



Pendle Community High School & College Online Safety Policy

Introduction

Online safety is regarded as SAFEGUARDING issues where technology is involved.

To reduce these risks, online safety seeks to continually educate staff and students on how to improve their personal safety and minimise security risks to their private information and property when using technology online.

This online safety policy has been developed by a working group made up of: senior leaders, the Online Safety Lead, staff including teachers, support staff, technical staff, chair of governors. Advice was also sought from the Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (LCSAP) (formerly the Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board, LSBC) in developing this policy. The school actively uses the South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) 360° Safe Self Review Tool for online safety, to regularly review, inform and progress the school's online safety approach, as part of its ongoing commitment to developing online safety provision for all members of the school community. The school achieved the online safety 360-degree Award in July 2021

Consultation with the whole school community has taken place and this policy links into the wider Safeguarding and Child Protection policy of the school and college .

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all members of the school community (including staff, students , volunteers, parents / carers, visitors) who have access to and are users of school ICT systems. The system has an added level of security as the network guest password is not available freely and the ICT campus technician/s input any passwords directly should a guest log-in be required.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers Headteachers to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of students when they are off the school site and empowers members of staff to impose disciplinary penalties for inappropriate behaviour. This is pertinent to incidents of online bullying, or other online incidents covered by this policy, which may take place outside of the school, yet is linked to the school. The 2011 Education Act increased these powers with regard to the searching for electronic devices and the deletion of data such as contact lists. In the case of both acts, action could be taken over issues covered within the published Positive relationships,behaviour and SEMH and Safeguarding and Child Protection policies.

The school will deal with any such incidents within this policy and associated behaviour policies and will inform parents / carers of incidents of inappropriate online safety behaviour that take place out of school.

Roles and Responsibilities

The following section outlines the online safety roles and responsibilities of individuals and groups within the school:

- **Governors** are responsible for ensuring online safety is a running and interrelated theme whilst devising and implementing the whole school / college approach to safeguarding and related policies and procedures. This includes considering how online safety is reflected as required, in all relevant policies and considering online safety whilst planning the curriculum, any teacher

training, the role and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) and any parental engagement.

- **The Online Safety Lead**, who is also the DSL, leads the online safety group and assumes day to day responsibility for online safety issues. They have a leading role in establishing and reviewing the school online safety policies and documents, liaising with school technical staff and in providing training for staff.
- **The Campus technical staff** ensure that the campus technical infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack and that the school meets required online safety technical requirements and any Local Authority Guidance that may apply. They ensure that users may only access the networks and devices through a properly enforced password.
- **Teaching and support staff** are responsible for ensuring that they have an up to date awareness of online safety matters and of the current online safety policy and practices. Staff must have read, understood and signed the Staff Acceptable Behaviour Policy (ABP) and report any suspected misuse or problems to the Online Safety Lead / DSL. Staff need to understand the requirements of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2022 Part 1 and Annex B there must be no digital communications with students and any communication with parents / carers should be on a professional level using school systems only. In exceptional circumstances staff may have contact with parents outside of school systems, if this is agreed by SLT.
- **All staff** should ensure that online safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and that students are aware of and follow the online safety and acceptable behaviour policies in line with Teaching Online Safety in Schools June 2019. Staff should monitor the use of digital technologies, mobile devices, cameras etc. in lessons and other school activities and implement current policies with regard to these devices.
- In lessons where internet use is pre-planned students should be guided to sites (pre checked as suitable for their use by teachers) and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches. (The unsuitable sites are noted down in a hardback book and reported to the online safety lead or DSL.)
- **Students** are responsible for using the school / digital technology systems in accordance with the Student / Pupil Acceptable Behaviour Policy and need to understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and know how to do so. Students are expected to be aware of the importance of rules around the use of mobile devices, digital cameras, taking/using images and of the implications of online bullying.
- **Parents /carers** play a crucial role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use the internet / mobile devices in an appropriate way. The school will take every opportunity to help parents understand these issues through parents' evenings, newsletters, letters, the school website and information about national / local online safety campaigns / literature. Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the school in promoting good online safety practice and follow the procedures of the school when visiting.

Education – students

Online safety is reinforced in all areas of the curriculum.

A planned online safety curriculum is provided as part of Computing / PSHE and RSE.

Key online safety messages are reinforced as part of a planned programme of assemblies and tutorial / pastoral activities.

Students should be taught in all lessons to be critically aware of the materials / content they access online, appropriate to their level of understanding.

Students should be made aware of the source of information used and to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet.

Students should be helped to understand the need for the student / pupil Acceptable Behaviour Agreement and encouraged to adopt safe and responsible use both within and outside school. Staff will act as good role models in their use of digital technologies, the internet and mobile devices.

Where students are allowed to freely search the internet, staff should be vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites the young people visit.

It is accepted that from time to time, for good educational reasons, students may need to research topics (e.g. racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request via the Website Filter Bypass request form, that the Campus ICT technician can temporarily remove those sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Any request to do so, should be auditable, with clear reasons for the need and having sought permission from the subject lead and SLT. The campus uses BTLS Lightspeed filtering system which is monitored by the campus technicians and SLT informed of any unusual searches or issues.

Education & Training – Staff / Volunteers

It is essential that all staff receive online safety training and understand their responsibilities, as outlined in this policy. Training will be offered as follows:

A planned programme of formal online safety training will be made available to staff. This is regularly updated at least annually and reinforced termly.

All new staff receive online safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the school online safety policy and Acceptable Behaviour Agreements.

This Online safety policy and its updates will be presented to and discussed by staff in staff / team meetings / INSET days and additional training will be organised for the Online Safety Lead /DSL.

Training – Governors

Governors take part in online safety training and awareness sessions, with particular importance for those who are members of any sub- committee / group involved in technology / online safety / health and safety / safeguarding/ child protection. Governors understand their responsibilities as outlined in KCSIE 2022.

Technical – infrastructure / equipment, filtering and monitoring

The school is responsible for ensuring that the school infrastructure / network is safe and secure and that policies and procedures approved within this policy are implemented. It also ensures that the relevant people named in the above sections are effective in carrying out their online safety responsibilities:

- School technical systems will be managed in ways that ensure the school meets recommended technical requirements and Local Authority Guidance.
- There are ongoing reviews and audits of the safety and security of school technical systems
- Servers, wireless systems and cabling are securely located and where possible, physical access restricted
- All users have clearly defined access rights to school technical systems and devices

- All users are provided with a personal username and secure password
- The bursar / school business manager along with campus technical staff are responsible for ensuring that software licence logs are accurate and up to date and that regular checks are made to reconcile the number of licences purchased against the number of software installations.
- Internet access is filtered for all users. Inappropriate content (e.g. websites hosting materials of a sexual/ drug/ violent nature etc.) is automatically blocked by the broadband and filtering provision. Content lists are constantly updated and internet use is logged and regularly monitored (e.g. weekly reports of suspicious search queries, remote monitoring.) There is a clear process in place to deal with requests for filtering where websites have been blocked and all requests to access such sites need to go through the campus IT administrator.
- The school provides enhanced / differentiated user-level filtering (allowing different filtering levels for different ages / stages and different groups of users – staff / students etc.)
- Campus technical staff, regularly monitor and record the activity of users on the school technical systems and flag up any unusual searches to the Headteacher.
- Any potential technical incidents or security breaches are to be immediately reported to SLT and the campus technician.
- Appropriate security measures are in place to protect the servers, firewalls, routers, wireless systems, work stations, mobile devices etc. from accidental or malicious activities which might threaten the security of the school systems and data. These are tested and reviewed regularly. The school infrastructure and individual workstations are protected by up to date anti-virus software.
- An agreed policy is in place regarding the extent of personal use that staff are allowed on school devices that may at times be used out of school and there are controls in place to restrict all users from downloading executable files and installing programmes on school devices. (see Appendix Staff ABP/ Staff Device Agreement)
- An agreed policy is in place (Staff ABP) regarding the use of removable media (e.g. memory sticks / CDs / DVDs) by users on school devices especially in regard to the storage of sensitive data in line with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR)

Use of digital and video images

The development of digital imaging technologies has created significant benefits to learning, allowing staff and students instant use of images that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet. However, staff, parents / carers and students need to be aware of the risks associated with publishing digital images on the internet and via social media. Such images may provide avenues for online bullying to take place. Digital images may remain available on the internet forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term.

- The sharing of inappropriate or explicit images online via mobile phones, webcams, social media and instant messaging such as 'nudes', 'semi nudes' or 'dick pics' previously referred to as sexting. Young people often view this as a mundane or normal activity and part of flirting, but by sending an explicit image a young person is producing and distributing child abuse images and risks being prosecuted even if the image is taken and shared with permission.) Young people can also then be at an increased risk of blackmail, exploitation, bullying, emotional distress and unwanted attention. All members of staff must be aware that if any young person discloses that they have sent or received a 'sext', 'nude selfie', or 'dick pic' that these images should not be printed, copied or forwarded. Staff should immediately inform the school's DSL. The school has adopted the [LSCAP 'Sexting Process Guidance'](#) for managing potential instances appropriately, which is included as an Appendix to this policy. In addition, the DSL is expressly familiar with the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) 'Sexting in

Schools & Colleges' guidance for handling incidents of Sexting in a considered and appropriate manner in accordance with national guidelines.

- When using digital images, staff should inform and educate students about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images. In particular they should recognise the risks attached to publishing their own images on the internet e.g. on social networking sites.
- Staff are allowed to take digital / video images to support educational aims, but must follow school policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images. Those images should only be taken on school equipment, the personal equipment of staff must not be used for such purposes.
- Photographs published on the website, or elsewhere that include students will be selected carefully and will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images. Students' full names will not be used anywhere on a website or blog, particularly in association with photographs.
- Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of students are published on the school website. The parental consent forms part of the admissions pack and is renewed regularly.

Data Protection and Freedom of Information

The school has a Data Protection Policy ensuring that personal information is dealt with correctly and securely and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and other related legislation such as the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. Please read this policy in conjunction with:

- School Data Protection Policy
- Freedom of Information Guidance
- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Guidance
- Statement of Ethical Standards
- Code of Conduct for Delegated Budgets

Staff must also ensure that they:

- At all times take care to ensure the safe keeping of personal data, and follow the above policies and guidance, which will minimise the risk of loss or misuse.
- Use personal data only on secure password protected computers and other devices, ensuring that they are properly 'logged-off' at the end of any session in which they are using personal data. All staff must activate a screen lock if leaving their computer unattended.

Communications

A wide range of rapidly developing communications technologies has the potential to enhance learning.

Students follow the following rules during school hours.

Mobile phones may be brought to school for independent travellers and in other agreed circumstances for pupils where there is an identified need such as listening to music on transport. This is agreed with parents/ carers and SLT.

NO use of mobile phones in lessons or social time (except Post 16 social time)

NO taking photos on mobile phones / cameras

NO use of other mobile devices e.g. tablets, gaming devices

NO use of personal email addresses in school, or on school network

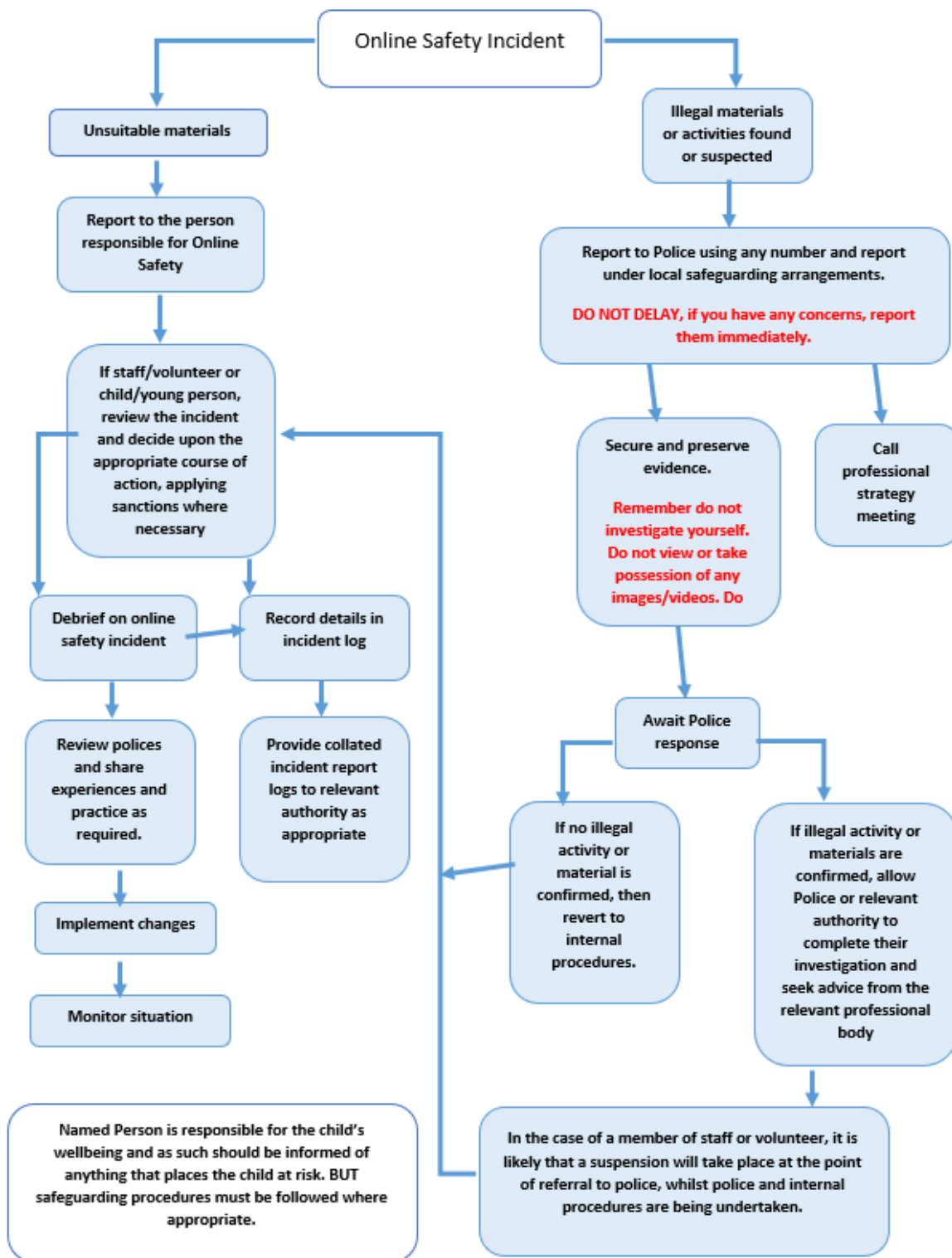
NO use of messaging apps, social media, blogs

When using communication technologies the school considers the following as good practice:

- The official school / email service may be regarded as safe and secure and is monitored. Users should be aware that email communications are monitored.
- Users must immediately report, to the nominated person – in accordance with the school / policy, the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication.
- Any digital communication between staff and students or parents / carers must be professional in tone and content. These communications may only take place on official (monitored) school / systems. Personal email addresses, text messaging from a personal phone or social media must not be used for these communications.
- Some senior school staff and the Family Liaison Officer have work mobiles to communicate with parents, all text message communications should be added to the ROD on our management information system ONWARDS and UPWARDS.
- The School Family Liaison Facebook page is regularly monitored
- The school uses Parent App to communicate messages to parents
- Students are taught about online safety issues, such as the risks attached to the sharing of personal details. They are also taught strategies to deal with inappropriate communications and be reminded of the need to communicate appropriately when using digital technologies.
- Students and parents have been made aware of the website Whisper Button for anonymous reporting of any online bullying issues. Students are reminded of this regularly through assemblies, form time and online safety weeks.
- Personal information should not be posted on the school website and only official email addresses should be used to identify members of staff.

Illegal incidents

If there is any suspicion that a website(s) may contain child abuse images, or if there is any other suspected illegal activity, refer to the right hand side of the flowchart (below and appendix) for responding to online safety incidents and report immediately to the police.



Online safety incident procedure

It is expected that all members of the school community will be responsible users of digital technologies, who understand and follow school policy. However, there may be times when infringements of the policy could take place, through careless or irresponsible or, very rarely, through deliberate misuse.

In the event of suspicion, all steps in this procedure should be followed:

- Two senior members of staff to be involved in this process. This is vital to protect individuals if accusations are subsequently reported.
- Conduct the procedure using a designated computer that will not be used by young people and if necessary, can be taken off site by the police should the need arise. Use the same computer for the duration of the procedure.
- It is important to ensure that the relevant staff should have appropriate internet access to conduct the procedure, but also that the sites and content visited are closely monitored and recorded (to provide further protection).
- Record the URL of any site containing the alleged misuse and describe the nature of the content causing concern. It may also be necessary to record and store screenshots of the content on the machine being used for investigation. These may be printed, signed and attached to the form (except in the case of images of child sexual abuse – see below)
- Once this has been completed and fully investigated senior staff will need to assess whether this concern has substance or not. If it does, then appropriate action will be required and could include the following:
 - internal response or discipline procedures
 - involvement by Local Authority or national / local organisation
 - police involvement and/or action
 - if content being reviewed includes images of child abuse then the monitoring is halted and referred to the police immediately.

Other instances to report to the police would include:

- incidents of 'grooming' behaviour
- the sending of obscene materials to a child
- adult material which potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act
- criminally racist material
- other criminal conduct, activity or materials

The computer in question should then be secured as any change to its state may hinder a later police investigation. Lancashire Police guidance on suspected illegal activity is to remove the power at source. (i.e. pull the plug not shut down the equipment).

It is important that all of the above steps are taken as they will provide an evidence trail for the school and possibly the police and demonstrate that visits to these sites were carried out for child protection / safeguarding purposes. Any related documentation should be retained for evidence and reference purposes.

School Actions & Sanctions

It is more likely that the school will need to deal with incidents that involve inappropriate rather than illegal misuse. It is important that any incidents are dealt with as soon as possible in a proportionate manner, and that members of the school community are aware that incidents have been dealt with. It is intended that incidents of misuse will be dealt with through normal behaviour / disciplinary

procedures. (See Positive relationships, behaviour and SEMH Policy / Staff ABP / Staff Device Agreement, Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, anti-bullying policy)

Children and online safety away from school and college (incl COVID 19)

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with in accordance with the Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Online teaching

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the Online safety policy. PCHSC will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements. PCHSC will use zoom to deliver some virtual lessons should the need arise during COVID 19, such as if a bubble / zone has to be absent from school / college. The zoom session will follow the agreed protocols as set up in the Summer term 2020. Reference document: Guidelines for holding zoom meetings with groups of pupils

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's policies and the appendices indicated below: -


Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
Positive relationships, behaviour and SEMH Policy
Guidance for Safer Working Practice February 2022
Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2022 Part 1 Annex B
School Data Protection Policy
Freedom of Information

Appendices:

Staff Acceptable Behaviour Policy
Pupil Acceptable Behaviour Policy
Volunteer Acceptable Behaviour Policy
IPad ABP
Staff Device Agreement
Use of social networking sites Guidance LCC
Communication and social networking ABP
'Sexting in Schools & Colleges' guidance (UKCCIS)
COVID 19 use of zoom

Additional guidance and advice taken from:

Teaching Online safety in Schools (DfE, June 2019)
UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) including appropriate filtering and monitoring guidance
UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS)
(Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Board) replaced by Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Assurance partnership 2019

Policy approved by governors:	September 2022
Review Date:	August 2023
Signed: T Ashton, Chair of Governors	
Signed: D Grogan, Head Teacher	