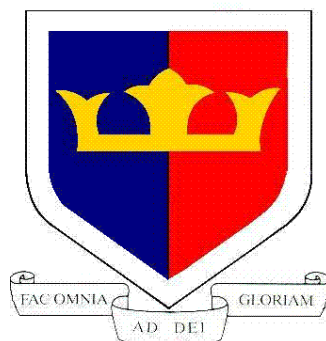




Kingsdale Foundation School

E-Safety-Policy

2026-2027

Rationale

This policy applies to all members of the school community (including staff, students, volunteers, parents / carers, visitors, and community users) who have access to and are users of school ICT systems, both in and out of the school. Kingsdale Foundation School takes very seriously its responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of young people while using electronic infrastructure and online.

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 cyber-bullying, or other e-safety incidents covered by this policy, which may take place outside of the school, but are potentially 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 (See Kingsdale Electronic Searching & Deletion Policy) In the case of both acts, action can be taken over issues covered by the published Behaviour Policy.

This policy applies to all access to the internet and use of information communication devices including personal devices or where children, staff or other individuals have been provided with school issued devices for use off-site, such as a work laptop or mobile phone.

This policy must be read in conjunction with other relevant school policies including (but not limited to) Safeguarding Policy, AntiBullying Policy, Behaviour Policy, Teaching, Learning & Behaviour Modification Policy, Electronic Search & Deletion, Social Media Policy, Staff Code of Professional Conduct and relevant curriculum policies including computing, Personal Social Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE), and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC). In support of this policy should be [‘Teaching Online Safety in Schools’](#) and [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(September 2026\)](#)

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 online safety behaviour that take place out of school.

Roles & Responsibilities

This policy has been written by the School, building on specialist advice and input as required. The policy has been approved and agreed by the SMT and Governing Body.

The School has appointed a member of the Governing Body to take lead responsibility for online safety

E-Safety-Policy June 2026 for implementation 1st September 2026

Next Review Summer 2027

(e-Safety) and a member of the Senior Leadership Team as the online safety.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed at least annually or sooner if required. The School's Online safety Coordinator and Designated Safeguarding Online safety (DSL) is Mr O Fatodu. The School's Online Safety Link for the Governing Body is Mrs A McGregor.

Governors are responsible for the approval of the Online safety Policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy. This will be carried out by the *Governors* receiving regular information about online safety incidents and monitoring reports.

Headteacher and Senior Leaders

- The Headteacher has a duty of care for ensuring the safety (including online safety) of members of the school community, though the day-to-day responsibility for online safety will be delegated to the designated Online safety Lead.
- The Headteacher and (at least) another member of the Senior Management Team should be aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safety allegation being made against a member of staff. (see flow chart on dealing with online safety incidents – included in a later section – “Responding to incidents of misuse”)
- The Headteacher / Senior Leaders will ensure that there is a system in place to allow for monitoring and support of those in school who carry out the internal online safety monitoring role. This is to provide a safety net and also support to those colleagues who take on important monitoring roles.
- The Senior Leadership Team will receive regular monitoring reports from the Online safety.

Online safety

- takes day to day responsibility for online safety issues and has a leading role in establishing and reviewing the school online safety policies / documents
- ensures that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident taking place
- provides training and advice for staff
- liaises with the Local Authority / relevant body
- liaises with school technical staff
- receives reports of online safety incidents and creates a log of incidents to inform future online safety developments,
- meets with online safety Governor to discuss current issues, review incident logs and filtering / change control logs
- attends relevant Governors meetings
- reports regularly to Senior Leadership Team

Director of IT & The Network Manager

The Director of IT and the Network Manager are responsible for ensuring:

- that the school's technical infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack
- that the school meets required online safety technical requirements and any Local Authority Online safety Policy & Guidance that may apply
- that users may only access the networks and devices through a properly enforced password protection policy, in which passwords are regularly changed
- the filtering policy is applied and updated on a regular basis and that its implementation is not the sole responsibility of any single person
- that they keep up to date with online safety technical information in order to effectively carry out their online safety role and to inform and update others as relevant
- that the use of the network / internet / Virtual Learning Environment / remote access / email is regularly

monitored in order that any misuse / attempted misuse can be reported to the Headteacher / Online safety Officer for investigation / action / sanction

- that monitoring software / systems are implemented and updated as agreed in school policies

Teaching and Support Staff

Teaching and Support Staff are responsible for ensuring that:

- they have an up-to-date awareness of online safety matters and of the current school online safety policy and practices
- they have read, understood and signed the Staff Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
- they report any suspected misuse or problem to the Headteacher / Online safety Officer / Department E-Safety Lead for investigation / action / sanction
- all digital communications with students / parents / carers should be on a professional level and only carried out using officially sanctioned school systems
- online safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other activities
- students understand and follow the online safety and acceptable use policies
- students have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations
- they monitor the use of digital technologies, mobile devices, cameras etc in lessons and other school activities (where allowed) and implement current policies with regard to these devices
- in lessons/homework where internet use is pre-planned 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

Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Safeguarding Leads

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Lead should be trained in online safety issues and be aware of the potential for serious child protection / safeguarding issues to arise from:

- sharing of personal data
- access to illegal / inappropriate materials
- inappropriate on-line contact with adults / strangers
- potential or actual incidents of grooming
- cyber-bullying
- 'sexting'
- Online video gaming

Staff Online Safety Committee

The Online safety Committee provides a consultative group that has wide representation from the school community, with responsibility for issues regarding online safety and the monitoring the online safety policy including the impact of initiatives.

Members of the Online Safety Committee will assist the Online safety with:

- the production / review / monitoring of the school online safety policy / documents.
- the production / review / monitoring of the school filtering.
- mapping and reviewing the online safety curricular provision – ensuring relevance, breadth, and progression
- monitoring network / internet / incident logs
- consulting stakeholders – including parents / carers and the students about the online safety provision

Student Online Safety Committee

The Student Online Safety Committee provides a forum through which the student body of the school can discuss/express concerns arising through the increased use of mobile devices across the curriculum.

Each member of the committee will assume responsibility for the year group to which they belong and will be the central point of contact for students wishing to report instances of cyber-bullying or infringements of the school E-Safety policy.

Students:

- are responsible for using the school digital technology systems in accordance with the Student Acceptable Use Policy
- have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations
- need to understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and know how to do so
- will be expected to know and understand policies on the use of mobile devices and digital cameras. They should also know and understand policies on the taking / use of images and on cyber-bullying.
- should understand the importance of adopting good online safety practice when using digital technologies out of school and realise that the school's Online safety Policy covers their actions out of school, if related to their membership of the school, or are taken using a device provided by / through the school

Parents / Carers

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, Parents' Forums, newsletters, letters, website / VLE 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 to follow guidelines on the appropriate use of:

- digital and video images taken at school events
- access to parents' sections of the website / VLE and on-line student records
- their children's personal devices in the school (where this is allowed)

Community Users & Visitors

Community Users and visitors who access school systems / website as part of the wider school provision will be expected to sign a Community User AUA before being provided with access to school systems.

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 online 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 online safety risks.

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

- A planned online safety curriculum should be provided as part of Computing / PHSE / other lessons and should be regularly revisited
- Key online safety messages should be reinforced as part of a planned programme of assemblies and tutor activities
- Students should be taught in all 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 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.
- 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 online 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, web site
- Parents evenings / forums
- High profile events / campaigns e.g. Safer Internet Day
- Reference to relevant web sites / publications

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 will be regularly updated and reinforced. An audit of the online safety training needs of all staff will be carried out regularly. It is expected that some staff will identify online safety as a training need within the performance management process.
- All new staff should receive online safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the school online safety policy and Acceptable Use Agreements
- The Online safety Officer (or other nominated person) will receive regular updates through attendance at external training events and by reviewing guidance documents released by relevant organisations
- This Online safety policy and its updates will be presented to and discussed by staff in staff / team meetings / INSET days.
- The Online Safety Lead (or other nominated person) will provide advice / guidance / training to individuals as required

Training – Governors

Governors / Directors should take part in online safety training / awareness sessions, with particular importance for those who are members of any committee / group involved in technology / online safety / health and safety / child protection. This may be offered in a number of ways:

- Attendance at training provided by the Local Authority / National Governors Association / or other relevant organisation
- Participation in school training / information sessions for staff or parents

Technical – infrastructure / equipment, filtering and monitoring

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 online 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 secure password by the school Network Manager who will keep an up to date record of users and their usernames. Users are responsible for the security of their username and password and will be required to change their password every half term.
- The “master / administrator” passwords for the school ICT system, used by the Network Manager (or other person) must also be available to the Headteacher or other nominated senior leader and kept in a secure place (e.g. school safe)
- The Network Manager 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 There is a clear process in place to deal with requests for filtering changes
- The school has provided enhanced / differentiated user-level filtering
- 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
- An agreed policy is in place for the provision of temporary access of “guests” (e.g. trainee teachers, supply teachers, visitors) onto the school systems
- An agreed policy is in place regarding the extent of personal use that users (staff / students / community users) and their family members are allowed on school devices that may be used out of school
- An agreed policy is in place that allows staff to / forbids staff from downloading executable files and installing programmes on school devices
- An agreed policy is in place regarding the use of removable media (e.g. memory sticks / CDs / DVDs) by users on school devices. Personal data cannot be sent over the internet or taken off the school site unless safely encrypted or otherwise secured

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. Such images may provide avenues for cyber-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. 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. The school will also educate students on the dangers associated with 'sexting' and associated links with Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) as appropriate
- 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 students 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 students are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.
- Students must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission
- 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. Parents will be required to indicate their permission or otherwise on the annual data return.

Communications

A wide range of rapidly developing communications technologies has the potential to enhance learning. The following table shows how the school currently considers the benefit of using these technologies for education outweighs their risks / disadvantages:

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). Similarly, all applications on the school network are protected by monitoring software which enables data to be viewed by authorized third parties
- 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 (email, chat, 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
- Personal information should not be posted on the school website and only official email addresses should be used to identify members of staff

Unsuitable / inappropriate activities

Some internet activity e.g. accessing images of abuse or distributing racist/extremist material is illegal and would obviously be banned from school and all other technical systems. Other activities e.g. cyber-bullying would be banned and could lead to criminal prosecution. There are however a range of activities which may, generally, be legal but would be inappropriate in a school context, either because of the age of the users or the nature of those activities.

The school believes that the activities referred to in Appendix 1 would be inappropriate in a school context and that users, should not engage in these activities in school or outside school when using school equipment or systems. All

staff should refer to the guidance in Appendix 1 when judging the acceptability of any online action.

Responding to incidents of misuse

Misuse of the school IT systems and equipment by Staff, Students or Visitors will fall into one of two categories, illegal or inappropriate. A clearly defined set of procedures is provided in Appendix 2. 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.

Illegal Incidents

If there is any suspicion that the web site(s) concerned may contain child abuse images, or if there is any other suspected illegal activity, refer to the right hand side of the Flowchart (appendix 2) for responding to online safety incidents and report immediately to the police.

Other Incidents

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 / volunteer 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 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
- The computer/device in question should be isolated. 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.

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. Refer to the left-hand side of the Flowchart (appendix 2) for responding to inappropriate use of the IT systems.

Official videoconferencing and webcam use

- All videoconferencing equipment in the classroom will be switched off when not in use and where appropriate, not set to auto answer.
- Videoconferencing contact information will not be posted publicly.
- Videoconferencing equipment will not be taken off the premises without prior permission from a DSL.

Staff will ensure that external videoconferencing opportunities and/or tools are suitably risk assessed and will ensure that accounts and systems used to access these events are safe and secure. Students will not use, or have access to, videoconferencing equipment without permission.

Kingsdale Foundation School Online safety Policy - Appendix 1 – Acceptable / Unacceptable user actions

User Actions

		Acceptable	Acceptable at certain times	Acceptable for nominated users	Unacceptable	Unacceptable and illegal
Users shall not visit Internet sites, make, post, download, upload, data transfer, communicate or pass on, material, remarks, proposals or comments that contain or relate to:	Child sexual abuse images –The making, production or distribution of indecent images of children. Contrary to The Protection of Children Act 1978					X
	Grooming, incitement, arrangement or facilitation of sexual acts against children Contrary to the Sexual Offences Act 2003.					X
	Possession of an extreme pornographic image (grossly offensive, disgusting or otherwise of an obscene character) Contrary to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008					X
	criminally racist material in UK – to stir up religious hatred (or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation) - contrary to the Public Order Act 1986					X
	pornography				X	
	promotion of any kind of discrimination				X	
	threatening behaviour, including promotion of physical violence or mental harm				X	
	any other information which may be offensive to colleagues or breaches the integrity of the ethos of the school or brings the school into disrepute				X	
Using school systems to run a private business					X	
Using systems, application s, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering or other safeguards employed by the school					X	
Infringing copyright					X	
Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (e.g. financial / personal information, databases, computer / network access codes and passwords)					X	
Creating or propagating computer viruses or other harmful files					X	
Unfair usage (downloading / uploading large files that hinders others in their use of the internet)					X	
On-line gaming (educational)						
On-line gaming (non educational)						
On-line gambling						
On-line shopping / commerce						
File sharing						
Use of social media						
Use of messaging apps						
Use of video broadcasting e.g. Youtube						

KINGSDALE FOUNDATION SCHOOL
ONLINE SAFETY – RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS OF MISUSE

