



Bristol Drive

Lincoln

LN6 7UE

E-Safety Policy

April 2026

This policy makes clear the rationale for ensuring digital safety for our Pupils, Staff, Governing Body and other Stakeholders, including robust processes, effective approaches to teaching online safety and clear mechanisms to identify and intervene when needed.

Policy Owner	Designated Safeguarding Lead / Computing Lead
Governing Body Committee	FGB
Date Approved by Governors	13 th May 2026
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Updates to the policy:

Date	Changes
April 2026	Page 4 - Weblink added to meeting digital and technology standards Page 7 - Updated "Educating Pupil about online safety" – by the end of primary section - Section added "Pupils will be taught practical cyber security skills" Page 10 - Update to what a strong password is Page 11 - Updated IT management service name

Policy Development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. **Review** – a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. **Ratification** – the policy was shared with governors and ratified
3. **Staff consultation** – all school staff were given the policy as a policy to be followed.

Roles and Responsibilities

The governing body will approve the policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that the policy is implemented consistently across the school.

Lead teacher is responsible for reviewing the policy and supporting staff in the implementation of the policy, as well as providing support and training when required.

Staff are responsible for:

- delivering and implementing the policy in all areas of school life.
- monitoring progress and bringing any concerns with the policy to the attention of Senior Leadership.
- responding to the needs of individual pupils and applying the policy appropriately

Pupils are expected to adhere to the contents of the policy, ensuring they are ready, respectful and safe at all times.

Contents

Contents	Page 3
Aim	Page 4
The 4 Key Categories of Risk	Page 4
Legislation and Guidance	Page 4
Roles and Responsibilities	Pages 4-6
Education Pupil about Online Safety	Page 7
Educating Parents / Carers about Online Safety	Page 8
Cyber-bullying	Page 8
Examining Electronic Devices	Pages 8-9
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Pages 9-10
Acceptable Use of the Internet in School	Page 10
Pupils using Mobile Devices in School	Page 10
Staff using Work Devices Outside School	Page 10
How the school will respond to issues of misuse	Page 10
Training	Page 11
Filtering & Monitoring	Page 11
Monitoring Arrangements	Page 11
Links with Other Policies	Page 12

N.B When referring to Online Safety, this encompasses eSafety and Internet Safety, for the purpose of our policy, we will refer to this as Online Safety.

Aims

At Sir Francis Hill Primary School, we aim to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors, this will be ensured in part by Filtering and Monitoring procedures.
- Identify and support groups of pupils that are potentially at greater risk of harm online than others.
- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology, including mobile and smart technology.
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate.

The 4 Key Categories of Risk

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk (The 4 C's):

- **Content** – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, radicalisation and extremism
- **Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as peer-to-peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes
- **Conduct** – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, such as making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude and/or pornography), sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
- **Commerce** – risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams

Legislation and Guidance

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

- [Teaching online safety in schools](#)
- [Meeting digital and technology standards](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>
- [Preventing and tackling bullying](#) and [cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation](#)

It also refers to the DfE's guidance on [protecting children from radicalisation](#).

It reflects existing legislation, including but not limited to the [Education Act 1996](#) (as amended), the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#) and the [Equality Act 2010](#). In addition, it reflects the [Education Act 2011](#), which has given teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by, if necessary, searching for and deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

The policy also takes into account the National Curriculum computing programmes of study.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board

The governing board has overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation.

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

The governing board will also make sure all staff receive regular online safety updates (via email, e-bulletins and staff meetings), as required and at least annually, to ensure they are continually provided with the relevant skills and knowledge to effectively safeguard children.

The governing board will co-ordinate regular meetings with appropriate staff to discuss online safety, requirements for training, and monitor online safety logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

The governing board should ensure children are taught how to keep themselves and others safe, including keeping safe online.

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

- Identifying and assigning roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems.
- Reviewing filtering and monitoring provisions at least annually.
- Blocking harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning.
- Having effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs.

All governors will:

- Ensure they have read and understand this policy
- Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet
- Ensure that online safety is a running and interrelated theme while devising and implementing their whole-school or college approach to safeguarding and related policies and/or procedures
- Ensure that, where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, is adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This is because of the importance of recognising that a 'one size fits all' approach may not be appropriate for all children in all situations, and a more personalised or contextualised approach may often be more suitable

The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that staff understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

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

The DSL takes lead responsibility for online safety in school, in particular:

- Supporting the headteacher in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school
- Working with the headteacher and governing board to review this policy annually and ensure the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly
- Taking the lead on understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place on school devices and school networks
- Working with the ICT manager to make sure the appropriate systems and processes are in place
- Working with the headteacher, ICT manager and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents
- Managing all online safety issues and incidents in line with the school's child protection policy
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- Updating and delivering staff training on online safety
- Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary
- Providing regular reports on online safety in school to the headteacher and/or governing board
- Undertaking annual risk assessments that consider and reflect the risks children face

- Providing regular safeguarding and child protection updates, including online safety, to all staff, at least annually, in order to continue to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard effectively

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

ICT Management (*with Senior Leaders*)

Our ICT Management Service is responsible for:

- Putting in place an appropriate level of security protection procedures, such as filtering and monitoring systems on school devices and school networks, which are reviewed and updated at least annually to assess effectiveness and ensure pupils are kept safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material
- Ensuring that the school's ICT systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware, and that such safety mechanisms are updated regularly
- Conducting a full security check and monitoring the school's ICT systems on a weekly basis
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

All Staff and Volunteers

All staff, including contractors and agency staff, and volunteers are responsible for:

- Maintaining an understanding of this policy
- Implementing this policy consistently
- Agreeing and adhering to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet, and ensuring that pupils follow the school's terms on acceptable use
- Knowing that the DSL is responsible for the filtering and monitoring systems and processes, and being aware of how to report any incidents of those systems or processes failing
- Following the correct procedures if they need to bypass the filtering and monitoring systems for educational purposes
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged (on CPOMS) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- Responding appropriately to all reports and concerns about sexual violence and/or harassment, both online and offline, and maintaining an attitude of 'it could happen here'

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

Parents / Carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Notify a member of staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding this policy
- Ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet

Parents/carers can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online from the following organisations and websites:

- What are the issues? – [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- Hot topics – [Childnet](#)
- Parent resource sheet – [Childnet](#)

Visitors and Members of the Community

Visitors and members of the community who use the school's ICT systems or internet will be made aware of this policy, when relevant, and expected to read and follow it. If appropriate, they will be expected to agree to the terms on acceptable use.

Educating Pupils about Online Safety

Pupils will be taught about online safety as part of the curriculum:

- [National Curriculum computing programmes of study](#)

All schools have to teach:

- [Relationships education and health education](#) in primary schools

In **Key Stage (KS1)**, pupils will be taught to:

- Use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private
- Identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies

Pupils in **Key Stage (KS2)** will be taught to:

- Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly
- Recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- Identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact

By the **end of primary school**, pupils will know:

- That people should be respectful in online interactions, and that the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including where people are anonymous. For example, the importance of avoiding putting pressure on others to share information and images online, and strategies for resisting peer pressure
- How to critically evaluate their online relationships and sources of information, including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met. For example, that people sometimes behave differently online, including pretending to be someone else, or pretending to be a child, and that this can lead to dangerous situations. How to recognise harmful content or harmful contact, and how to report this
- That there is a minimum age for joining social media sites (currently 13), which protects children from inappropriate content or unsafe contact with older social media users, who may be strangers, including other children and adults
- The importance of exercising caution about sharing any information about themselves online. Understanding the importance of privacy and location settings to protect information online
- Online risks, including that any material provided online might be circulated, and that once a picture or words has been circulated there is no way of deleting it everywhere and no control over where it ends up
- That the internet contains a lot of content that can be inappropriate and upsetting for children, and where to go for advice and support when they feel worried or concerned about something they have seen or engaged with online

The safe use of social media and the internet will also be covered in other subjects where relevant.

Where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, will be adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with SEND.

Pupils will be taught practical cyber security skills

The following items come from the DfE's [non-statutory cyber security standards for schools and colleges](#).

All pupils will receive age-appropriate training on safe internet use, including:

- Methods that hackers use to trick people into disclosing personal information
- Password security
- Social engineering
- The risks of removable storage devices (e.g. USBs)

- Multi-factor authentication
- How to report a cyber incident or attack
- How to report a personal data breach

Pupils will also receive age-appropriate education on safeguarding issues such as cyberbullying and the risks of online radicalisation.

Educating Parents / Carers about Online Safety

The school will raise parents/carers' awareness of internet safety in letters or other communications home, and in information via our website or letters sent home, including through our newsletter. This policy will also be shared with parents/carers.

Online safety will also be covered during parents' evenings, where appropriate. We will let parents/carers know:

- What systems the school uses to filter and monitor online use
- What their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and who from the school (if anyone) their child will be interacting with online

If parents/carers have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with the headteacher and/or the DSL. Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the headteacher.

Cyber-bullying

Cyber-bullying takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites. Like other forms of bullying, it is the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. (See also the school behaviour policy) To help prevent cyber-bullying, we will ensure that pupils understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure that pupils know how they can report any incidents and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim. The school will actively discuss cyber-bullying with pupils, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. Class teachers will discuss cyber-bullying with their tutor groups. Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the curriculum to cover cyber-bullying. This includes personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, and other subjects where appropriate.

The school also sends information/leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents/carers so they are aware of the signs, how to report it and how they can support children who may be affected. Information is also available on the school website at: <https://www.sfh.lincs.sch.uk/safeguarding/>

In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, the school will follow the processes set out in the school behaviour policy. Where illegal, inappropriate or harmful material has been spread among pupils, the school will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the incident is contained. The DSL will report the incident and provide the relevant material to the police as soon as is reasonably practicable, if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that possessing that material is illegal. They will also work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

Examining Electronic Devices

The headteacher, and any member of staff authorised to do so by the headteacher, can carry out a search and confiscate any electronic device that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- Poses a risk to staff or pupils, and/or
- Is identified in the school rules as a banned item for which a search can be carried out, and/or
- Is evidence in relation to an offence

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

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

Authorised staff members may examine, and in exceptional circumstances erase, any data or files on an electronic device that they have confiscated where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

When deciding whether there is a 'good reason' to examine data or files on an electronic device, the staff member should reasonably suspect that the device has, or could be used to:

- Cause harm, and/or
- Undermine the safe environment of the school or disrupt teaching, and/or
- Commit an offence

If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the staff member in conjunction with the DSL / headteacher / other member of the senior leadership team to decide on a suitable response. If there are images, data or files on the device that staff reasonably suspect are likely to put a person at risk, they will first consider the appropriate safeguarding response.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

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

Sir Francis Hill Primary School recognises that AI has many uses to help pupils learn, but may also have the potential to be used to bully others. For example, in the form of 'deepfakes', where AI is used to create images, audio or video hoaxes that look real. This includes deepfake pornography: pornographic content created using AI to include someone's likeness.

Sir Francis Hill Primary School will treat any use of AI to bully pupils in line with our behaviour policy.

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

Acceptable Use of the Internet in School

All pupils, parents/carers, staff, volunteers and governors are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet. Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use if relevant.

Use of the school's internet must be for educational purposes only, or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of an individual's role.

We will monitor the websites visited by pupils, staff, volunteers, governors and visitors (where relevant) to ensure they comply with the above and restrict access through filtering systems where appropriate.

Pupils using Mobile Devices in School

Pupils may bring mobile devices into school, but are not permitted to use them during:

- Lessons
- Registration time
- Clubs before or after school, or any other activities organised by the school
- In the school playground (before and after school)

Any use of mobile devices in school by pupils must be in line with the acceptable use agreement. Phones should be turned off and handed into the class teacher in the morning and stored in a safe place. Any breach of the acceptable use agreement by a pupil may trigger disciplinary action in line with the school behaviour policy, which may result in the confiscation of their device.

For information about staff and visitors use of mobile devices please see Mobile Phone Policy.

Staff using Work Devices Outside School

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Keeping the device password-protected – strong passwords can be made up of [3 random words](#), in combination with numbers and special characters if required, or generated by a password manager
- Ensuring their hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device
- Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time
- Not sharing the device among family or friends
- Installing anti-virus and anti-spyware software
- Keeping operating systems up to date by always installing the latest updates

Staff members must not use the device in any way that would violate the school's terms of acceptable use. Work devices must be used solely for work activities. If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from Senior Leaders.

How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a pupil misuses the school's ICT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in our policies on behaviour and acceptable use. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident, and will be proportionate.

Where a staff member misuses the school's IT systems or the internet or misuses a personal device where the action constitutes misconduct, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the Staff disciplinary procedures/Staff code of conduct/Staff Acceptable Use Policy. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident. The school will consider whether incidents that involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the police.

Training

All new staff members will receive training, as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues, including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation. All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year as part of safeguarding training, as well as relevant updates as required (for example through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings).

By way of this training, all staff will be made aware that:

- Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues, and that children are at risk of online abuse
- Children can abuse their peers online through:
 - Abusive, threatening, harassing and misogynistic messages
 - Non-consensual sharing of indecent nude and semi-nude images and/or videos, especially around chat groups
 - Sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who don't want to receive such content
 - Physical abuse, sexual violence and initiation/hazing type violence can all contain an online element

Training will also help staff:

- Develop better awareness to assist in spotting the signs and symptoms of online abuse
- Develop the ability to ensure pupils can recognise dangers and risks in online activity and can weigh up the risks
- Develop the ability to influence pupils to make the healthiest long-term choices and keep them safe from harm in the short term

The DSL and deputies will undertake child protection and safeguarding training, which will include online safety, at least every 2 years. They will also update their knowledge and skills on the subject of online safety at regular intervals, and at least annually. Governors will receive training on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues as part of their safeguarding training. Volunteers will receive appropriate training and updates, if applicable.

More information about safeguarding training is set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

Filtering & Monitoring

Filtering and monitoring systems are used to keep pupils safe when using our school's IT system.

- Filtering systems: block access to harmful sites and content
- Monitoring systems: identify when a user accesses or searches for certain types of harmful content on school devices. Our school is then alerted to any concerning content so we can intervene and respond. (Ark ICT Solutions provide this service for us, through Securly)

No filtering and monitoring system is 100% effective, so we will use it alongside our existing safeguarding systems and procedures. This is why staff all need to be aware. If staff witness anything suspicious, they record this using our CPOMS system, under the appropriate heading and the DSL is then alerted. If this is deemed to be a Safeguarding incident, it will be dealt with in line with the procedures set out in our Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy.

Monitoring Arrangements

The behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety will be logged on CPOMS

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

Links with Other Policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy
- Staff disciplinary procedures
- Data protection policy and privacy notices
- Complaints procedure
- ICT and internet acceptable use policy