



Online safety policy

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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 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).

The governor who oversees online safety is Sara Barr-Frost

All governors will:

Ensure that they have read and understand this policy

Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendix 3)

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

Details of the school's DSL are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy as well as relevant job descriptions.

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

Supporting the headteacher in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school

Working with the headteacher, ICT manager and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents

Managing all online safety issues and incidents in line with the school child protection policy

Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged via CPOMS-and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy

Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged via CPOMS and dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy

Updating and delivering staff training on online safety as part of safeguarding training

Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary

Providing regular reports on online safety in school to the headteacher and/or governing board

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.4 The ICT manager

The ICT 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 ICT 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 ICT systems on a weekly basis

Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files

Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged via CPOMS and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy

Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.5 All staff and volunteers

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

Maintaining an understanding of this policy

Implementing this policy consistently

Agreeing and adhering to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet and ensuring that pupils follow the school's terms on acceptable use in-the ICT acceptable use policy.

Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged 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 on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet in the ICT acceptable use policy.

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 of the community

Visitors and members of the community who use the school's ICT systems or internet will be made aware of this policy, when relevant, and expected to read and follow it. If appropriate, they will be expected to agree to the terms on acceptable use in the ICT acceptable use policy.

4. Educating pupils about online safety

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

It is also taken from the [guidance on relationships education, relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education](#).

All schools have to teach:

[Relationships education and health education](#) in primary schools

- [Relationships and sex education and health education](#) in secondary schools

Teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, is adapted at Newfield to reflect the diverse and complex needs of our students. Although some of our pupils are unable to access the Internet we have a small percentage of pupils who are able to use the Internet independently and therefore are at risk from either deliberately accessing inappropriate material or, due to their level of literacy, accidentally accessing harmful sites.

Therefore, where appropriate, pupils will be taught:

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

Use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private

Identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies

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

Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly

Recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviour

Identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact

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

That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not

That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous

The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them

How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met

How information and data is shared and used online

What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)

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'Newfield School is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults as it's number one priority. This commitment to robust recruitment, selection and induction procedure is shared by all staff and volunteers of Newfield School.'

How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know

In **Key Stage 3**, pupils will be taught to:

Understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting their online identity and privacy

Recognise inappropriate content, contact and conduct, and know how to report concerns

Pupils in **Key Stage 4** will be taught:

To understand how changes in technology affect safety, including new ways to protect their online privacy and identity

How to report a range of concerns

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

Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online

About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online

Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them

What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online

The impact of viewing harmful content

That specifically sexually explicit material (e.g. pornography) presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners

That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail

How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online

How to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours

How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (in all contexts, including online)

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

5. Educating parents about online safety

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

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, where appropriate, 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. Class teachers will discuss cyber-bullying with their classes.

Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the personalised curriculum to cover cyber-bullying. This includes personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, 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 ICT systems and the internet as detailed in the ICT acceptable use policy. 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 ICT acceptable use policy.

8. Using mobile devices in school

Pupils

Due to the nature of our pupil's needs, it is unlikely they are able to access and use mobile phones appropriately. However, pupils may bring mobile devices into school, but are not permitted to use them during the school day.

Any use of mobile devices in school by pupils must be in line with the ICT acceptable use policy.

Any breach of the acceptable use agreement by a pupil may trigger disciplinary action in line with the school behaviour policy, which may result in the confiscation of their device.

Staff and Visitors

No mobile phones are to be used in classrooms or any public areas of school

Staff must store their mobile phones in a cupboard, away from children

Any visitor or staff member who has their phone out in school should be politely challenged by staff and asked to put it away, as per the visitor code of conduct.

Staff may only use their mobile phones in offices or staff lounges

Parents must not take photographs using a mobile phone during performances or assemblies, they may take a photo of their child, after the performance only. Parents will be reminded of this at the start of any event, by whichever staff member is leading it.

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 – strong passwords are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters (e.g. asterisk or currency symbol)

Ensuring their hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device

Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time

Not sharing the device among family or friends

Installing anti-virus and anti-spyware software

Keeping operating systems up to date – always install the latest updates

Staff members must not use the device in any way which would violate the school's terms of acceptable use, as set out in the ICT acceptable use policy.

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from the school's ICT manager.

10. How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a pupil misuses the school's ICT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in our policies on behaviour and ICT and internet 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 ICT systems or the internet, or misuses a personal device where the action constitutes misconduct, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the staff disciplinary procedures/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 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 child protection and safeguarding policy.

12. Monitoring arrangements

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

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Headteacher. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

13. Links with other policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

Child protection and safeguarding policy

Behaviour policy

Staff disciplinary procedures

Data protection policy and privacy notices

Complaints procedure

ICT acceptable use policy

Visitor code of conduct

Safer working practises policy

14. Equality Duty

Newfield School complies with the general and specific duties of the Equality Act (2010). In accordance with the duty we publish information that demonstrates that we have due regard to the need to;

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

These specific duties have been considered in relation to all our policies and procedures in school. Our objectives will be reported on and published as part of the Governance public documents available for inspection under the Freedom of Information Regulations and Data Protection duties and in the school newsletter to parents.

15. Safeguarding

Newfield School is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults as its number one priority

Full copies of Policies and Procedures related to all aspects of Safeguarding, and the Complaints Policy, are available on request from Rachel Kay, Head Teacher and Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding and Child Protection.