

Robertswood School



Online Safety Policy

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all members of the school community (including staff, pupils, volunteers, parents/carers, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of school ICT systems, both in and out of the school.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers Headteachers to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of pupils 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 cyber-bullying, or other e-safety incidents covered by this policy, which may take place outside of the school, but is linked to membership of the school. The 2011 Education Act increased these powers with regard to the searching for and of electronic devices and the deletion of data. In the case of both acts, action can only be taken over issues covered by the published Behaviour Policy.

The school will deal with such incidents within this policy and associated behaviour and anti-bullying policies and will, where known, inform parents/carers of incidents of inappropriate e-safety behaviour that take place out of school.

We are aware of the Prevent Duty to protect young people from radicalisation and extremism. At our school we view this as a safeguarding matter like any other and these processes will be applied to support children and their families where vulnerabilities are identified, invariably this will require us to work with partner agencies to support and protect the vulnerable student.

Policy Statements

Education (Students)

Whilst regulation and technical solutions are very important, their use must be balanced by educating students to take a responsible approach. The education of students in e-safety is therefore an essential part of the school's e-safety provision. Children and young people need the help and support of the school to recognise and avoid e-safety risks and build their resilience.

E-safety should be a focus in all areas of the curriculum and staff should reinforce e-safety messages across the curriculum. The e-safety curriculum should be broad, relevant and provide progression, with opportunities for creative activities and will be provided in the following ways:

- **A planned e-safety curriculum should be provided as part of Computing and PHSE and should be regularly revisited (part of every year group's program of study).**
- **Key e-safety messages should be reinforced as part of a programme of assemblies and class based activities.**
- **Students should be taught in all computer based lessons to be critically aware of the materials / content they access on-line and be guided to validate the accuracy of information.**
- **Students should be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet.**
 - *Students / pupils should be helped to understand the need for the Student Acceptable Use Agreement and encouraged to adopt safe and responsible use both within and outside school.*
 - *Staff should act as good role models in their use of digital technologies, the internet and mobile devices.*
 - *In lessons where internet use is pre-planned, it is best practice that students should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches.*
 - *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 that the Technical Staff (or other relevant designated person) 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.*

Education (Parents/Carers)

Many parents and carers have only a limited understanding of e-safety risks and issues, yet they play an essential role in the education of their children and in the monitoring / regulation of the children's on-line behaviours. Parents may underestimate how often children and young people come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the internet and may be unsure about how to respond.

The school will therefore seek to provide information and awareness to parents and carers through:

- *Curriculum activities*
- *Letters, newsletters and website*
- *Parents / Carers evenings / sessions*
- *Reference to the relevant web sites / publications eg www.swgfl.org.uk www.saferinternet.org.uk/ <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>*

Educations and Training (Staff)

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

● **All new staff should receive e-safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the school e-safety policy and Acceptable Use Agreements.**

● *This E-Safety policy and its updates will be presented to and discussed by staff in staff / team meetings / INSET days.*

● *The E-Safety Coordinator / Officer (or other nominated person) will provide advice / guidance / training to individuals as required.*

Technical Infrastructure

The school has a managed ICT service provided by an outside contractor and it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the managed service provider carries out all the e-safety measures that would otherwise be the responsibility of the school, as suggested below. It is also important that the managed service provider is fully aware of the *school* E-Safety Policy/Acceptable Use Agreements.

The school will be responsible for ensuring that the school infrastructure/network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible and that policies and procedures approved within this policy are implemented. It will also need to ensure that the relevant people named in the above sections will be effective in carrying out their e-safety responsibilities:

● **School technical systems will be managed in ways that ensure that the school meets recommended technical requirements**

● **There will be regular reviews and audits of the safety and security of school technical systems**

● **Servers, wireless systems and cabling must be securely located and physical access restricted**

● **All users will have clearly defined access rights to school technical systems and devices.**

● **All users will be provided with a username and password (if applicable) by the ICT Coordinator, who will keep an up to date record of users and their usernames. Users are responsible for the security of their username and password**

● **The Headteacher is 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.** Illegal content (child sexual abuse images) is filtered by the broadband or filtering provider by actively employing the **Internet Watch Foundation CAIC list**. Content lists are regularly updated and internet use is logged and regularly monitored.

● *School technical staff regularly monitor and record the activity of users on the school technical systems and users are made aware of this in the Acceptable Use Agreement.*

● *An appropriate system is in place for users to report any actual / potential technical incident / security breach to the relevant person, as agreed.*

● Appropriate security measures are in place to protect the servers, firewalls, routers, wireless systems, work stations, mobile devices etc. from accidental or malicious attempts which might threaten the security of the school systems and data. These are tested regularly. The school infrastructure and individual workstations are protected by up to date virus software.

Staff must ensure that they:

● **At all times take care to ensure the safe keeping of personal data, minimising the risk of its 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.**

● **Transfer data using encryption and secure password protected devices.**

When personal data is stored on any portable computer system, memory stick or any other removable media:

● the data must be password protected

● the device must be password protected

● the device must offer approved virus and malware checking software

● the data must be securely deleted from the device, in line with school policy, once it has been transferred or its use is complete.

Use of Digital Images and Video

The development of digital imaging technologies has created significant benefits to learning, allowing staff and pupils instant use of images that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet. However, staff,

parents/carers and pupils need to be aware of the risks associated with publishing digital images on the internet. Such images may provide avenues for cyberbullying 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. It is common for employers to carry out internet searches for information about potential and existing employees. The school will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement policies to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm:

• **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.**

- In accordance with guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office, parents/carers are welcome to take videos and digital images of their children at school events for their own personal use (as such use is not covered by the Data Protection Act). To respect everyone's privacy and in some cases protection, these images should not be published/made publicly available on social networking sites, nor should parents/carers comment on any activities involving other pupils in the digital video/images.
- *Staff and volunteers 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 should not be used for such purposes.*
- *Care should be taken when taking digital video/images that pupils are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.*
- *Pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.*
- *Photographs published on the website, or elsewhere that include pupils will be selected carefully and will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images.*
- *Pupils' 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 pupils are published on the school website.*
- *Pupil's work can only be published with the permission of the pupil and parents/carers.*

Communications

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.** *Staff and students should therefore use only the school email service to communicate with others when in school, or on school systems (e.g. by remote access).*
- **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 (email, chat, VLE etc.) must be professional in tone and content.** *These communications may only take place on official (monitored) school systems. Personal email addresses, text messaging or social media must not be used for these communications.*
- *Pupils will be provided with individual school email addresses for educational use.*
- *Pupils should be taught about e-safety issues, such as the risks attached to the sharing of personal details. They should also be taught strategies to deal with inappropriate communications and be reminded of the need to communicate appropriately when using digital technologies.*
- *Personal information should not be posted on the school website and only official email addresses should be used to identify members of staff.*

Use of Social Media

All schools, academies and local authorities have a duty of care to provide a safe learning environment for pupils and staff. Schools and local authorities could be held responsible, indirectly for acts of their employees in the course of their employment. Staff members who harass, cyberbully, discriminate on the grounds of sex, race or disability or who defame a third party may render the school or local authority liable to the injured party. Reasonable steps to prevent predictable harm must be in place.

The school provides the following measures to ensure reasonable steps are in place to minimise risk of harm to pupils, staff and the school through limiting access to personal information:

- Training to include: acceptable use; social media risks; checking of settings; data protection; reporting issues.
- Clear reporting guidance, including responsibilities, procedures and sanctions.
- Risk assessment, including legal risk.

School staff should ensure that:

- No reference should be made in social media to pupils, parents/carers or school staff.
- They do not engage in online discussion on personal matters relating to members of the school community.
- Personal opinions should not be attributed to the *school* or local authority.
- Security settings on personal social media profiles are regularly checked to minimise risk of loss of personal information.

Reporting of Incidents and Misuse

This guidance is intended for use when staff need to manage incidents that involve the use of online services. It encourages a safe and secure approach to the management of the incident. Incidents might involve illegal or inappropriate activities (see "User Actions" above).

It is hoped 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:

- Have more than one senior member of staff 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)
- Once this has been completed and fully investigated the group will need to judge 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 (as relevant).
 - Police involvement and/or action
- **If content being reviewed includes images of Child abuse then the monitoring should be 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
- **Isolate the computer in question as best you can. Any change to its state may hinder a later police investigation.**

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 purposes. The completed form should be retained by the group for evidence and reference purposes.

Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement – for older students (KS2)

School Policy

Digital technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people, both within schools and outside school. These technologies are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. These technologies can stimulate discussion, promote creativity and stimulate awareness of context to promote effective learning. Young people should have an entitlement to safe internet access at all times.

This Acceptable Use Policy is intended to ensure:

- that young people will be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other digital technologies for educational, personal and recreational use.
- that school systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk.

The school will try to ensure that students will have good access to digital technologies to enhance their learning and will, in return, expect the students to agree to be responsible users.

At Robertswood, every new term children will have to agree to the terms of use when they first log on their computers. This provides an additional chance for teachers to go through an aspect in more depth when it comes to behaving in a responsible way with computers or any technical devices.

The wording is as follows;

I will ask a teacher or suitable adult if I want to use the computers.

I will only use activities that a teacher or suitable adult has told or allowed me to use.

I will take care of the computer and other equipment.

I will ask for help from a teacher or 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 on the screen.

I know that if I break the rules I might not be allowed to use a computer.

I will be aware of "stranger danger", when I am communicating on-line

I will not take or distribute images of anyone without their permission.

I will not disclose or share personal information about myself or others when on-line (this could include names, addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers, age, gender, educational details, financial details etc.)

I will not open any hyperlinks in emails or any attachments to emails, unless I know and trust the person / organisation who sent the email