

# Coalbrookdale & Ironbridge C.E. Primary School



## **Policy**

## **Online Safety**

Last Review: Summer 2023

Written by: M. Dhaliwal (Headteacher)

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## **1. Introduction**

The Online Safety Policy relates to other policies including those for computing, bullying, behaviour and for child protection. The school has appointed Online Safety Coordinators. These are Mandy Dhaliwal (Headteacher and designated Children Protection Coordinator) and Andrea Faulkner (Online Safety Coordinator).

It has been discussed with staff, agreed by the senior management and approved by Governors. It will be reviewed bi-annually.

It is the duty of the school to ensure that every child in our care is safe, and the same principles should apply to the 'virtual' or 'digital' world as would be applied to the school's physical buildings.

This Policy document is drawn up to protect all parties: the pupils, the staff and the school and aims to provide clear advice and guidance on how to minimise risks and how to deal with any infringements.

## **2. Why Internet Use is Important**

The Internet is an essential element in 21st century life for education, business and social interaction. The school has a duty to provide students with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience. Internet use is a part of the statutory curriculum and a necessary tool for staff and pupils. It is used to raise the standards of education, support professional work of staff and enhance the school's management. Primarily, it is used to promote pupil achievement.

Current and emerging Internet and online technologies used in school and, more importantly in many cases, used outside of school by children include but are not limited to:

- The Internet – World Wide Web
- E-mail
- Instant messaging (e.g. Snapchat, Viber, Viber, Kik)
- Web based voice and video calling (e.g. Skype, facetime, Whatsapp, Omegle)
- Online chat rooms • Online discussion forums
- Social networking sites and apps(e.g. Facebook, Whatsapp, Snapchat, TikTock)
- Blogs and Micro-blogs (e.g. Twitter).
- Gaming platforms (Discord/ PS4/PS5/ XBOX).
- Podcasting (radio / audio broadcasts downloaded to devices)
- Video broadcasting sites (e.g. YouTube)
- Music and video downloading (e.g. iTunes)
- Mobile phones with camera and video functionality
- Smart phones with e-mail, messaging, apps and internet access

## **Our Whole School Approach to the Safe use of ICT**

Creating a safe ICT learning environment includes three main elements at this school:

- An effective range of technological tools;
- Policies and procedures, with clear roles and responsibilities
- E-Safety teaching is embedded into the school curriculum and schemes of work. At the start of each computing lesson, pupils from KS1-KS2 receive an e-safety top-tip created by Education for a Connected World which teaches them the importance about staying safe online.

### **3. Roles and Responsibilities**

E-Safety is recognised as an essential aspect of strategic leadership in this school and the Head, with the support of Governors and DSL's, aims to embed safe practices into the culture of the school.

#### **Leadership Team**

The Senior Leadership Team ensures that the Policy is implemented across the school via the usual school monitoring procedures, including pupil voice.

#### **Online Safety Coordinator**

Our school Online Safety Coordinator is Andrea Faulkner (SENDCo). She is responsible for keeping up to date on all Online Safety issues and ensuring that staff are updated as necessary. Staff and governors receive regular Online Safety top tips via emails when an issue arises. This keeps staff abreast with any current changes/ updates regarding online safety.

#### **Governors**

The School Governing body is responsible for overseeing and reviewing all school policies, including the Online Safety Policy.

#### **School Staff**

All teachers are responsible for promoting and supporting safe behaviours in their classrooms and following school Online Safety procedures. Central to this is fostering a 'No Blame' culture so children feel able to report any bullying, abuse or inappropriate materials.

Staff ensure they are familiar with the school Online Safety policy, and ask for clarification where needed.

Class teachers ensure that children are aware of the Online Safety rules, introducing them at the beginning of each new school year and embedding them throughout the daily curriculum.

#### **Children**

Pupils are expected to take an active part in planned lessons and activities to support their understanding and confidence in dealing with Online Safety issues, both at home and school. They are asked to agree to a set of guidelines and rules covering their responsibilities when using ICT at school and sign to say they accept these (please see Appendix 1 and Appendix 2).

## **Parents**

Parents are given information about the school's Online Safety policy at admissions. They are given copies of the pupil information and asked to support these rules with their children. As appropriate they are also sent Online Safety top tips via email or text or on the school website. This is to address any current Online Safety topics that may be presenting themselves either in school or in the media. If an Online Safety issue has arisen with a particular group of children or year group, then communication is made with the relevant parents.

## **4. Internet Use & Management**

Within Telford and Wrekin, Senso monitoring software is used throughout the authority and runs behind every software application. All users must read and sign the 'Acceptable Use Policy- Staff and Governors (Appendix 3) before using any school ICT resources. Senso is designed to protect users and will alert the Headteacher of any potential breaches of the internet use policy which are then investigated, and appropriate action is undertaken. (Screenshots are taken by the software at any instance of violation to allow easy tracking of the site/words used/user and computer involved).

The school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users access only appropriate material. However, due to the international scale and linked nature of Internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never appear on a school computer. Neither the school nor TAW can accept liability for the material accessed, or any consequences of Internet access.

Pupils will be taught what Internet use is acceptable and what is not and will be given clear objectives for Internet use. They will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation. The school will ensure that the use of Internet derived materials by staff and pupils complies with copyright law. Pupils should be taught to be critically aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.

At Key Stage 1, access to the Internet will be by adult demonstration with occasional directly supervised access to specific, approved on-line materials. At Key stage 2, children accessing the internet are closely monitored.

## **5. Online Safety Education**

Users are informed that network and Internet use is monitored and traced to the individual user. Online Safety resources are used within school to teach children safe use of the internet. These resources are regularly updated, as the Internet and use of the Internet is constantly evolving. Online Safety rules will be posted in all networked rooms and discussed with the children at the start of each year. In year 6 children have a session with a local police officer on Online Safety issues.

Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge CE Primary School uses a range of materials including the CE-OP website which includes a series of child-friendly lessons specifically catered to and differentiated for each Key Stage/Year group to teach them about all elements of Online Safety. Integrated into this is an annual Safer Internet Day (February) dedicated to educating the children around the dangers surrounding internet/digital device use. This comprises of key stage collective worship (age-related) and is followed up by lessons to

reinforce the messages. Other collective worship dedicated to Online Safety are taught throughout the year, often by the Safeguarding Crew.

Teachers follow objectives for their year group which have been outlined in the 'Educating for a Connected World' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-a-connected-world>) Government document. The objectives can be met through E-safety/ computing lessons, safer internet day, Share Aware week, NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe, Healthy Lifestyles week and during life lessons. At our school E-safety is weaved throughout the curriculum and everyday classroom life.

Pupil voice is often carried out to ensure that we remain up-to-date with the apps and ways in which our children use the Internet. The annual Bullying Survey, carried out in each year group, includes questions around all forms of bullying including that of the dangers of the internet. This ensures that we are clear of the pupils' understanding around this area and in turn can take steps and measures to further educate where necessary. We also ensure that at least one question on the annual Parent survey is linked to Online Safety so we can allow parent to have their say.

## **6. Using the Internet for Learning**

The Internet is now an invaluable resource for learning for all our pupils, and we use it across the curriculum both for researching information and a source of digital learning materials.

Using the Internet for learning is now a part of the Computing Curriculum. We teach all our pupils how to find appropriate information on the Internet, and how to ensure as far as possible, that they understand who has made this information available, and how accurate and truthful it is.

- Teachers carefully plan all Internet-based teaching to ensure that pupils are focused and using appropriate and relevant materials.
- Children are taught how to use search engines (such as Kiddle & Kidrex) and how to evaluate Internet-based information as part of the ICT curriculum, and in other curriculum areas where necessary.
- They are taught how to recognise the difference between commercial and non-commercial websites, and how to investigate the possible authors of web-based materials.
- They are taught how to carry out simple checks for bias and misinformation
- They are taught that web-based resources have similar copyright status as printed and recorded materials such as books, films and music, and that this must be taken into consideration when using them.

## **7. Teaching Safe Use of the Internet and ICT**

We think it is crucial to teach pupils how to use the Internet safely, both at school and at home, and we use the Kidsmart safety code to support our teaching in this area: Kidsmart has been developed by the Childnet charity, and is endorsed by the DfES  
<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk>

The main aspects of this approach include the following five SMART tips:

- Safe - Staying safe involves being careful and not giving out your name, address, mobile phone no., school name or password to people online...
- Meeting someone you meet in cyberspace can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents'/carers' permission and then when they are present...
- Accepting e-mails or opening files from people you don't really know or trust can get you into trouble - they may contain viruses or nasty messages...
- Remember someone online may be lying and not be who they say they are. If you feel uncomfortable when chatting or messaging end the conversation...
- Tell your parent or carer if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried...



## Suitable Material

We encourage pupils to see the Internet as a rich and challenging resource, but we also recognise that it can be difficult to navigate and find useful and appropriate material. Where possible, and particularly with younger children, we provide pupils with suggestions for suitable sites across the curriculum, and staff always check the suitability of websites before suggesting them to children, or using them in teaching.

*'It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. An effective whole school approach to online safety empowers a school to protect and educate pupils and staff in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate.'*

## Keeping Children Safe In Education 2023

Staff are aware of the breadth of issues classified within online safety and understand that it is consistently evolving. Staff receive regular CPD linked to Online Safety via the Online Safety Lead and follow the Online Safety risk assessment daily. The risk assessment is categorised into four areas of risk (content, contact, conduct and commerce). This risk assessment highlights those risks and the measures in place to reduce this risk. All staff in our setting will have had training and access to and are aware of this risk assessment from INSET training in September 2023.

## Non-Education Materials

We believe it is better to support children in finding their way around the Internet with guidance and positive role modelling rather than restrict Internet use to strict curriculum-based research. As well as Internet material directly related to the curriculum, we encourage children to visit appropriate entertainment and child-oriented activity sites that have interesting and relevant activities, games and information, in free time at out-of-school-hours provision, and at home.

There is a selection of links to such resources available on the school website, and in the shared pupil folders on the school network.

### **Unsuitable Material**

Despite the best efforts of the LA and school staff, occasionally pupils may come across something on the Internet that they find offensive, unpleasant or distressing. Pupils are taught to always report such experiences directly to a trusted adult at the time they occur, so that action can be taken.

The action will include:

1. Making a note of the website and any other websites linked to it.
2. Informing the gold technician (ICT administrator).
3. Logging the incident
4. Discussion with the pupil (and their parent) about the incident, and how to avoid similar experiences in future.

### **8. E-mail**

E-mail is a valuable and stimulating method of communication that plays an important role in many aspects of our lives today. We believe it is important that our children understand the role of e-mail, and how to use it appropriately and effectively.

Children are taught not to reveal personal details of themselves or others in e-mail communication or arrange to meet anyone without specific permission. They are encouraged to immediately tell a teacher if they receive offensive e-mail. The forwarding of chain letters is not permitted.

### **9. Internet-enabled Mobile phones and Handheld Devices**

More and more young people have access to sophisticated new internet-enabled devices such as SMART mobile phones, tablets, iPads and games consoles.

It is important that whilst the school recognises the potential advantages these devices can offer, there are clear and enforceable rules for their use in school, particularly when they give access to the Internet, and allow pictures and information to be remotely posted to a website or weblog.

Children will be taught the legal and moral implications of posting photos and personal information from mobile phones to public websites etc. and how the data protection and privacy laws apply.

- Pupils are not allowed to have personal mobile phones or other similar devices in school. Parents may request that such devices are kept at the School Office for pupils who may need them on their journey to and from school. If this is the case, mobile phones are taken to the school office and kept locked away until the end of the school day, where they are returned to the child. Consent via a parent/ carer must be completed in order for this to happen.

### **10. Published Content and the School Website**

The contact details on the Website are the school address, e-mail and telephone number. Staff or pupils' personal information is not published.

The headteacher will take overall editorial responsibility and ensure that content is accurate and appropriate.

### **11. Publishing Children's Images and Work**

Written permission from parents or carers is obtained before photographs of pupils are published on the school Web site. A log is kept of children who we do not have permission to use their photographs and this log is updated regularly. Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on the Web site or Blog if prior consent has not been obtained, particularly in association with photographs. Pupils work may be published on the website.

### **12. Social Networking and Personal Publishing**

The school will block/filter access to social networking sites. Children will be advised never to give out personal details of any kind that may identify them or their location whilst on the internet at school or home. Children and parents will be advised that the use of social network spaces outside school is inappropriate for primary aged children.

Pupil voice surveys often gives us the opportunity to find out what social networking sites the children are currently using so that staff can receive training about these sites if necessary.

### **13. Managing Emerging Technologies**

Emerging technologies are examined by Telford and Wrekin ICT support for educational benefit and a risk assessment will be carried out before use in school is allowed.

### **14. Protecting Personal Data**

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred, and made available according to the Data Protection Act 2018.

### **15. Deliberate Misuse of the Internet Facilities**

All children have discussed the rules for using the Internet safely and appropriately. These rules should be displayed in each classroom.

Where a child is found to be using the Internet inappropriately, for example to download games, or search for unsuitable images, then sanctions will be applied according to the nature of the misuse, and any previous misuse.

Senso will capture any inappropriate searches and report instantly to the DSL.

#### **Sanctions will include:**

*Unsuitable material:* (e.g. online games, celebrity pictures, music downloads, sport websites etc)

- Initial warning from class teacher
- Banning from out of school hours Internet facilities
- Report to Headteacher
- Letter to parent/carer



*Offensive material:* (e.g. pornographic images, racist, sexist or hate website or images etc)

- Incident logged and reported to Head teacher
- Initial letter to parent/carer
- Removal of Internet privileges/username etc
- Meeting with Parent/Carer to re-sign Internet use agreement
- Removal of Out of School Hours access to Internet

## **16. Handling Online Safety Complaints**

Complaints of Internet misuse will be dealt with by a senior member of staff. Any complaint about staff misuse must be referred to the headteacher. Complaints of a child protection nature must be dealt with in accordance with school child protection procedures.

Whilst it is the duty of the school to ensure that every child in our care is safe, the international scale and linked nature of Internet content, the availability of mobile technologies and speed of change, means it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never appear on a school computer or mobile device. Neither the school nor the Local Authority can accept liability for material accessed, or any consequences as a result of accessing the Internet.

## **17. Use of the Internet and ICT Resources by School Staff**

### **The Internet**

Our school understands that the Internet is a valuable resource for school staff. It provides a wealth of resources, teaching materials and information that teachers can use across the curriculum. It allows staff to share resources with other schools, and to engage in debate and discussion.

We are committed to encouraging and supporting our school staff to make the best use of the Internet and all the opportunities it offers to enhance our teaching and support learning.

### **Internet Availability**

To enable staff to make full use of these important resources, the Internet is available in school to all staff for professional use. The school also provides a T&W user account that gives further access to specific resources, online tools and email.

### **ICT Equipment and Resources**

The school also offers staff access to appropriate ICT equipment and resources, including computers, laptops, tablets, interactive whiteboards, digital cameras, sound recorders, control and data logging equipment and a range of professional and curriculum software.

### **Professional Use**

Staff are expected to model appropriate ICT and Internet use at all times (please see the Acceptable Use Policy – Staff and Governors- Appendix 3). This supports our commitment to encouraging safe and appropriate ICT and Internet use by our pupils both in school and at home.

Staff are also careful to consider inclusion and equalities issues when using ICT and the Internet, and to provide pupils with appropriate models to support the school Inclusion and Equal Opportunities policies.

Staff who need support or CPD in using ICT as part of their professional practice can ask for support from the computing Coordinator or the school's Technology support (silver technician).

### **Personal Use of the Internet and ICT Resources**

Some equipment (including laptops) is available for loan to staff, with permission from the Headteacher. The appropriate forms and agreements must be signed.

However, all staff must be aware of the school policy on using school Internet and ICT resources for personal use.

### **E-mail**

We recognise that e-mail is a useful and efficient professional communication tool. To facilitate this, staff members will be given a school e-mail address and we ask staff to use it for all professional communication with colleagues, organisations, companies and other groups.

Staff are reminded that using this e-mail address means that they are representing the school, and all communications must reflect this.

E-mail accounts provided by the school may sometimes need to be accessed, although personal privacy will be respected.

### **Online discussion groups, bulletin boards and forums, online chat and messaging**

We realise that a growing number of educationalists and education groups use discussion groups, online chat forums and bulletin board to share good practice and disseminate information and resources.

The use of online discussion groups and bulletin boards relating to professional practice and continuing professional development is encouraged, although staff are reminded that they are representing the school, and appropriate professional standards should apply to all postings and messages.

### **Social Networking**

The school appreciates that many staff will use social networking sites and tools. The use of social networking tools and how it relates to the professional life of school staff is covered in Staff Professional Conduct expectations and agreements. As with discussion groups, staff are reminded that professional standards should apply to all postings and messages.

### **Data Protection and Copyright**

The school has data protection policy in place – please see separate documentation for more details.

Staff are aware of this policy, and how it relates to Internet and ICT use, in particular with regard to pupil data and photographs, and follow the guidelines as necessary.

Staff understand that there are complex copyright issues around many online resources and materials, and always give appropriate credit when using online materials or resources in teaching and learning materials. They also support pupils to do the same.

**Appendix 1- Acceptable Use Policy (EYFS and KS1)**



**Acceptable Use Policy for EYFS and KS1 Children at Coalbrookdale & Ironbridge CE Primary School**

**This agreement will help keep me safe and help me to be fair to others.**

- I will always keep my passwords a secret.
- I will ask a teacher or suitable adult if I want to use the computers/iPads/Chrome Books.
- I will only visit sites which my teacher/ a suitable adult has told me are appropriate to use.
- I will take care of computers/iPads/ Chrome Books and other equipment.
- I will ask for help from a teacher/suitable adult if I am not sure what to do or if I think I have done something wrong.
- I will tell a teacher or suitable adult if I see something that upsets me/ makes me feel unsafe on the screen.
- I know that if I break the rules, I might not be allowed to use a computer/iPad/Chrome Book in school.

**I am aware that anything I do on the computer may be seen by someone else.**

**I am also aware that the school's internet and safety filter is maintained and monitored by Telford and Wrekin Local authority.**

**Pupil name: Signed (child): .....**

**Date: .....**

## **Appendix 2- Acceptable Use Policy (KS2)**



### **Acceptable Use Policy for KS2 Children at Coalbrookdale & Ironbridge CE Primary School**

**This agreement will help keep me safe and help me to be fair to others.**

- I will take care when using the school IT equipment and use it responsibly.
- I will keep my passwords private unless I need to share them with a trusted adult.
- I will inform an adult if I see or receive any unpleasant text, images or messages.
- I will not interfere with anyone else's passwords, settings or files on the computer.
- I will be careful when downloading material from the internet or using material I have brought into school because I understand the risks from virus infections.
- Any work I upload to the internet will be my own.
- I know I need permission to take someone's photograph or to video them.
- Any messages I post online or send in an email will be polite and responsible.
- I will not send or forward messages or create material which is deliberately intended to upset other people.
- I know I must take care about giving away my personal information and making contact with people I do not know when using the internet.
- I will only bring my personal devices such as smart watches and mobile phones into school with the consent of my teacher. I will follow the school rules on storage of my devices during the school day.
- I understand that the school may check my use of IT and contact my parent/carer if they are concerned about my online safety.
- I understand that if I do not follow these rules I may not be allowed to use the school computers or access the internet for a period of time and that this may happen even if the activity was done outside school.

**I am aware that anything I do on the computer may be seen by someone else.**

**I am also aware that the school's internet and safety filter is maintained and monitored by Telford and Wrekin Local authority.**

**Pupil name: Signed (child): .....**

**Date: .....**

**Appendix 3 – Acceptable Use - Staff and Governors**



**Acceptable Use Policy Agreement**

**Staff & Governors**

I understand that I am responsible for my actions in and out of the school:

- I understand that this acceptable use policy applies not only to my work and use of school digital technology equipment in school, but also applies to my use of school systems and equipment off the premises and my use of personal equipment on the premises or in situations related to my employment by the school.
- I understand that if I fail to comply with this acceptable use agreement, I could be subject to disciplinary action. This could include a warning, a suspension, referral to Governors and in the event of illegal activities the involvement of the police.

Staff Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_