

Online Safety Policy

Low Ash Primary School



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Contents

Rationale	page 3
Roles and Responsibilities	page 3
Online Safety Skills Development for Staff, Student Teachers and Work Experience Students	page 4
Online Safety in the Curriculum	page 4
Managing the Internet:	
<i>Use of the internet to enhance learning</i>	page 4
<i>Authorised Internet Access</i>	page 5
<i>The Internet at Low Ash Primary School</i>	page 5
<i>Use of Social Media Platforms</i>	page 5
Mobile Technologies	page 5
Managing Email	page 5
The Safe use of Images and other Media:	
<i>Publishing and Storing Pupils' images, videos and work</i>	page 6
<i>Publishing Content to the school website</i>	page 6
<i>Consent of Adults who work at school</i>	page 6
Managing ICT systems and access:	
<i>Filtering</i>	page 6
<i>Emerging Technologies</i>	page 7
<i>Information System Security</i>	page 7
<i>Protecting Personal Data</i>	page 7
Assessing Risks	page 7
Equal Opportunities:	
<i>Pupils with additional needs</i>	page 7
Parental Involvement	page 7
Handling Online Safety Complaints	page 8
Communication of Policy	page 8

Rationale

In implementing this policy due consideration to equal opportunities, with regard to race, gender, religion and ability, should be ensured with reference to the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 (as amended) and all other relevant legislation.

ICT plays an important role in the everyday lives of children, young people and adults. As a result, schools need to use these technologies in order to equip children with the skills to access life-long learning and employment.

Information and Communications Technology covers a wide range of resources including; web-based and mobile learning. It is also important to recognise the constant and fast paced evolution of ICT within society as a whole. Currently the internet technologies children and young people are using both inside and outside of the classroom include:

websites

learning platforms and virtual learning environments (VLE)

email and instant messaging

chat rooms and social networking

blogs and wikis

podcasting

video broadcasting

music downloading

gaming

mobile/smart phones with text, video and/or web functionality

other mobile devices with web functionality

Whilst exciting and beneficial both in and out of the context of education, much ICT, particularly web-based resources, are not consistently policed. All users need to be aware of the range of risks associated with the use of these Internet technologies.

At Low Ash Primary School, we understand the responsibility to educate our pupils on Online Safety issues. Online Safety is not about blocking or banning children from accessing inappropriate content, but rather, about giving them the skills and the responsibility to make good choices and to know how and when to seek help.

Both this policy, the Acceptable Use Policy and ICT rules for pupils are inclusive of both fixed and mobile internet; technologies provided by the school (such as PCs, laptops, tablets, webcams, whiteboards, voting systems, digital video equipment, etc); and technologies owned by staff, but brought onto school premises (such as laptops, mobile phones and camera phones).

Roles and Responsibilities

As Online Safety is an important aspect of strategic leadership within the school, the headteacher and governors have ultimate responsibility to ensure that the policy and practices are embedded and monitored. The named Online Safety leader in our school, Tom Handley, supported by the Online Safety team, which includes teachers, children and a governor.

The Named Governor for Safeguarding is responsible for feeding information back to the governors. All members of the school community have been made aware of who holds the Online Safety leader post. It is the role of the Online Safety team to keep abreast of current issues and guidance through organisations such as Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC), Becta, CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection), Childnet, NOP (national online safety) and Google.

The Senior Leadership Team and Governors are updated by the Online Safety team and governors have an understanding of the issues and strategies at our school in relation to local and national guidelines and advice. This policy, supported by the school's Acceptable Use Policy for staff, governors, visitors and pupils (appendices), is to protect the interests and safety of the whole school community. It is linked to the following

school policies: Child Protection and Safeguarding, Health and Safety, PSHCE Policy, Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy and Home–School Agreements.

Online Safety skills development for staff, student teachers and work experiences students

Our staff, including the Online Safety named Governor, receive information and training on Online Safety issues in the form of staff meetings, INSET and written correspondence.

New staff, student teachers and work experience pupils receive information on the school's Acceptable Use Policy as part of their induction.

All staff have been made aware of individual responsibilities relating to the safeguarding of children within the context of Online Safety and know to report the misuse of technology by any member of the school community to the Headteacher or Online Safety Leader.

All staff are encouraged to incorporate Online Safety activities and awareness within their curriculum areas.

Online Safety in the Curriculum

The Online Safety message has been discreetly embedded in the Computing Curriculum across the school. In addition to the computing curriculum, we endeavour to embed Online Safety messages across the curriculum whenever the internet and/or related technologies are used;

Pupils at Low Ash spend one half term per academic year focusing on aspects of Online Safety. Additionally, the whole school takes part in 'Safer Internet Day'.

Online Safety rules are displayed in the ICT Suite.

A pupil Online Safety group will be established each year to evaluate current Online Safety education and provision and to suggest improvements.

Educating Key Stage 2 pupils on the dangers of technologies that may be encountered outside school is done during PSHCE lessons, informally when opportunities arise. Pupils are aware of where to seek advice or help if they experience problems when using the internet and related technologies; i.e. parent/carer, teacher/trusted staff member, or an organisation such as Childline/ CEOP report abuse button.

Pupils are taught to critically evaluate materials and learn good searching skills through cross curricular teacher models and discussions.

Each term, the Online Safety Leader shares information on current Online Safety topics with the whole school community. This includes the sharing of guidelines, support and information from a range of sources such as; The Bradford Police Cyber Security Team, CEOP, Purple Mash, ThinkUKnow etc. This termly communication is made available as part of the Low Ash News publication and is also shared on an ad-hoc basis via the Low Ash Primary School Twitter feed.

Managing the Internet

Use of the Internet to Enhance Learning

The school internet access is designed for pupil use and includes filtering. Pupils are taught what internet use is acceptable and what is not. Internet access will be planned to enrich and extend learning activities.

Where possible, staff will preview any recommended sites before use.

Staff will guide pupils in on-line activities that will support learning outcomes planned for the pupils' age and ability.

Pupils will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge, location, retrieval and evaluation.

Authorised Internet Access

All staff must read the Acceptable Use Policy before using any school ICT resource.

Parents/carers are asked to read and sign the home-school agreement which includes consent for pupils to use ICT and access the internet at school.

Pupils are asked to sign the home-school agreement which includes following the rules for ICT safety.

All pupils in upper key stage 2 will complete an online acceptable use agreement before starting their associated computing curriculum at the start of the academic year. (this can be viewed by [clicking here](#))

The Internet at Low Ash Primary School

Our internet is provided by a registered educational internet support provider.

If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address), time, content must be reported to the class teacher who will report to the support technician.

School will ensure that the use of Internet derived materials by pupils and staff complies with copyright law. Pupils should be taught to be critically aware of the materials they are shown and how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.

It is the responsibility of the school, by delegation to the network manager, to ensure that anti-virus protection is installed and kept up to date on all school machines.

Use of Social Media Platforms

The use of public blogs, non-educational wikis, non-educational podcasts and social networking sites (e.g. Bebo, Myspace, Facebook) is not allowed in school.

School will block/filter access to these sites and newsgroups unless a specific use is approved.

Pupils will be advised never to give out personal details of any kind which may identify them or their location.

Pupils are taught not to place personal photos anywhere.

Staff should not communicate with pupils via any of the above. At the time of publication, the following sites are the only ones to be used for the purpose of communication between staff and pupils;

- Google Classroom
- Purple Mash

Staff using social networking sites are advised to be aware of the potential audience of their own social networking use and that material posted should be consistent with their professional status and employment at the school. The posting of any material that might be deemed as harmful to the reputation and interests of the school, its staff and pupils could be regarded as a disciplinary matter.

Mobile technologies

The school allows staff to bring in personal mobile phones and devices for their own use. Under no circumstances does the school allow a member of staff to contact a pupil or parent/ carer using their personal device.

When pupils bring personal mobile devices/phones to school the devices are kept in the office until the end of the school day.

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

The sending of inappropriate text messages between any member of the school community is not allowed.

Managing email

The use of email within most schools is an essential means of communication for both staff and pupils. In the context of school, email should not be considered private. Educationally, email can offer significant benefits including; direct written contact between schools on different projects, be they staff based or pupil based, within school or international. We recognise that pupils need to understand how to style an email in relation to their age and good 'netiquette'.

The school gives all staff their own email account to use for all school business. This is to minimise the risk of receiving unsolicited or malicious emails and avoids the risk of personal profile information being revealed.

It is the responsibility of each account holder to keep the password secure. For the safety and security of users and recipients, all mail is filtered and logged; if necessary email histories can be traced. This should be the account that is used for school business only.

Under no circumstances should staff contact pupils or parents/carers using personal email addresses.

Where sensitive information is sent about pupils or staff, this must always be sent using agreed encrypted files.

Pupils may only use approved e-mail accounts on the school system.

Pupils must immediately tell a teacher if they receive an offensive e-mail.

Pupils must not reveal their personal details or those of others in e-mail communication, or arrange to meet anyone without specific permission.

Access by pupils, in school, to external personal e-mail accounts is not permitted.

Safe Use of Images/Filming

Publishing and storing pupils' images, videos and work

On a child's entry to the school, all parents/carers will be asked to give permission to use their child's work/photos in the following ways:

Sporting events, school productions (which could involve parent/carers taking photos/videos). School visits, class photographs, individual photographs, school prospectus, school website. Generally, images taken by staff will not be used alongside pupils names. Photography used by local newspapers tend to include the children's name. Staff will never use their own photographic equipment or record images for their own personal use.

This consent form is considered valid for the entire period that the child attends this school. Parents/ carers may withdraw permission, in writing, at any time.

Images of children should be stored securely on the school's network or a valid encrypted device provided by school (memory stick, laptop) and deleted when no longer required.

Pupils and staff are not permitted to use their own personal digital equipment, including mobile phones and cameras during the normal school hours or during a trip unless it is for school contact purposes.

Parents who attend weekly Achievement Assemblies are reminded (via a slip given by the Office) that images taken should not be posted on social media sites.

Publishing Content to the school website

Photographs that include pupils will be selected carefully and are only used if parents/carers have given permission through our photographs/filming agreement.

Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on the Web site or school Blog, especially in association with photographs.

Consent of adults who work at the school

Permission to use images of all staff who work at the school will be sought before these are taken.

Managing ICT systems and access

Filtering

The school will work in partnership with the technical support provider (who work closely with Bradford Council) and the internet service provider to ensure filtering systems are as effective as possible. We currently have filtering 'Surf protect'. For example, if you type in certain key words then this is not allowed. There is also a facility to block certain websites eg adult/gaming/gambling websites.

Emerging Technologies

Emerging technologies will be examined by the Computing Leader for educational benefit and a risk assessment will be carried out before use in school is allowed.

Information System Security

School ICT systems capacity and security will be reviewed regularly. Staff are asked to respect system security and will not disclose any password or security information. They will all use a 'strong' password that contains numbers, letters and symbols, with 8 or more characters.

Virus protection will be installed and updated regularly.

Security strategies will be discussed with the technical support provider and internet service provider.

Protecting Personal Data

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the Data Protection Act 1998 (as amended)

Assessing Risks

The school will take all reasonable precautions to prevent access to inappropriate material. However, due to the international scale and linked Internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never appear on a school computer.

The school will audit ICT use to establish if the Online Safety policy is adequate and that the implementation of the Online Safety policy is appropriate.

Equal Opportunities

Pupils with additional needs

The school endeavours to create a consistent message with parents/carers for all pupils and this in turn should aid establishment and future development of the school's Online Safety rules.

However, staff are aware that some pupils may require additional teaching including reminders, prompts and further explanation to reinforce their existing knowledge and understanding of Online Safety issues.

Where a pupil has poor social understanding, careful consideration is given to group interactions when raising awareness of Online Safety. Internet activities are planned and well managed for these children and young people.

Parental Involvement

We believe that it is essential for parents/carers to be fully involved with promoting Online Safety both in and outside of school. This will be carried out in the following ways:

- Parents/carers and pupils are actively encouraged to contribute to adjustments or reviews of the school Online Safety policy via Online Safety training, governor meetings, parents' questionnaire
- Parents/carers are asked to read and sign the home-school agreement which includes consent for pupils to use ICT and access the internet at school.
- Parents/carers are required to make a decision as to whether they consent to images of their child being taken/ used in the public domain through the Photographs/Filming agreement.

We will seek to disseminate information and guidance to parents/carers on Online Safety through leaflets and information sessions.

Handling Online Safety Complaints

Complaints of Internet misuse will be dealt with by the Online Safety Officers or Headteacher and recorded on CPOMS.

Any complaint about staff misuse must be referred to the Headteacher.

Complaints of a child protection nature must be reported to the Named Persons for Child Protection (Janina Grimshaw, Beth Medhurst, Dan Hurst, Fiona Meer, Louise Robinson.)

Pupils and parents/carers will be informed of the complaints procedure through the website and distributed Online Safety leaflets. Pupils are encouraged to inform their teacher or other adults in school regarding anything which makes them feel uncomfortable while using ICT.

Communication of Policy

Pupils

Rules for Internet access will be posted in the ICT suite. Pupils will be informed that Internet use will be monitored.

Staff

All staff will be made aware of the school Online Safety Policy and its importance explained. Staff should be aware that Internet traffic can be monitored and traced to the individual user. The discretion and professional conduct of every member of staff is essential.

Parents/carers

Parents/carers' attention will be drawn to Online Safety in newsletters, leaflets, the school prospectus and on the school website.

Reviewing this Policy

Review Procedure

There will be an on-going opportunity for staff to discuss with the Online Safety Team or Named Person for Child Protection any issue of Online Safety that concerns them. This policy will be reviewed annually and consideration given to the implications for future whole school development planning. The policy will be amended if new technologies are adopted or central government change the orders or guidance in any way.

Reviewed: October 2020 by

Signed:

Next Review Date: October 2021