) will be subject to the same filtering standards as other devices on the school systems
- Any filtering issues should be reported immediately to the filtering provider.
- Requests from staff for sites to be removed from the filtered list will be considered by the Network Manager (this has to be verified by the Head teacher – to ensure protection for the Network Manager or any other member of staff, should any issues arise re unfiltered access). If the request is agreed, this action will be recorded and logs of such actions shall be reviewed regularly by the Online-Safety Group.

Education / Training / Awareness

Pupils will be made aware of the importance of filtering systems through the online-safety education programme (schools may wish to add details). They will also be warned of the consequences of attempting to subvert the filtering system.

Staff / Volunteer users will be made aware of the filtering systems and safeguarding guidelines through:

- *Staff Acceptable Use Agreement*
- *induction training*
- *staff meetings, briefings, Inset.*

Monitoring

No filtering system can guarantee 100% protection against access to unsuitable sites. The school will therefore monitor the activities of users on the school network and on school equipment as indicated in the this Policy.

Audit / Reporting

Logs of filtering change controls and of filtering incidents will be made available on request to:

- the Head teacher
- Online-Safety Group
- Online-Safety Governor / Governors committee
- External Filtering provider / Local Authority / Police on request

The filtering policy will be reviewed in the response to the evidence provided by the audit logs of the suitability of the current provision.

This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the school's policy cycle.