

Online Safety and Acceptable Use Policy

For pupils, parents and staff



Formally adopted by the Governing Board of:-	Bressingham Primary School
On:-	February 2026
Headteacher:	Joanna Lewis
Chair of Governors:	Diane Perry Yates
Last updated:-	February 2025
Next review:	February 2027

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

The four 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, antisemitism, radicalisation and extremism
- **Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as child-to-child 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 scams

2. Legislation and guidance

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

- [Teaching online safety in schools](#)

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

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 make sure staff undergo online safety training as part of child protection and safeguarding training, and ensure staff understand their expectations, roles and responsibilities around filtering and monitoring.

The governing board will also make sure that staff receive online safety updates as required and at least annually, to ensure they are continually provided with the relevant skills and knowledge to effectively safeguard children.

The governing board must ensure the school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place on school devices and school networks, and will regularly review their effectiveness. The board will review the DfE filtering and monitoring standards, and discuss with IT service providers what needs to be done to support the school in meeting those standards, which include:

- Reviewing filtering and monitoring provisions at least annually;

- Blocking harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonable impacting teaching and learning;
- Having effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs.

All governors will:

- Ensure that they have read and understand this policy
- Ensure that online safety is a running and interrelated theme while devising and implementing their whole school or college approach to safeguarding and related policies and/or 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 leaders

Details of the school's designated safeguarding leaders (DSLs) are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy as well as relevant job descriptions.

The DSLs take 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
- Taking the lead on understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place on school devices and school networks
- Working with the headteacher and relevant staff 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 or cyber-bullying incidents are logged on CPOMs and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy and the behaviour policy. These incidents will be discussed in safeguarding meetings that are attended by DSLs
- Updating and delivering staff safeguarding training, that include information regarding online safety
- Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.4 The ICT manager (through JC Comtech)

Working alongside the Senior Leadership Team and the service provided by Norfolk County Council, 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 and cyberbullying incidents are logged on CPOMS.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.5 All staff and regular 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 (signed for by staff on induction and annually at September INSET)
- Ensuring that any online safety and cyber-bullying incidents are logged on CPOMs
- 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

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](#)

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.

4 Educating pupils about online safety

Pupils will be taught about online safety as part of the curriculum. The text below is taken from the [National Curriculum computing programmes of study](#). 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.

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

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 Safety

The school will raise parents' awareness of internet safety in letters and communications home, and in information via our website.

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 DSLs.

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 the imbalance of power.

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. Teachers will discuss cyber-bullying with their classes.

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.

The school also sends information/leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents through our newsletter, 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 DSLs will report the incident and provide the relevant material to the police as soon as is reasonably practicable, if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that possessing that material is illegal. They will also 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.

All searches must take place with two members of staff present and must be witnessed by a senior member of staff/DSL.

Before a search, if the authorised staff members are satisfied that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting any of the above, they will also:

- Make an assessment of how urgent the search is, and consider the risk to other pupils and staff. If the search is not urgent, they will seek advice from the headteacher or one of the DSLs.
- Explain to the pupil why they are being searched, how the search will happen, and give them the opportunity to ask questions about it
- Seek the pupil's co-operation

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/headteacher to decide on a suitable response. If there are images, data or files on the device that staff reasonably suspect are likely to put a person at risk, they will first consider the appropriate safeguarding response.

When deciding if there is a good reason to erase data or files from a device, staff members will consider if the material may constitute evidence relating to a suspected offence. In these instances, they will not delete the material, and the device will be handed to the police as soon as reasonably practicable.

If the material is not suspected to be evidence in relation to an offence, staff members may delete it if:

- They reasonably suspect that its continued existence is likely to cause harm to any person, and/or
- The pupil and/or the parent/carer refuses to delete the material themselves

Any deletion of data must take place with two members of staff present and witnessed by a senior member of staff/DSL.

If a staff member suspects a device may contain an indecent image of a child (also known as nude or semi-nude image), they will:

- Not view the image
- Confiscate the device and report the incident to the DSL immediately, who will decide what to do next. The DSL will make the decision in line with the Dfe's latest guidance on screening, searching and confiscation and the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) guidance on sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people.

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

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

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

6.4 Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, pupils and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as Chat GPT and Google Bard.

Bressingham Primary School recognises that AI has many uses to help pupils learn, but may also have the potential to be used to bully others. For example, in the form of 'deepfakes', where AI is used to create images, audio or video hoaxes to look real.

Bressingham Primary School will treat any use of AI to bully pupils in line with our anti-bullying/behaviour policy.

Staff should be aware of the risks of using AI tools whilst they are still being developed and should carry out a risk assessment where AI tools are being used by the school.

We may seek guidance from the authorities, including police, if the headteacher deems this necessary.

7. Acceptable use of the internet in school

Staff will not use technology in school to view material that is illegal, inappropriate or likely to be deemed offensive. This includes, but is not limited to, sending obscene emails, gambling and viewing pornography or other inappropriate content.

Staff will not use personal mobile phones and laptops, or school equipment for personal use, in school hours or in front of the pupils. They will also not use personal mobile phones or cameras to take pictures of pupils.

8. Pupils using mobile devices in school

Pupils are not allowed a mobile phone or any other device that connects to the internet in school with the exception of Year 6 (if they are biking or walking to school independently). If they bring a mobile phone or any other device that connects to the internet into school (which a parent must agree to), they have to leave it in a secure location in the school office/classroom at all times during the school day.

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 recommended (at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters)
- 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 (this is done through our ICT partner, JC Comtech)
- Keeping operating systems up to date by always install the latest updates (this is done through our ICT partner, JC Comtech)
- If staff are bringing their own device to work, they have to agree to and sign to say that they have agreed to a protocol (Bring your own device policy) for this on CPOMS

Staff members must not use the device in any way that would violate the school's terms of acceptable use, as set out in appendix 3. 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 Senior Leadership Team.

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. 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 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

that involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the police.

11. Training

All new staff members will receive training at least annually on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues including cyber-bullying and the risks of 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 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 up the risks
- develop the ability to influence pupils to make the healthiest long-term choices and keep them safe from harm in the short term

The DSLs will undertake child protection and safeguarding training, which will include online safety. 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 DSLs and members of staff log behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety using CPOMs.

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Senior Leadership Team. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board. The review will be supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks pupils face online. This is important because technology, and the risks and harms related to it, evolve and change rapidly.

13. Links with other policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Internet, Social Media and Email Use Policy
- Cyber-bullying Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Computing Curriculum

Appendix 1: Acceptable use agreement

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR STAFF, GOVERNORS, VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

Name:

When using the school's ICT systems and accessing the internet in school, or outside school on a work device (if applicable), I will not:

- Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal or pornographic nature (or create, share, link to or send such material)
- Use them in any way which could harm the school's reputation
- Access social networking sites or chat rooms
- Use any improper language when communicating online, including in emails or other messaging services
- Install any unauthorised software, or connect unauthorised hardware or devices to the school's network
- Share my password with others or log in to the school's network using someone else's details
- Take photographs of pupils unless for an educational purpose and only on a school mobile or ipad
- Share confidential information about the school, its pupils or staff, or other members of the community
- Access, modify or share data I'm not authorised to access, modify or share
- Promote private businesses, unless that business is directly related to the school

I will only use the school's ICT systems and access the internet in school, or outside school on a work device, for educational purposes or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of my role.

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the school's ICT facilities and systems.

I will take all reasonable steps to ensure that work devices are secure and password-protected when using them outside school, and keep all data securely stored in accordance with this policy and the school's data protection policy.

I will let the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) know if a pupil informs me they have found any material which might upset, distress or harm them or others, and will also do so if I encounter any such material.

I will always use the school's ICT systems and internet responsibly, and ensure that pupils in my care do so too.

Signed:

Date:

Appendix 2: Online safety training needs – self-audit for staff

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?	
Do you regularly change your password for accessing the school's ICT 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?	