Online Safety Policy

Loatlands Primary School

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1. Aims

Our school aims to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors
- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as 'mobile phones')
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate

The 4 key categories of risk

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

- **Content** – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism
- **Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as peer-to-peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes
- **Conduct** – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, such as making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography), sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
- **Commerce** – risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scam

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE) 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
- Relationships and sex 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.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The governing board

The local governing board has overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The governing board will co-ordinate regular meetings with appropriate staff to discuss online safety, and monitor online safety logs as provided by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

All governors will:

- Ensure that they have read and understand this policy in conjunction with the Pathfinder Schools Acceptable Use Policy & Procedure
- Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the school's IT systems within the Pathfinder Schools Acceptable Use Policy & Procedures.
- Ensure that, where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, is adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with SEND because of the importance of recognising that a 'one size fits all' approach may not be appropriate for all children in all situations, and a more personalised or contextualised approach may often be more suitable

3.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that staff understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school.

3.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Details of the school's DSL and Deputy DSLs are set out in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy as well as relevant job descriptions.

The DSL takes lead responsibility for online safety in school, in particular:

- In ensuring that staff understand this policy in conjunction with the Pathfinder Schools Acceptable Use Policy & Procedure and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school
- Working with other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents
- Managing all online safety issues and incidents in line with the school Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged (see Appendix 2) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the school Behaviour Policy
- Updating and delivering staff training on online safety (see Appendix 1)
- Liaising with other agencies and / or external services if necessary
- Providing regular reports on online safety in school to the local governing board

(This list is not intended to be exhaustive.)

3.4 The IT Manager

The Pathfinder Schools IT Manager is responsible for:

- Putting in place an appropriate level of security protection procedures, such as filtering and monitoring systems, which are reviewed and updated on a regular basis to assess effectiveness and ensure pupils are kept safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material
- Ensuring that the school's IT systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware, and that such safety mechanisms are updated regularly
- Conducting a full security check and monitoring the school's IT systems on a regular basis
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files

(This list is not intended to be exhaustive.)

3.5 All staff and volunteers

All staff, including contractors and agency staff, and volunteers are responsible for:

- Maintaining an understanding of this policy in conjunction with the Pathfinder Schools Acceptable Use Policy & Procedure
- Implementing this policy consistently
- Agreeing and adhering to the terms of the Pathfinder Schools Acceptable Use Agreement for staff and ensuring that pupils follow the Pathfinder Schools Acceptable Use Agreement for pupils
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged (see Appendix 2) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school Behaviour Policy
- Responding appropriately to all reports and concerns about sexual violence and / or harassment, both online and offline and maintaining an attitude of 'it could happen here'

(This list is not intended to be exhaustive.)

3.6 Parents

Parents are expected to:

- Notify a member of staff or the Headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding this policy
- Ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the terms of the Pathfinder Schools Acceptable Use Agreement for pupils.

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

- What are the issues? – UK Safer Internet Centre
- Hot topics – Childnet International
- Parent resource sheet – Childnet International

- Healthy relationships – Disrespect Nobody

3.7 Visitors and members

Visitors and members of the community who use the school's IT systems or internet will be made aware of this policy and the Pathfinder Schools Acceptable Use Policy & Procedures when relevant, and expected to read and follow them. If appropriate, they will be expected to agree to the terms on acceptable use in the Pathfinder Schools Acceptable Use Agreement.

4. Educating pupils about online safety

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

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

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

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

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

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

- that for most people the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits.
- about the benefits of rationing time spent online, the risks of excessive time spent on electronic devices and the impact of positive and negative content online on their own and others' mental and physical wellbeing.
- how to consider the effect of their online actions on others and knowhow to recognise and display respectful behaviour online and the importance of keeping personal information private.
- why social media, some computer games and online gaming, for example, are age restricted.
- that the internet can also be a negative place where online abuse, trolling, bullying and harassment can take place, which can have a negative impact on mental health.
- how to be a discerning consumer of information online including understanding that information, including that from search engines, is ranked, selected and targeted.
- where and how to report concerns and get support with issues online.

The safe use of social media and the internet will also be covered in other subjects where relevant.

Where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, will be adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with SEND.

5. Educating parents about online

The school will raise parents' awareness of internet safety in letters or other communications home, and in information via our website. This policy will also be shared with parents.

If parents have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with the Headteacher and/or the DSL.
Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the Headteacher.

6. Cyberbullying

6.1. Definition

Cyber-bullying takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites. Like other forms of bullying, it is the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. (See also the school behaviour policy.)

6.2 Preventing and addressing cyber-bullying

To help prevent cyber-bullying, we will ensure that pupils understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure that pupils know how they can report any incidents and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim.

The school will actively discuss cyber-bullying with pupils, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be.
Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the curriculum to cover cyber-bullying. This includes Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, and other subjects where appropriate.

All staff, governors and volunteers (where appropriate) receive training on cyber-bullying, its impact and ways to support pupils, as part of safeguarding training (see section 11 for more detail).

The school also sends information / leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents so that they are aware of the signs, how to report it and how they can support children who may be affected.

In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, the school will follow the processes set out in the school Behaviour Policy. Where illegal, inappropriate or harmful material has been spread among pupils, the school will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the incident is contained.

The DSL will consider whether the incident should be reported to the police if it involves illegal material, and will work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

6.3 Examining electronic devices

School staff have the specific power under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (which has been increased by the Education Act 2011) to search for and, if necessary, delete inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices, including mobile phones, iPads and other tablet devices, where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

When deciding whether there is a good reason to examine or erase data or files on an electronic device, staff must reasonably suspect that the data or file in question has been, or could be, used to:

- Cause harm, and/or
- Disrupt teaching, and/or
- Break any of the school rules

If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the staff member in conjunction with the DSL or other member of the Senior Leadership Team to decide whether they should:

- Delete that material, or
- Retain it as evidence (of a criminal offence or a breach of school discipline), and/or
- Report it to the police*

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

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

- The DfE's latest guidance on screening, searching and confiscation
- UKCIS guidance on sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people
- The school's COVID-19 risk assessment

Any complaints about searching for or deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices will be dealt with through the school complaints procedure.

7. Acceptable use of the internet in school

All pupils, parents, staff, volunteers and governors are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the school's IT systems and the internet (see Pathfinder Schools Acceptable Use Policy & Procedures)

Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use if relevant.

Use of the school's internet must be for educational purposes only, or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of an individual's role.

We will monitor the websites visited by pupils, staff, volunteers, governors and visitors (where relevant) to ensure they comply with the above.

More information is set out in the Acceptable Use Agreements set out in the Pathfinder Schools Acceptable Use Policy & Procedures.

8. Pupils using mobile devices in school

Pupils in Y5 and Y6 may bring mobile devices into school but these must be switched off and handed to the classteacher at the beginning of the school day and will be returned at the end of the day. Parents must also sign a permission form.

9. Staff using work devices outside school

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Keeping the device password-protected – in line with Pathfinder Schools requirements for the use of strong passwords (at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters)
- Ensuring, with the Pathfinder Schools IT Manager, that their hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device
- Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time
- Not sharing the device among family or friends
- Ensuring, with the Pathfinder Schools IT Manager, that anti-virus and anti-spyware software is installed and kept up to date.
- With the Pathfinder Schools IT Manager, keeping operating systems up to date.

Staff members must not use the device in any way which would violate the school's terms of acceptable use, as set out in the Pathfinder Schools Acceptable Use Policy and Procedures.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from the Pathfinder Schools IT Manager.

10. How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a pupil misuses the school's IT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in our policies on Behaviour and Acceptable Use. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident, and will be proportionate.

Where a staff member misuses the school's IT systems or the internet, or misuses a personal device where the action constitutes misconduct, the matter will be dealt

with in accordance with the Staff Code of Conduct. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident.

The school will consider whether incidents which involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the police.

11. Training

All new staff members will receive training, as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation.

All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year as part of safeguarding training, as well as relevant updates as required (for example through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings).

By way of this training, all staff will be made aware that:

- Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues, and that children are at risk of online abuse
- Children can abuse their peers online through:
  - Abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages
  - Non-consensual sharing of indecent nude and semi-nude images and/or videos, especially around chat groups
  - Sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who don't want to receive such content
- Physical abuse, sexual violence and initiation/hazing type violence can all contain an online element

Training will also help staff:

- develop better awareness to assist in spotting the signs and symptoms of online abuse
- develop the ability to ensure pupils can recognise dangers and risks in online activity and can weigh the risks up
- develop the ability to influence pupils to make the healthiest long-term choices and keep them safe from harm in the short term

The DSL and Deputy DSLs will undertake Child Protection and Safeguarding training, which will include online safety, at least every 2 years. They will also update their knowledge and skills on the subject of online safety at regular intervals, and at least annually.

Governors will receive training on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues as part of their safeguarding training.

Volunteers will receive appropriate training and updates, if applicable.

More information about safeguarding training is set out in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The DSL logs behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety.

12. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Headteacher. At every review, the policy will be shared with the Local Governing Board.

13. Links with other policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices
- Complaints Ptocedure
- Acceptable Use Policy & Procedures

Appendix 1: Online Safety Training Needs Audit

ONLINE SAFETY TRAINING NEEDS AUDIT	
Name of staff member/volunteer:	**Date**:
Question	**Yes/No (add comments if necessary)**
Do you know the name of the person who has lead responsibility for online safety in school?	
Are you aware of the ways pupils can abuse their peers online?	
Do you know what you must do if a pupil approaches you with a concern or issue?	
Are you familiar with the school's acceptable use agreement for staff, volunteers, governors and visitors?	
Are you familiar with the school's acceptable use agreement for pupils and parents?	
Do you regularly change your password for accessing the school's IT systems?	
Are you familiar with the school's approach to tackling cyber-bullying?	
Are there any areas of online safety in which you would like training/further training?	

Appendix 2: Online Safety Incident Report Log

ONLINE SAFETY INCIDENT LOG				
Date	**Where the incident took place**	**Description of the incident**	**Action taken**	**Name and signature of staff member recording the incident**