



# Internet Safety Policy



## WHY?

In our ever-increasing digital world children are interacting with a variety of technologies on a daily basis, both in and out of school, which includes not only Internet technologies but also electronic communications via mobile phones, games consoles and wireless technology.

Although the use of these technologies can be significantly beneficial to teaching and learning, there are also a number of potential risks that can place children in danger. The Internet is predominantly an unmanaged, open communications channel where anyone can publish and distribute information and material from all across the world and with little restriction. Some of this material on the Internet is published for an adult audience that may be unsuitable for children to access.

Internet Safety therefore encompasses the safeguarding strategies needed to educate children on the risks so that they are equipped, aware, responsible and safe when they are accessing online systems anywhere, anytime.

## WHAT?

**This policy operates in conjunction with George Betts whole school Behaviour and Child Protection policies.**

The rapid development and accessibility of the Internet and new technologies, such as personal publishing and social networking, means that Internet Safety is an ever-growing and changing area of interest and concern.

Current potential risks children face can include, but are not limited to:

- Bullying via text messaging, email, social networking, etc.
- Misuse of personal information including loss of control over personal images, videos and details.
- Access to inappropriate content of an adult nature including offensive/controversial ideas and advice.
- Exposure to explicit content including violence, drug and alcohol usage and pornographic material.
- Sexual grooming, exploitation and abuse.
- Viruses, hacking and computer security.

## HOW?

**Planning for Internet Safety awareness:**

- Internet Safety **must** be built into the curriculum and, although discrete sessions are highly valuable and necessary, they should not be not relied upon solely to deliver Internet Safety awareness.
- Class teachers should plan sufficient opportunities for children to be taught and apply specific skills in using electronic technologies safely and responsibly **at least once** a half a term within the topic.

**Delivering Internet Safety – lessons/activities should:**

- Emphasise learning to understand and use new technologies in a positive way to develop safe online behaviours that promote children as confident users anytime, anywhere.
- Teach children to develop critical skills to access online systems that do not compromise the safety and security of themselves and that of others.
- Provide regular opportunities for children to practise and apply taught skills in using electronic technologies.
- Incorporate education about the potential risks and harmful online behaviours (at age-related pitch and suitability) as well as clear guidance on how to manage such risks and report breaches of Internet Safety.

**Embedding Internet Safety:**

- Use of the 'self-support' materials (Internet Safety board outside of Reception and classroom posters) should be demonstrated, always visible and made available to children at any time.
- The ethos of a 'listening and talking' school is communicated to the children so that they are encouraged and feel safe to report any Internet Safety violation, whether they are victims or bystanders, to a member of staff.

## WHO?

- It is the responsibility of **all** staff to ensure that they use communications technology, on-line systems and the Internet safely and responsibly. Therefore all staff must agree to an acceptable use policy (AUP).
- Class teachers are responsible for planning for and delivering Internet Safety awareness half-termly.
- The staff member who has encountered an Internet Safety violation will investigate and report it to the Internet Safety Leader – Claire Gibbons.
- Class teachers are responsible for reporting incidents to parents with the support of the phase leader or Wellbeing Leader – Sarah Edwards - and/or the Internet Safety Leader.
- The Wellbeing Leader is responsible for investigating incidents after they have been reported after the initial investigation.
- Internet Safety training is an essential element of staff induction and part of an on-going CPD programme, delivered at least once annually.
- LMT will discuss, monitor and review this policy on a regular basis.
- It is the responsibility of the Internet Safety Leader to review and update this policy annually.