



## **GRANGE INFANT SCHOOL** **E-SAFETY POLICY**

### **Background / Rationale**

(This policy should be read alongside the Safeguarding Policy and the PREVENT strategy training)

Technology has become integral to the lives of children and young people in today's society, both within schools and in their lives outside school.

The internet and other digital and information technologies are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. Electronic communication helps teachers and pupils learn from each other. These technologies can stimulate discussion, promote creativity and increase awareness of context to promote effective learning. Children and young people should have an entitlement to safe internet access at all times. The requirement to ensure that children and young people are able to use the internet and related communications technologies appropriately and safely is addressed as part of the wider duty of care to which all who work in schools are bound. A school e-safety policy should help to ensure safe and appropriate use. The development and implementation of such a strategy should involve all the stakeholders in a child's education from the headteacher and governors to the senior leaders and classroom teachers, support staff, parents, members of the community and the pupils themselves.

The use of these exciting and innovative tools in school and at home has been shown to raise educational standards and promote pupil / student achievement.

However, the use of these new technologies can put young people at risk within and outside the school. Some of the dangers they may face include:

- Access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate images or other content
- Unauthorised access to / loss of / sharing of personal information
- The risk of being subject to grooming and/or radicalisation by those with whom they make contact on the internet.
- The sharing / distribution of personal images without an individual's consent or knowledge
- Inappropriate communication / contact with others, including strangers
- Cyber-bullying
- Access to unsuitable video / internet games
- An inability to evaluate the quality, accuracy and relevance of information on the internet
- Plagiarism and copyright infringement
- Illegal downloading of music or video files
- The potential for excessive use which may impact on the social and emotional development and learning of the young person.

Many of these risks reflect situations in the off-line world and it is essential that this e-safety policy is used in conjunction with other school policies (eg behaviour, anti- bullying and child protection policies).

As with all other risks, it is impossible to eliminate those risks completely. It is therefore essential, through good educational provision to build pupils' resilience to the risks to which they may be exposed, so that they have the confidence and skills to face and deal with these risks.

## **Scope of the Policy**

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

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers Headteachers, to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of students / 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 out of school, but is linked to membership of the school.

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.

The school must demonstrate that it has provided the necessary safeguards to help ensure that they have done everything that could reasonably be expected of them to manage and reduce these risks. The e-safety policy that follows explains how we intend to do this, while also addressing wider educational issues in order to help young people (and their parents / carers) to be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other communications technologies for educational, personal and recreational use.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Headteacher (HT) and Senior Leadership Team (SLT)**

The HT/SLT are responsible for:

- ensuring the safety (including e-safety) of members of the school community, though the day-to-day responsibility for e-safety will be delegated to the ICT Co-ordinator.
- ensuring that the relevant staff receive suitable CPD to enable them to carry out their e-safety roles and to train other colleagues, as relevant.
- ensuring that there is a system in place to allow for monitoring and support of those in school who carry out the internale-safety monitoring role. This is to provide a safety net and also support to those colleagues who take on important monitoring roles.

### **ICT Co-ordinator**

The ICT Co-ordinator is responsible for ensuring:

- that the school's ICT infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack
- that users may only access the school's networks through a properly enforced password protection policy, in which passwords are regularly changed
- keeping up to date with e-safety technical information in order to effectively carry out their e-safety role and to inform and update others as relevant
- that the use of the network / Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) / remote access / email is regularly monitored in order that any misuse / attempted misuse can be reported to the Headteacher and/or the SLT
- 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 e-safety matters and of the current school e-safety policy and practices
- they have read, understood and signed the school Staff Acceptable Use Policy
- they report any suspected misuse or problem to the HT / SLT / ICT Co-ordinator for investigation
- e-safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other school activities

- pupils understand and follow the school e-safety and acceptable use policy
- they monitor computing activity in lessons, extra-curricular and extended school activities
- they are aware of e-safety issues related to the use of mobile phones, cameras and hand-held devices and that they monitor their use and implement current school policies with regard to these devices
- in lessons where internet use is pre-planned pupils 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. Images that are to be used for documents by pupils should be pre-selected and downloaded before the lesson to create a safe database for children to select from

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL and Deputy DSLs) (Child Protection Officers)**

DSL/Deputy DSL should be trained in e-safety issues and be aware of the potential for serious child protection 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

### **Students/pupils**

Students/pupils are responsible for:

- using the school ICT systems in accordance with the Pupil Acceptable Use Policy (PAUP),
- 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 school rules on the use of mobile phones, digital cameras and hand-held devices, including Apple watches and other devices that can record and/ or capture images. They should also know and understand school policies on the taking / use of images and on cyber-bullying.
- should understand the importance of adopting good e-safety practice when using digital technologies out of school and realise that the school's E-Safety Policy covers their actions out of school, if related to their membership of 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. Research shows that many parents and carers do not fully understand the issues and are less experienced in the use of ICT than their children. The school will therefore take every opportunity to help parents understand these issues through parents' evenings, newsletters, letters, website and information about national / local e-safety campaigns.

Parents and carers will be responsible for:

- Endorsing (by signature) the PAUP
- Accessing the school website in accordance with the relevant school Acceptable Use Policy.
- Supervising access to online learning.

### **Community Users**

Community Users who access school ICT systems / website / VLE as part of the Extended School provision will be expected to sign a Community User AUP before being provided with access to school systems.

### **Governors:**

Governors are responsible for the monitoring of the E-Safety Policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy. This will be carried out by the Governors receiving regular information about e-safety incidents and monitoring reports.

The HT and another member of the SLT should be aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious e-safety allegation being made against a member of staff.

### **Policy Statements**

#### **Education–students/pupils**

Whilst regulation and technical solutions are very important, their use must be balanced by educating pupils to take a responsible approach. The education of pupils 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 education will be provided in the following ways:

- As part of the National Curriculum expectations a planned e-safety programme should be provided as part of Computing / PHSE / other lessons and should be regularly revisited – this will cover both the use of ICT and new technologies in school and outside school
- Pupils 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
- Pupils should be helped to understand the need for the PAUP and encouraged to adopt safe and responsible use of ICT, the internet and mobile devices both within and outside school. Children will receive a copy which will be signed by the parent/carer.
- Rules for use of ICT should be discussed, agreed and displayed in each class
- Staff should act as good role models in their use of ICT, the internet and mobile devices

#### **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 experiences. Parents often either underestimate or do not realise how often children and young people come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the internet and are often unsure about what they would do about it. "There is a generational digital divide". (Byron Report). The school will therefore seek to provide information and awareness to parents and carers through:

- Letters, newsletters, web site, Facebook, Class Dojo
- Parents meetings and/or parent calls

#### **Education & 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 Policies
- This E-Safety policy and its updates will be presented to and discussed by staff in staff meetings
- E-Safety will be included in Safeguarding training

#### **Training–Governors**

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

- Attendance at training provided by the Local Authority 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 e-safety responsibilities:

- School ICT systems will be managed in ways that ensure that the school meets the e- safety technical requirements outlined in the relevant Local Authority E-Safety Policy and guidance
- There will be regular reviews and audits of the safety and security of school ICT systems
- Servers, wireless systems and cabling must be securely located and physical access restricted
- All users will have clearly defined access rights to school ICT systems. Details of the access rights available to groups of users will be recorded by the Network Manager (AGILE ICT) and will be reviewed annually
- All users will be provided with a username and password by an AGILE technician who will keep an up to date record of users and their usernames. Pupils will only receive a username
- The “master / administrator” passwords for the school ICT system, used by the Network Manager must also be available to the HT or other nominated senior leader and kept in a secure place
- Users will be made responsible for the security of their username and password, must not allow other users to access the systems using their log on details and must immediately report any suspicion or evidence that there has been a breach of security
- The school maintains and supports the managed filtering service provided by Agile ICT. The school has provided enhanced user-level filtering through the use of their filtering programme.
- In the event of the Network Manager needing to switch off the filtering for any reason, or for any user, this must be logged and carried out by a process that is agreed by the HT (or other nominated senior leader)
- Any filtering issues should be reported immediately to HT/SLT/ICT co-ordinator
- Requests from staff for sites to be removed from the filtered list will be considered by the Network Manager. If the request is agreed, this action will be recorded and logs of such actions shall be reviewed regularly by the HT/SLT/ICT co-ordinator
- School ICT co-ordinator regularly monitor and record the activity of users on the school ICT systems and users are made aware of this in the Acceptable Use Policy
- Appropriate security measures are in place to protect the servers, firewalls, routers, wireless systems, work stations, hand held devices etc from accidental or malicious attempts which might threaten the security of the school systems and data
- An agreed policy is in place for the provision of temporary access of “guests” (eg trainee teachers, visitors) onto the school system via a ‘supply teacher’ logon
- An agreed policy is in place (See Acceptable Use policy) regarding the downloading of executable files by users
- An agreed policy is in place regarding the extent of personal use that users (staff / students / pupils / community users) and their family members are allowed on laptops and other portable devices that may be used out of school. (See Acceptable Use policy)
- An agreed policy is in place (See Acceptable Use policy) that allows staff to / forbids staff from installing programmes on school workstations / portable devices.
- An agreed policy is in place regarding the use of removable media e.g., memory sticks, by users on school workstations / portable devices. (See Acceptable Use policy)
- The school infrastructure and individual workstations are protected by up-to-date virus software.
- Personal data cannot be sent over the internet or taken off the school site unless safely encrypted or otherwise secured

## **Curriculum**

E-safety should be a focus in all areas of the curriculum and staff should reinforce e-safety messages in the use of computing across the curriculum. In lessons where internet use is pre-planned, it is best practice that pupils 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 pupils are allowed to freely search the internet, e.g., using search engines, staff should be vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites the children 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 Network Manager 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.

Pupils 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 and be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet.

### **Use of digital and video images - Photographic, 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 and pupils need to be aware of the risks associated with sharing images and with posting digital images on the internet. Those images may remain available on the internet forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term.

There are many reported incidents of employers carrying 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 pupils 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 eg on social networking sites
- Staff 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 must 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
- Any video images of children taken to record performances for parents to view will only be shared through secure channels and not published on the website or any other site accessible by the public
- 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 (may be covered as part of the AUP signed by parents or carers at the start of the year see Parents / Carers AUP Agreement in the appendix)
- Pupil's work can only be published with the permission of the pupil and parents or carers.

### **Data Protection**

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the Data Protection Act 2018 which states that under the UK General Data Protection Regulations, (UK GDPR) personal data must be:

- be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- be collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes (subject to exceptions for specific archiving purposes)
- be adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary to the purposes for which they are processed and not excessive
- be accurate and where necessary, kept up to date
- be kept in a form that permits the identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the

purposes for which the personal data are processed

- be processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personnel

**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. Care should be made to “lock” the screen if called away from the computer during a session where personal data is being accessed
- Transfer data using encryption and secure password protected devices

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

- the data must be encrypted and password protected
- the device must be password protected (many memory sticks / cards and other mobile devices cannot 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

**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. Staff and pupils 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 need to be aware that email communications may be monitored
- Users must immediately report, to the nominated person – in accordance with the school policy, the receipt of any email that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such email
- Any digital communication between staff and pupils or parents / carers (email, chat, VLE, Facebook, Class Dojo 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 public chat / social networking programmes must not be used for these communications
- Email addresses will only be provided through the school VLE and only be accessible by staff and other children. These will be monitored.
- Pupils should be taught about email safety issues, such as the risks attached to the use of personal details. They should also be taught strategies to deal with inappropriate emails and be reminded of the need to write emails clearly and correctly and not include any unsuitable or abusive material
- Personal information should not be posted on the school website and only official email addresses should be used to identify members of staff

**Responding to incidents of misuse**

It is hoped that all members of the school community will be responsible users of ICT, who understand and follow this policy. However, there may be times when infringements of the policy could take place, through careless or irresponsible or, very rarely, through deliberate misuse. Listed below are the responses that will be made to any apparent or actual incidents of misuse:

If any apparent or actual misuse appears to involve illegal activity ie.

- child sexual abuse images
- adult material which potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act
- criminally racist material
- other criminal conduct, activity or materials

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.

Review: This policy will be reviewed annually.

Agreed: This policy was agreed and ratified at the Governing Board meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Date for next review: March 2025

Signed  
Headteacher



Signed  
Chair of Governors

