



Online Safety Policy

November 2021

St Mary & St Margaret's CE Primary School Online Safety Policy

School Values

Our School Values set the ethos in which this policy is grounded:

We believe that St Mary and St Margaret's CE Primary School exists to enable every child to realise his or her potential to the fullest possible extent, whatever his or her particular needs and abilities. We aim to help all children to be the best they can be by 'living life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

To this end, we promote our agreed School Values:

- Growing as a child of God
- Loving learning
- Caring
- Achieving
- Personal development

Introduction

At St. Mary and St. Margaret's CE (Aided) Primary School we aim to ensure that children are safe and feel comfortable and confident in the learning environment. As well as ensuring the children's well-being is considered at all times we also aim to give them the skills to take care of themselves and confidently deal with situations that occur in and out of school. As technology changes and develops at a rapid rate and we live in a world ever more dominated by information and communications technology this policy has been written to ensure our online safety provision meets the needs required to create a safe learning and working environment.

This policy has been written to work alongside the current Safeguarding and Anti Bullying policies. Governors are responsible for the approval of the Online Safety Policy and for reviewing its effectiveness

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
- ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in St Mary and St Margaret's activities.

Legal framework:

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. This is known as 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1021914/KCSIE_2021_September_guidance.pdf

Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available on:

- online abuse: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse>
- bullying: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying>
- child protection <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system>

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We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

We recognise that:

- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however, it can also present risks and challenges
- we have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using St Mary and St Margaret's network and devices
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- appointing an online safety coordinator
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults
- supporting and encouraging the young people using our service to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- developing an online safety agreement for use with young people and their parents/carers
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child/young person
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that user names, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety
- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)
- providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation as a whole into account
- reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

Related policies and procedures:

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

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- Child protection
- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing
- Dealing with allegations of abuse made against a child or young person
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Photography and image sharing guidance

Teaching and Learning:

It is essential to teach children of the dangers of the Internet and provide them with the skills to remain safe. We aim for children to understand that the Internet is an exciting tool for learning but needs to be used with care. Rather than solely taking away risks, by educating them we enable them to manage risk themselves.

Our provision of the learning about online safety will focus on the behaviour of children rather than the technology. Being able to use the internet and information and communications technology safely and appropriately will be part of their personal development in the same way as many aspects of the PSHE curriculum are.

We will provide lessons, taught through our Jigsaw PHSE scheme, to teach children of the safest ways to use the Internet and other technology. This will include learning about the importance of not giving out personal information. These lessons will be age appropriate as although we want them to be aware of the dangers we do not want them to intimidate children or diminish their enthusiasm for learning. The aim of our education will be to enable children to manage risks themselves

Our Computing curriculum also considers the need for a thorough understanding of online safety. When introducing children to new equipment and programmes each unit of the curriculum content ensures that children are taught how to use them appropriately and how to stay safe when doing so.

In addition to the curriculum provision the need to educate pupils will also be addressed through collective worship times and special events (including the annual Safer Internet Day). Literature in the form of posters and rules is displayed around school, especially in areas where pupils use equipment, to remind children of the need to stay safe and how they can do so.

Part of our provision also needs to include educating parents and families about online safety. We provide information and links to websites to help support parents, families and pupils on the school website. In addition, we will provide workshops and presentations, when applicable, at our INSPIRE workshops to educate parents and carers about the need for online safety and how they can keep their children safe at home.

Governors

The safeguarding Governor will meet with the online safety coordinator to discuss actions and progress in this subject and to review policies and practice.

Policy agreed by Governors: November 2021

Review date: November 2024