Ashlyns School

Aspire & Achieve

Online Safety and ICT Usage Policy

Last reviewed: May 2021	**Next review: May 2023**
Linked Governor: Julie Laws	**SLT Member:** **David Beattie**

1. Introduction

Ashlyns School recognises that internet, mobile and digital technologies provide positive opportunities for children and young people to learn, socialise and play but they also need to understand the challenges and risks. The digital world is an amazing place, but with few rules. It is vast and fast moving and young people's future economic success may be partly dependent on their online skills and reputation. We are, therefore, committed to ensuring that all pupils, staff and governors will be supported to use internet, mobile and digital technologies safely. This is part of our safeguarding responsibility. Staff are aware that some pupils may require additional support or teaching, including reminders, prompts and further explanation to reinforce their knowledge and understanding of online safety issues.

We are also committed to ensuring that all those who work with children and young people, including their parents/carers, are informed about the ever-changing risks so that they can take an active part in helping children and young people navigate the online world safely and confidently.

The school seeks to ensure that internet, mobile and digital technologies are used effectively and safely, for their intended educational purpose, in ways that will not infringe legal requirements or create unnecessary risk.

The school expects everyone to use internet, mobile and digital technologies responsibly and strictly according to the conditions set out in this policy. This policy also includes expectations on appropriate online behaviour and use of technology outside of school for pupils, parents/carers, staff and governors and all other visitors to the school.

2. 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
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's statutory safeguarding guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education, and its advice for schools on preventing and tackling bullying and searching, screening and confiscation. It also refers to the Department'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 Body

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the Senior Leadership Team to account for its implementation. The Governing Body will be updated regularly on online safety and monitoring by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

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 2)

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 are set out in our child protection policy. 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, Network manager and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 4) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyberbullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- Updating and delivering staff training on online safety (appendix 3 contains a self-audit for staff on online safety training needs)
- 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 Network manager

The Network manager is responsible for:

- Putting in place appropriate filtering and monitoring systems, which are updated on a regular basis and keep pupils 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
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files
- Ensuring 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

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 (appendix 2), and ensuring that pupils follow the school's terms on acceptable use (appendix 1)
- 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

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.6 Parents

The school works closely with families to help ensure that children can use internet, mobile and digital technologies safely and responsibly both at home and school. The support of parents/carers is essential to implement the online safety policy effectively and help keep children safe.

It is important that parents/carers understand the crucial role they play in this process. The school seeks to regularly consult and discuss online safety with parents/carers and seeks to promote a wide understanding of the benefits of new technologies and associated risks. The school provides regular updated online safety information through the school website, newsletters and by other means. Parents should also read and follow Appendix 3 of this policy.

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 (appendix 1)

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

- What are the issues?, UK Safer Internet Centre: https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advicecentre/parents-and-carers/what-are-issues

- Hot topics, Childnet International: http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics 4
- Parent factsheet, Childnet International: http://www.childnet.com/ufiles/parents-factsheet-09- 17.pdf

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 (appendix 2).

Organisations that are renting space from the school and are a totally separate organisation should have and follow their own online safety policy and acceptable use agreements. However, if the organisation has any access to the school network, cloud-based services and/or equipment then they must adhere to the school's online safety procedures and acceptable use agreements.

If the organisation is operating in school time or when pupils are on site in the care of the school, then the safeguarding of pupils is paramount and the organisation must adhere to the school's online safety procedures and acceptable use agreements.

4. Educating pupils about online safety

Students will be taught about online safety as part of the curriculum, including through:

- the PSHE and Computer Studies curriculum
- participation in e-safety events

The school will use assemblies to raise pupils' awareness of the dangers that can be encountered online and may also invite speakers to talk to pupils about this.

Students will be taught to:

- Use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting their online identity and privacy
- Recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, inappropriate content, contact and conduct, and know how to report concerns
- Identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies

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 Parent Information Evenings. It is important that parents/carers understand their key role in supporting their child(ren) to behave appropriately and keep themselves safe online.

If parents have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with the Head of Year or DSL.

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 students understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure that students 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 students, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. Teachers will discuss cyber-bullying with their class or tutor groups, and the issue will be addressed in assemblies.

Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the curriculum to cover cyberbullying. 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 students, as part of safeguarding training (see section 14 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 students, 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

Any searching of pupils will be carried out in line with the DfE's latest guidance on screening, searching and confiscation. 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. Use of email

Staff and governors should use a school email account or Governor Hub for all official school communication to ensure everyone is protected through the traceability of communication. Under no circumstances should staff contact pupils, parents or conduct any school business using a personal email address. Pupils should use school approved accounts on the school system for educational purposes. Where required parent/carer permission will be obtained for the pupil account to exist. For advice on emailing, sharing personal or confidential information or the need to gain parent permission refer to the policy for GDPR. Emails created or received as part of any school role will be subject to disclosure in response to a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Staff, governors and pupils should not open emails or attachments from suspect sources and should report their receipt to the network manager.

Users must not send emails which are offensive, embarrassing or upsetting to anyone (i.e. cyberbullying).

8. Use of the internet

8.1 Acceptable use

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 (appendices 1 and 2).

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 and all activity undertaken by students, staff, volunteers, governors and visitors (where relevant) to ensure they comply with the above.

More information is set out in the acceptable use agreements in appendices 1 and 2.

8.2 Visiting online sites and downloading

Staff must preview sites, software and apps before their use in school or before recommending them to pupils. Before using any online service that requires user accounts to be created or the sharing of any personal data, staff must consult with the Data Protection Team with details of the site/service and seek approval from a senior leader. The terms and conditions of the service should be read and adhered to, and parental/carer permission sought where required.

If internet research is set for homework, specific sites will be suggested that have been checked by the teacher.

All users must observe copyright of materials from electronic sources.

Staff must only use pre-approved systems if creating blogs, wikis or other online content. When working with pupils, searching for images should be done through Google Safe Search (standard through the HICS service), Google Advanced Search or a similar application that provides greater safety than a standard search engine.

Users must not visit internet sites, make, post, download, upload or pass on, material, remarks, proposals or comments that contain or relate to:

- Indecent images of children actually or apparently under the age of 18 or images of child abuse (i.e. images of children, digital or cartoons, involved in sexual activity or posed to be sexually provocative)
- Indecent images of vulnerable people over the age of 18 (i.e. images of vulnerable people, digital or cartoons involved in sexual activity or posed to be sexually provocative)
- Adult material that breaches the Obscene Publications Act in the UK
- Promoting discrimination of any kind in relation to the protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation
- Promoting hatred against any individual or group from the protected characteristics above
- Promoting illegal acts including physical or sexual abuse of children or adults, violence, bomb making, drug and alcohol abuse and software piracy
- Any material that may bring the school or any individual within it into disrepute e.g. promotion of violence, gambling, libel and disrespect

Users must not:

- Reveal or publicise confidential or proprietary information
- Intentionally interfere with the normal operation of the internet connection, including the propagation of computer viruses
- Transmit unsolicited commercial or advertising material either to other users, or to organisations connected to other networks except where permission has been given to the school
- Use the school's hardware and Wi-Fi facilities for running a private business
- Intimidate, threaten or cause harm to others
- Access or interfere in any way with other users' accounts
- Use software or hardware that has been prohibited by the school

If using a personal device to conduct school business outside of school the considerations outlined elsewhere in this policy should be considered. Any personal data of staff, students or school stakeholders must not be retained on the device beyond the period of work and no copies should be made.

The school recognises that in certain planned curricular activities, access to controversial and/or offensive online content may be beneficial for educational use. In such circumstances, there is an expectation that access is pre-planned, risk assessed and recorded, and permission given by the Headteacher.

9. Taking and Storage of Images

Please see section B of the CCTV and Use of Images Policy

10. Use of personal mobile devices (including phones)

The school allows staff, including temporary and peripatetic staff, and visitors to use personal mobile phones and devices only in designated areas. Under no circumstance does the school allow a member of staff to contact a pupil or parent/carer using their personal device without screening their number.

Parents/carers may only use personal mobile phones and devices in designated areas unless otherwise informed, e.g. for specific events and activities. Under no circumstance should images be taken at any time on school premises or on off-site school events and activities of anyone other than their own child, unless there is a pre-specified permission from the Headteacher. When a parent/carer is on school premises but not in a designated area, their phone/s must be switched off and out of sight.

Students may bring mobile devices into school, but are not permitted to use them at any time on the school grounds unless the teacher grants that permission. Any use of mobile devices in school by students must be in line with the acceptable use agreement (see appendix 1).

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

The school is not responsible for the loss, damage or theft of any personal mobile device that is brought into school.

Users bringing personal devices into school must ensure there is no inappropriate or illegal content on the device.

11.Reporting incidents, abuse and inappropriate material

There may be occasions in school when either a pupil or an adult receives an offensive, abusive or inappropriate message or accidentally accesses upsetting or abusive material. When such a situation occurs the pupil or adult must report the incident immediately to the first available member of staff, the DSP or the headteacher. Where such an incident may lead to significant harm, safeguarding procedures should be followed. The school takes the reporting of such incidents seriously and where judged necessary, the DSP will refer details to social care or the police.

12. Staff using work devices outside school

Staff members using a work device outside school must not install any unauthorised software on the device and must not use the device in any way which would violate the school's terms of acceptable use, as set out in appendix 2 of this document.

Staff must ensure that their work device is secure and password-protected, and that they do not share their password with others.

They must take all reasonable steps to ensure the security of their work device when using it outside school.

Any removable storage used by staff must not contain any personal information about staff or students. This information should be kept on the cloud storage provided by the school.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from the Network manager.

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

13. How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a student/child misuses the school's ICT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in the behaviour policy. 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. 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.

Where a visitor or parent misuses the school's ICT systems or fails to adhere to the acceptable use agreement, action will be taken up to and including prohibiting access to the school systems and premises, and referral to external agencies.

14. Training

New staff are provided with a copy of the online safety policy and must sign the school's Acceptable Use Agreement as part of their induction and before having contact with pupils. 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.

Staff and governors are trained to fulfil their roles in online safety. The school audits the training needs of all school staff and provides regular training to improve their knowledge and expertise in the safe and appropriate use of internet, mobile and digital technologies.

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).

The DSL and Safeguarding Team 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 policy.

15. Monitoring arrangements

The DSL and Safeguarding Team log behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety.

The school makes use of a variety of technologies to log and filter the following activities as part of our filtering service.

- Online Activity
- Device Activity
- Email Activity

The school supports pupils and staff who have been affected by a policy breach. Where there is inappropriate or illegal use of internet, mobile and digital technologies, this will be dealt with under the school’s behaviour and disciplinary policies as appropriate. Breaches may also lead to criminal or civil proceedings.

16. Links to other policies

This policy, supported by its acceptable use agreements, is intended to protect the interests and safety of the whole school community. It is linked to the following other school policies and documents: CCTV and Use of Images Policy; Child Protection Policy; , Keeping Children Safe in Education; Data Protection Policy; Health and Safety Policy; Home-School Agreement; Behaviour Policy;, Anti-Bullying Policy; RSE policy.

Appendix 1: Acceptable Use Agreement: Students

[A copy of this is included within the school's Admission Documentation which is signed electronically.]

1. I will only use school IT equipment for school purposes.
2. I will not download or install software on school IT equipment.
3. I will only log on to the school network, other school systems and resources using my own school user name and password.
4. I will not reveal my passwords to anyone other than a parent/carer.
5. I will not use my personal email address or other personal accounts on school IT equipment.
6. I will make sure that all my electronic communications are responsible and sensible.
7. I understand my behaviour in the virtual classroom should mirror that in the physical classroom.
8. I understand that everything I search for, access, post or receive online can be traced now and in the future. My activity can be monitored and logged and if necessary shared with teachers, parents/carers and the police if necessary. I know it is essential that I build a good online reputation.
9. I will not browse, download, upload or forward material that could be considered offensive or illegal. If I accidentally come across any such material I will report it immediately to a member of staff if I am in school, or parent/carer if I am not in school.
10. I will not give out my own or others' personal information, including: name, phone number, home address, interests, schools or clubs or any personal image. I will report immediately any request for personal information, to a member of staff if I am in school or parent/carer if I am not in school.
11. I should never post photographs, videos or livestream without the permission of all parties involved.
12. I will not upload any images, videos, sounds or words that could upset, now or in the future, any member of the school community, as this is cyberbullying.
13. I will be respectful to everyone online; I will treat everyone the way that I want to be treated. I will ensure that all my online activity, both in and outside school, will not cause distress to anyone in the school community or bring the school into disrepute.
14. I will not respond to hurtful behaviour online but will report it. I have the right to block and will say no to any inappropriate or upsetting request.
15. I will respect the privacy and ownership of others' work on-line and will adhere to copyright at all times.
16. I will not attempt to bypass the internet filtering system in school.
17. I will not assume that new technologies can be brought into school and will check with staff before bringing in any device.
18. I will not lie about my age in order to sign up for age inappropriate games, apps or social networks.
19. I understand that not everything I see or hear online is true, accurate or genuine. I also know that some people on the internet are not who they say they are and may have ulterior motives for assuming another identity that will put me at risk. I will gain permission from parents/carers before arranging to meet someone I only know on the internet.
20. I understand that these rules are designed to keep me safe now and in the future. If I break the rules, teachers will investigate, I may be disciplined and my parents/carers may be contacted. If I break the law the police may be informed.

Student and Parent/Carer signature

We have discussed this document and _________________________(student's name) agrees to follow the safety rules and to support the safe and responsible use of ICT at Ashlyns.

Parent/Carer Signature:___________________________Student Signature:_____________________

Appendix 2: Acceptable Use Agreement: Staff, Governors and Visitors

ICT (including data) and the related technologies such as email, the internet and mobile devices are an expected part of our daily working life in school. This policy is designed to ensure that all staff are aware of their professional responsibilities when using any form of ICT. All staff are expected to sign this policy and adhere at all times to its contents. Any concerns or clarification should be discussed with the Senior Finance and Operations Manager

- I will only use the school's email / Internet / Intranet / Learning Platform and any related technologies for professional purposes or for uses deemed acceptable by the Head or Governing Body
- I will comply with the ICT system security and not disclose any passwords provided to me by the school or other related authorities
- I will ensure that all electronic communications with students and staff are compatible with my professional role
- I will not give out my own personal details, such as mobile phone number, personal email address, personal Twitter account, or any other social media link, to students
- I will only use the approved, secure email system(s) for any school business
- I will ensure that personal data (such as data held on MIS software) is kept secure and is used appropriately, whether in school, taken off the school premises or accessed remotely. Personal data can only be taken out of school or accessed remotely when authorised by the Head or Governing Body. Personal or sensitive data taken off site must be encrypted, e.g. on a password secured laptop or memory stick
- I will not install any hardware or software without permission of the Network Manager
- I will not browse, download, upload or distribute any material that could be considered offensive, illegal or discriminatory
- Images of students and/ or staff will only be taken, stored and used for professional purposes in line with school policy and with written consent of the parent, carer or staff member
- Images will not be distributed outside the school network without the permission of the parent/ carer, member of staff or Headteacher
- I will support the school approach to online safety and not upload or add any images, video, sounds or text linked to or associated with the school or its community'
- I understand that all my use of the Internet and other related technologies can be monitored and logged and can be made available, on request, to my Line Manager or Headteacher
- I will respect copyright and intellectual property rights
- I will ensure that my online activity, both in school and outside school, will not bring the school, my professional reputation, or that of others, into disrepute or offend members of the school community
- I will support and promote the school's e-Safety and Data Security policies and help students to be safe and responsible in their use of ICT and related technologies
- I will not use personal electronic devices (including smart watches) in public areas of the school between the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm, unless as agreed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team as required for the performance of my role
- I understand this forms part of the terms and conditions set out in my contract of employment

User Signature

I agree to follow this code of conduct and to support the safe and secure use of ICT throughout the school

Signature …….……………………..……….. Date ……………………

Full Name …………………………………................................ (printed)

Job title ………………………………………………………………….

Appendix 3 - Online safety policy guide - Summary of key parent/carer responsibilities

The school provides online safety information for parents/carers, through the website, in newsletters and at events. It is important that parents/carers understand their key role in supporting children to behave appropriately and keep themselves safe online.

The online safety policy, supported by its acceptable use agreements, is intended to protect the interests and safety of the whole school community.

- Parents/carers are required to support their child in understanding and signing the Online Safety Acceptable Use Agreement for pupils.

- Parents/carers may only use personal mobile phones and devices in designated areas of the school unless otherwise informed, e.g. for specific events and activities. Under no circumstance should images be taken at any time on school premises that include anyone other than their own child, unless there is a pre-specified agreement with individuals and parents/carers. When a parent/carer is on school premises but not in a designated area, their phone/s must be switched off and out of sight.

- Parents/carers should not assume that pupils can bring technological devices to school and should always check the school policy.

- All cyberbullying incidents affecting children in the school should be reported immediately. (If the incident involves an indecent image of a child the report must also be made immediately to the police for your own protection.) The school will investigate and respond to all reported cyberbullying incidents, liaising with others where appropriate. No reply should ever be sent to the sender/poster of cyberbullying content. If applicable block the sender and report abuse to the site. Evidence should be retained and shown in school and/or to the police. Evidence should not be forwarded.

- The school may choose to set up social media sites, blogs or have some other online presence in its own name. Parents/carers, however, do not have the right to set up any site, page, chat group or any other online presence that uses the school name or logo in any form.

- Any parent/carer, distressed or concerned about an aspect of school should make immediate contact with a member of staff rather than posting their concerns online. Parents/carers should not share school related information or images online or post material that may bring the school or any individual within it into disrepute. Negative postings about the school would impact on the reputation of the whole school community. Parents/carers are encouraged to report breaches so that we can protect the reputation of the school, staff, pupils and parents/carers.

Please see the full online safety policy in the policies section on the school website.

Appendix 4 - Guidance on the process for responding to cyberbullying incidents

All cyberbullying incidents should be reported and responded to. Where the perpetrator is a member of the school community the majority of cases can be dealt with through mediation and/or disciplinary processes.

The following procedures are recommended:

- Never reply to the sender/poster of cyberbullying content. If applicable, block the sender.

- Incidents should be reported immediately. Pupils should report to a member of staff to refer to the relevant pastoral team.

- The person reporting the cyberbullying should save the evidence and record the time and date. This evidence must not be forwarded but must be available to show at a meeting. Under no circumstances should indecent images of children and young people be printed or forwarded as this is a further criminal act. Staff should not ask to see the evidence of reported indecent images of children or young people but must refer this immediately to the police. Any member of staff being shown such evidence should immediately inform their line manager or the headteacher so that the circumstances can be recorded.

- A member of the pastoral team (tutor, Head of Year, Learning Mentor or SLT) will meet with the person who has reported the incident and the target, if different, to listen, reassure and support. All relevant facts will be reviewed, documented and investigated.

- Anyone found to have cyberbullied will have attention drawn to the seriousness of their behaviour and, if the school considers it necessary, the police will be involved. If the comments are threatening, abusive, sexist, of a sexual nature, constitute a hate crime or are libellous they may well break the law. Online harassment and stalking is also a crime.

- Once evidence has been secured then the person who has cyberbullied will be requested to remove the offending comments/material and sanctions applied in line with the school’s Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies. Any refusal will lead to an escalation of sanctions.