



**St Aloysius  
Catholic Primary**

**E-SAFETY POLICY  
12/12/2017**

*In Jesus, we learn, love and grow together.*

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# **1 Information on internet technology**

## **1.1 Introduction**

It is commonly acknowledged that the educational and social benefits for children in using the internet should be promoted, but that this should be balanced against the need to safeguard children against the inherent risks from internet technology. To achieve this, St Aloysius' Catholic Primary School has developed an e-safety strategy working in partnership with parents. At St Aloysius Primary School we are committed to teaching children to keep themselves safe whilst on-line. This document provides parents and staff with guidance to recognise the risks and take action to help children use the internet safely and responsibly.

## **1.2 Benefits and risks**

Computing covers a wide range of activities, including access to information, electronic communications and social networking. The table shown at appendix 4 provides brief details of the various uses of the internet together with their benefits and risks.

As use of technology is now universal, it is imperative that children learn computing skills in order to prepare themselves for the working environment and that the inherent risks are not used to reduce children's use of technology. Further, the educational advantages of computing need to be harnessed to enhance children's learning.

The risk associated with use of technology by children can be grouped into 4 categories.

### **1.2.1 Content**

The internet contains a vast store of information from all over the world which is mainly aimed at an adult audience and may be unsuitable for children. There is a danger that children may be exposed to inappropriate images such as pornography, or information advocating violence, racism, suicide or illegal and anti-social behaviour that they are unable to evaluate in a critical manner.

### **1.2.2 Contact**

Chat rooms, gaming sites and other social networking sites can pose a real risk to children as users can take on an alias rather than their real names and can hide their true identity. The sites may be used by adults who pose as children in order to befriend and gain children's trust (known as "grooming") with a view to sexually abusing them.

Children may not be aware of the danger of publishing or disclosing personal information about themselves such as contact details that allow them to be identified or located. They may also inadvertently put other children at risk by posting personal information and photographs without consent.

The internet may also be used as a way of bullying a child, known as cyber bullying. More details on this can be found in section 4.5 of this policy.

### **1.2.3 Commerce**

Children are vulnerable to unregulated commercial activity on the internet that could have serious financial consequences, such as fraud or identity theft, for themselves and their parents. They may give out financial information, for example, their parent's credit card details, in response to offers for goods or services without seeing the fraudulent intent. Contact via social networking sites can also be used to persuade children to reveal computer passwords or other information about the family for the purposes of fraud.

### **1.2.4 Culture**

Children need to be taught to use the internet in a responsible way, as they may put themselves at risk by:

- becoming involved in inappropriate, anti-social or illegal activities as a result of viewing unsuitable materials or contact with inappropriate people
- using information from the internet in a way that breaches copyright laws
- uploading personal information about themselves, including photographs, on social networking sites without realising they are publishing to a potentially global audience
- cyber bullying (see section 4.5 for further details)
- use of mobile devices to take and distribute inappropriate images of the young person (sexting) that cannot be removed from the internet and can be forwarded on to a much wider audience than the child intended.

Children may also be adversely affected by obsessive use of the internet that may have a negative impact on their health, social and emotional development and their educational attainment. They may visit sites that advocate extreme and dangerous behaviour such as self-harm or suicide or violent extremism, and more vulnerable children may be at a high degree of risk from such sites. All children may become desensitised to pornography, violence, sex and drug use or self-harm by regularly viewing these on-line.

## 2 School e-safety strategies

### 2.1 Purpose and description

Computing is now a key part of the school curriculum and one of the key aims of computing is to ensure that pupils are aware of e-safety messages. This is part of the school's responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, as well as the duty of care to children and their parents to provide a safe learning environment.

Our e-safety policy is based on a framework of policy, practice, education and technological support that ensures a safe e-learning environment that maximises the educational benefits of ICT whilst minimising the associated risks. Its purpose is to:

- promote the use of technology within the curriculum
- protect children from harm
- safeguard staff in their contact with pupils and their own use of the internet
- ensure the school fulfils its duty of care to pupils
- provide clear expectations for staff and pupils on acceptable use of the internet.

In particular, schools must ensure the following:

- A **safe internet platform** that provides filtering software to block access to unsuitable sites, anti-virus software and monitoring systems (for example the London Grid for Learning platform).
- A culture of **safe practice** underpinned by a strong framework of e-safety policy that ensures everyone is aware of expected standards of on-line behaviour.
- Children are **taught to keep themselves and others safe** on-line and use technology responsibly; this should be achieved by working in partnership with parents and carers and raising awareness of the potential risks of internet use.

### 2.2 Roles and responsibilities

A successful e-safety strategy needs to be inclusive of the whole school community, including teaching assistants, supervisory assistants, governors and others, and forge links with parents and carers. Our strategy has the backing of school governors, is overseen by the head teacher and is fully implemented by all staff, including technical and non-teaching staff.

### **2.2.1 Head teacher's role**

The Head teacher has ultimate responsibility for e-safety issues within the school including:

- the overall development and implementation of the school's e-safety policy
- ensuring that e-safety issues are given a high profile within the school community
- linking with the board of governors and parents and carers to promote e-safety and forward the school's e-safety strategy
- ensuring e-safety is embedded in the curriculum
- deciding on sanctions against staff and pupils who are in breach of acceptable use policies.

### **2.2.2 Governors' role**

The Governing body have a statutory responsibility for pupil safety and should therefore be aware of e-safety issues, providing support to the head teacher in the development of the school's e-safety strategy.

Governors should be subject to the same e-safety rules as staff members and should sign an Acceptable Use Agreement in order to keep them safe from allegations and ensure a high standard of professional conduct.

### **2.2.3 E-safety contact officer's role** (*Tracey Shevlin, Assistant Headteacher*)

We have a designated e-safety contact officer who is responsible for co-ordinating e-safety policies on behalf of the school. Given the issues associated with e-safety, it is appropriate for the designated child protection teacher to be the school's e-safety contact officer, therefore at St Aloysius' Catholic Primary School the e-safety contact officer is Tracey Shevlin, Assistant Headteacher.

The e-safety contact officer has the authority, knowledge and experience to carry out the following:

- develop, implement, monitor and review the school's e-safety policy
- ensure that staff and pupils are aware that any e-safety incident should be reported to them
- provide the first point of contact and advice for school staff, governors, pupils and parents
- liaise with the school's computing manager/co-ordinator to ensure they are kept up to date with e-safety issues and to advise of any new trends, incidents and arising problems to the head teacher

- assess the impact and risk of emerging technology and the school's response to this in association with IT staff and learning platform providers
- raise the profile of e-safety awareness with the school by ensuring access to training and relevant e-safety literature
- ensure that all staff and pupils have read and signed the acceptable use policy (AUP)
- report annually to the board of governors on the implementation of the school's e-safety strategy
- maintain a log of internet related incidents and co-ordinate any investigation into breaches
- report all incidents and issues to Camden's e-safety officer.

In addition, it is an Ofsted recommendation that the e-safety contact officer receives recognised training CEOP or E-PICT in order to carry out their role more effectively. In Camden, this is available from the CLC.

#### **2.2.4 IT manager's role**

At St Aloysius' Catholic Primary School we have an IT technician who is responsible for:

- the maintenance and monitoring of the school internet system including anti-virus and filtering systems
- carrying out monitoring and audits of networks and reporting breaches to the e-safety contact officer
- supporting any subsequent investigation into breaches and preserving any evidence.

#### **2.2.5 Role of school staff**

All school staff have a dual role concerning their own internet use and providing guidance, support and supervision for pupils. Their role is:

- adhering to the school's e-safety and acceptable use policy and procedures
- communicating the school's e-safety and acceptable use policy to pupils
- keeping pupils safe and ensuring they receive appropriate supervision and support whilst using the internet
- planning use of the internet for lessons and researching on-line materials and resources
- reporting breaches of internet use to the e-safety contact officer
- recognising when pupils are at risk from their internet use or have had negative experiences and taking appropriate action, for example referral to the e-safety contact officer
- teaching the e-safety and digital literacy elements of the new curriculum.

## 2.3 Pupils with special needs

Pupils with learning difficulties or disability may be more vulnerable to risk from use of the internet and may need additional guidance on e-safety practice as well as closer supervision.

SEND co-ordinators are responsible for providing extra support for these pupils and should:

- link with the e-safety contact officer to discuss and agree whether the mainstream safeguarding systems on the internet are adequate for pupils with special need
- where necessary, liaise with the e-safety contact officer and the IT service to discuss any requirements for further safeguards to the school IT system or tailored resources and materials in order to meet the needs of pupils with special needs
- ensure that the school's e-safety policy is adapted to suit the needs of pupils with special needs
- liaise with parents, carers and other relevant agencies in developing e-safety practices for pupils with special needs
- keep up to date with any developments regarding emerging technologies and e-safety and how these may impact on pupils with special needs.

## 2.4 Working with parents and carers

It is essential that schools involve parents and carers in the development and implementation of e-safety strategies and policies; most children will have internet access at home or own mobile devices and might not be as closely supervised in its use as they would be at school.

Therefore, parents and carers need to know about the risks so that they are able to continue e-safety education at home and regulate and supervise children's use as appropriate to their age and understanding.

In order to ensure parents are aware of e-safety issues and support them in reinforcing e-safety messages at home an e-safety parent workshop is led by the Headteacher annually.

Parents are provided with information on computing and the school's e-safety policy when they are asked to sign acceptable use agreements on behalf of their child so that they are fully aware of their child's level of internet use within the school as well as the school's expectations regarding their behaviour.

## 3 E-safety policies

### 3.1 Accessing and monitoring the system

- Access to the school internet system is via individual log-ins and passwords for staff and pupils wherever possible.
- A record of all log-ins used within the school is held centrally and can be accessed by the e-safety contact officer when necessary for the purposes of monitoring and auditing internet activity.
- Network and technical staff responsible for monitoring systems are supervised by a senior member of their management team.
- The e-safety contact officer and teaching staff carefully consider the location of internet enabled devices in classrooms and teaching areas in order to allow an appropriate level of supervision of pupils depending on their age and experience.

### 3.2 Acceptable use policies

- All internet users within the school are expected to sign an acceptable use agreement that sets out their rights and responsibilities and incorporates the school e-safety rules regarding their internet use.
- For pupils, acceptable use agreements will be signed by parents on their child's behalf at the same time that they give consent for their child to have access to the internet in school (see appendix 1).
- Staff are expected to sign an acceptable use policy on appointment and this is integrated into their general terms of employment (see appendix 2).

All signed acceptable use agreements are stored confidentially.

### 3.3 Teaching e-safety

#### 3.3.1 Responsibility

One of the key features of our school's e-safety strategy is teaching pupils to protect themselves and behave responsibly while on-line. There is an expectation that over time, pupils will take increasing responsibility for their own behaviour and internet use so that they can be given more freedom to explore systems and applications with a lessening amount of supervision from staff.

- Overall responsibility for the design and co-ordination of e-safety education lies with the head teacher, but all staff play a role in delivering e-safety messages.
- The e-safety contact officer is responsible for ensuring that all staff have the knowledge and resources to enable them to do so.

- Teachers are primarily responsible for delivering an ongoing e-safety education in the classroom as part of the curriculum.
- The start of every lesson where computers are being used is an opportunity to remind pupils of expectations on internet use and the need to follow basic principles in order to keep safe.
- Teachers should be aware of those children who may be more vulnerable to risk from internet use, generally those children with a high level of experience and good computer skills but coupled with poor social skills.
- All staff should ensure that the school's policy on pupils' use of their own mobile phones and other mobile devices in school is adhered to.

### **3.3.2 Content**

Pupils are taught all elements of e-safety included in the computing curriculum so that they:

- 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
- can evaluate and apply information technology, including new or unfamiliar technologies, analytically to solve problems
- are responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology.

### **3.3.3 Technology and sexual abuse and bullying behaviour**

The internet contains a high level of sexually explicit content and internet-based communications systems and social networking sites can be used to send sexually explicit messages and images. At St Aloysius' Catholic Primary School we are aware of the use of IT by older pupils for the purpose of distributing unsuitable materials and sexually harassing other pupils and we aim to safeguard pupils from this through our teaching of e-safety.

For example, sexting involves the sending of intimate photographic images of an individual to others electronically via the internet. Pupils need to understand that once the image is sent, they have lost control of who it is distributed to and how it is used, and that there is a good chance that the image will be widely seen, possibly including parents.

On-line behaviour that involves sexual abuse and bullying is a criminal offence, although it is unlikely that the perpetrator will be prosecuted where it is a peer of the victim.

The school will make a referral to Family Services and Social Work for any pupil who displays sexually abusive behaviour towards other pupils. Staff should refer to Camden's "Children who harm other children" guidance for further details on this.

### 3.4 IT and safe teaching practice

School staff need to be aware of the importance of maintaining professional standards of behaviour with regards to their own internet use, particularly in relation to their communications with pupils. Staff should refer to the model social media policy for school staff for further guidance.

The following points should be followed by staff to ensure that their behaviour is not open to misinterpretation and to safeguard them from misplaced or malicious allegations.

- Photographic and video images of pupils should only be taken by staff in connection with educational purposes, for example school trips.
- Staff should always use school equipment and only store images on the school computer system. If any images have been taken with personal mobile devices, these should be erased as soon as they have been uploaded onto the school computer system.
- Staff should take care regarding the content of and access to their own social networking sites and ensure that pupils and parents cannot gain access to these.
- Staff should ensure that any materials published on their own social networking sites are neither inappropriate nor illegal.
- Staff should be particularly careful regarding any comments to do with the school or specific pupils that are communicated over the internet; remarks that are private may go to a wider audience and raise questions regarding confidentiality.
- Staff should not engage in any conversation with pupils via instant messaging or social networking sites as these may be misinterpreted or taken out of context.
- When making contact with parents or pupils by telephone, staff should only use school equipment. Pupil or parent numbers should not be stored on a staff member's personal mobile phone and staff should avoid lending their mobile phones to pupils.
- When making contact with parents or pupils by email, staff should always use their school email address or account. Personal email addresses and accounts such as SN should never be used.

- Staff should ensure that personal data relating to pupils is stored securely and encrypted if taken off the school premises.
- Where staff are using mobile equipment such as laptops or i-pads provided by the school, they should ensure that the equipment is kept safe and secure at all times.

### 3.5 Safe use of technology

#### 3.5.1 Internet and search engines

- When using the internet, children receive the appropriate level of supervision for their age and understanding. Teachers should be aware that often, the most computer-literate children are the ones who are most at risk.
- Primary school children should be supervised at all times when using the internet.
- Pupils should not be allowed to aimlessly “surf” the internet and all use should have a clearly defined educational purpose.
- Despite filtering systems, it is still possible for pupils to inadvertently access unsuitable websites; to reduce risk, teachers should plan use of internet resources ahead of lessons by checking sites and storing information off-line where possible.
- Where teachers require access to blocked websites for educational purposes, this should be discussed and agreed with the e-safety contact officer, who will liaise with the IT service provider for temporary access. Teachers should notify the e-safety contact officer once access is no longer needed to ensure the site is blocked.

#### 3.5.2 Evaluating and using internet content

Teachers should teach pupils good research skills that help them to maximise the resources available on the internet so that they can use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and be discerning in evaluating digital content.

#### 3.5.3 Safe use of applications

Our school email system is hosted by LGFL which allows content to be filtered and allows pupils to send emails to others within the school or to approved email addresses externally.

**Social networking sites** such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter allow users to publish information about them to be seen by anyone who has

access to the site. These are not accessible on St Aloysius' Catholic Primary School devices.

**Newsgroups and forums** are sites that enable users to discuss issues and share ideas on-line. Only age appropriate newsgroups and forums which have educational value are used at St Aloysius' Catholic Primary School.

**Chat rooms** are internet sites where users can join in "conversations" on-line; **instant messaging** allows instant communications between two people on-line. In most cases, pupils will use these at home although our school internet system does host age appropriate applications.

**Gaming-based sites** allow children to "chat" to other gamers during the course of gaming. Many of the gaming sites are not properly moderated and may be targeted by adults who pose a risk to children. Consequently these sites are not accessible via our school internet system.

### ***Safety rules***

- Access to and use of personal email accounts, unregulated public social networking sites, newsgroups or forums, chat rooms or gaming sites on the school internet system is forbidden and every effort is made to ensure these are blocked. This is to protect pupils from receiving unsolicited mail or contacts and to preserve the safety of the system from hacking and viruses.
- If we identify a clear educational use for emails or social networking sites and forums for on-line publishing, we will only use approved sites such as those provided by the IT service provider. Any use of these sites should be strictly supervised by the responsible teacher.
- Emails should only be sent via the school internet system to addresses within the school system or approved external address. All email messages sent by pupils in connection with school business must be checked and cleared by the responsible teacher.
- Where teachers wish to add an external email address, this must be for a clear educational purpose and must be discussed with the e-safety contact officer who will liaise with the learning platform provider.
- Individual email addresses for staff or pupils are not published on the school website.
- Pupils are taught to be wary of opening attachments to emails where they are unsure of the content or have no knowledge of the sender.
- Pupils are taught not to disclose personal contact details for themselves or others such as addresses or telephone numbers via email correspondence or on social networking sites.

- All electronic communications should be polite; if a pupil receives an offensive or distressing email or comment, they should be instructed not to reply and to notify the responsible teacher immediately.
- Pupils are warned that any bullying or harassment via email, chat rooms or social networking sites will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with the school's anti-bullying policy. This should include any correspondence or contact taking place outside the school and/or using non-school systems or equipment.
- Users are made aware that as use of the school internet system is for the purposes of education or school business only, and its use may be monitored.
- In order to teach pupils to stay safe online outside of school, they are advised:
  - not to give out personal details to anyone on-line that may help to identify or locate them or anyone else, for example home address, name of school or clubs attended
  - to only use moderated chat rooms that require registration and are specifically for their age group;
  - not to upload personal photos of themselves or others onto sites and to take care regarding what information is posted as there is no control where images may end up or who can see them
  - how to set up security and privacy settings on sites or use a "buddy list" to block unwanted communications or deny access to those unknown to them
  - to behave responsibly whilst on-line and keep communications polite
  - not to respond to any hurtful or distressing messages but to let their parents or carers know so that appropriate action can be taken.
  - not to give out personal details to anyone on-line that may help to identify or locate them or anyone else
  - not to arrange to meet anyone whom they have only met on-line or go "off-line" with anyone they meet in a chat room
  - to behave responsibly whilst on-line and keep communications polite
  - not to respond to any hurtful or distressing messages but to let their parents or carers know so that appropriate action can be taken.

#### **3.5.4 Video conferencing (where appropriate)**

Video conferencing enables users to communicate face-to-face via the internet using web cameras.

- Teachers should try to use a safe video conferencing platform, ie: London Grid for Learning and need to be aware of the risks associated with live video feeds.
- Pupil use of video conferencing should be for educational purposes and should be supervised as appropriate to their age. Pupils must ask permission from the responsible teacher before making or receiving a video conference call.
- Staff should ensure that pupils are appropriately dressed during any photography or filming and equipment must not be used in changing rooms or toilets.
- Photographic or video devices may be used by staff only in connection with educational activities including school trips.
- Photographs and videos may only be downloaded onto the school's computer system with the permission of the network manager and should never enable individual pupils' names or other identifying information to be disclosed.

### **3.5.5 School website**

- Content should not be uploaded onto the school website unless it has been authorised by the head teacher, who is responsible for ensuring that content is accurate, suitable for the purpose and audience, and does not breach copyright or intellectual property law.
- At St Aloysius' Catholic Primary School the School Business Manager has responsibility for uploading materials onto the website.
- To ensure the privacy and security of staff and pupils, the contact details on the website should be the school address, email and telephone number. No contact details for staff or pupils should be contained on the website.
- Children's full names should never be published on the website.
- Links to any external websites should be regularly reviewed to ensure that their content is appropriate for the school and the intended audience.

### **3.5.6 Photographic and video images**

- Where the school uses photographs and videos of pupils for publicity purposes, for example on the school website, images should be carefully selected so that individual pupils cannot be easily identified. It is recommended that group photographs are used.

- Children's names should never be published where their photograph or video is being used.
- Staff should ensure that children are suitably dressed to reduce the risk of inappropriate use of images.
- Images should be securely stored only on the school's computer system and all other copies deleted.
- Stored images should not be labelled with the child's name and all images held of children should be deleted once the child has left the school.
- Staff should not use personal devices to take photographs of pupils (unless there is no other option available at the time- in which case images must be removed from the device as soon as they have been uploaded to the school computer system).
- Schools should inform parents that although they may take photographic images of school events that include other children, it is on the understanding that these images are for personal use only and will not be published on the internet or social networking sites.

### **3.5.7 Pupils own mobile phone/handheld systems**

Many pupils are likely to have mobile phones or other devices that allow them to access internet services, and these can pose a major problem for schools as they may distract pupils during lessons and may be used for cyber bullying. For this reason the use of any personal electrical equipment including mobile phones is forbidden by pupils on school premises.

In exceptional circumstances, it may be appropriate for a child to bring a mobile phone to school. This must be agreed in advance with the permission of the Headteacher. In such a case, a child must hand their phone into the office when they arrive at school in the morning and may collect it again at the end of the school day.

## **4 Responding to incidents**

### **4.1 Policy statement**

- All incidents and complaints relating to e-safety and unacceptable internet use will be reported to the e-safety contact officer in the first instance. All incidents, whether involving pupils or staff, must be recorded by the e-safety contact officer on the e-safety incident report form (appendix 3).

- A copy of the incident record should be emailed to Camden’s designated e-safety officer at [jenni.spencer@camden.gov.uk](mailto:jenni.spencer@camden.gov.uk).
- Where the incident or complaint relates to a member of staff, the matter must always be referred to the head teacher for action and consideration given to contacting the LADO where this is appropriate. Incidents involving the head teacher should be reported to the chair of the board of governors.
- The school’s e-safety contact officer should keep a log of all e-safety incidents and complaints and regularly review the information for evidence of emerging patterns of individual behaviour or weaknesses in the school’s e-safety system, and use these to update the e-safety policy.
- E-safety incidents involving safeguarding issues, for example contact with inappropriate adults, should be reported to the designated child protection teacher, who will make a decision as to whether or not to refer the matter to the police and/or Family Services and Social Work in conjunction with the head teacher.

Although it is intended that e-safety strategies and policies should reduce the risk to pupils whilst on-line, this cannot completely rule out the possibility that pupils may access unsuitable material on the internet. Neither the school nor the London Borough of Camden can accept liability for material accessed or any consequences of internet access, but all reasonable precautions will be taken to ensure a safe e-learning environment.

#### 4.2 Unintentional access of inappropriate websites

- If a pupil or teacher accidentally opens a website that has content which is distressing or upsetting or inappropriate to the pupils’ age, teachers should immediately (and calmly) close or minimise the screen.
- Teachers should reassure pupils that they have done nothing wrong and discuss the incident with the class to reinforce the e-safety message and to demonstrate the school’s “no blame” approach.
- The incident should be reported to the e-safety contact officer and details of the website address and URL provided.
- The e-safety contact officer should liaise with the network manager or learning platform provider to ensure that access to the site is blocked and the school’s filtering system reviewed to ensure it remains appropriate.

#### 4.3 Intentional access of inappropriate websites by a pupil

- If a pupil deliberately accesses inappropriate or banned websites, they will be in breach of the acceptable use policy and subject to appropriate sanctions (see section 5).
- The incident should be reported to the e-safety contact officer and details of the website address and URL recorded.
- The e-safety contact officer should liaise with the network manager or learning platform provider to ensure that access to the site is blocked.
- The pupil's parents should be notified of the incident and what action will be taken.

#### 4.4 Inappropriate use of IT by staff

- If a member of staff witnesses misuse of IT by a colleague, they should report this to the head teacher and the e-safety contact officer immediately. If the misconduct involves the head teacher or governor, the matter should be reported to the chair of the board of governors.
- The e-safety contact officer will notify the network manager so that the computer, laptop or other device is taken out of use and securely stored in order to preserve any evidence. A note of any action taken should be recorded on the e-safety incident report form.
- The e-safety contact officer will arrange with the network manager or learning platform provider to carry out an audit of use to establish which user is responsible and the details of materials accessed.
- Once the facts are established, the head teacher will take any necessary disciplinary action against the staff member and report the matter to the school governors and the police where appropriate. Where appropriate, consideration should be given to contacting the LADO for advice.
- If the materials viewed are illegal in nature the head teacher or governor should report the incident to the police and follow their advice, which should also be recorded on the e-safety incident report form.

#### 4.5 Cyberbullying

##### 4.5.1 Definition and description

Cyberbullying is defined as the use of technology such as email and social networking sites to deliberately hurt or upset someone or harass or threaten. Unlike physical forms of bullying, the internet allows bullying to continue past school hours and invades the victim's home life and personal space. It also allows distribution of hurtful comments and material to a wide audience.

Cyber bullying is extremely prevalent as pupils who would not consider bullying in the physical sense may find it easier to bully through the internet, especially if it is thought the bullying may remain anonymous.

Bullying may take the form of:

- rude, abusive or threatening messages via email or text
- posting insulting, derogatory or defamatory statements on blogs or social networking sites
- setting up websites that specifically target the victim
- making or sharing derogatory or embarrassing images or videos of someone via mobile phone or email (for example, sexting/“happy slapping”).

Cyber bullying can affect pupils and staff members. Often, the internet medium used to perpetrate the bullying allows the bully to remain anonymous. In extreme cases, cyber bullying could be a criminal offence under the Harassment Act 1997 or the Telecommunications Act 1984.

#### **4.5.2 Dealing with incidents**

The following covers all incidents of bullying that involve pupils at the school, whether or not they take place on school premises or outside school.

- The St Aloysius’ Catholic Primary School anti-bullying, behaviour and acceptable use policies cover the issue of cyber bullying and set out clear expectations of behaviour and sanctions for any breach.
- Any incidents of cyber bullying should be reported to the e-safety contact officer who will notify record the incident on the incident report form and ensure that the incident is dealt with in line with the school’s anti-bullying policy. Incidents should be monitored and the information used to inform the development of anti-bullying policies.
- Where incidents are extreme, for example threats against someone’s life, or continue over a period of time, consideration should be given to reporting the matter to the police as in these cases, the bullying may be a criminal offence.
- As part of e-safety awareness and education, pupils should be told of the “no tolerance” policy for cyber bullying and encouraged to report any incidents to their teacher.
- Pupils are taught:
  - to only give out mobile phone numbers and email addresses to people they trust
  - to only allow close friends whom they trust to have access to their social networking page
  - not to send or post inappropriate images of themselves

- not to respond to offensive messages
  - to report the matter to their parents and teacher immediately.
- Evidence of bullying, for example texts, emails or comments on websites should be preserved by the young person as evidence.

Any action taken on cyber bullying incidents must be proportional to the harm caused. For some cases, it may be more appropriate to help the pupils involved to resolve the issues themselves rather than impose sanctions. This may be facilitated by the School Council or a specialist resource such as Cybermentors.

#### **4.5.3 Action by service providers**

All website providers and mobile phone companies are aware of the issue of cyber bullying and have their own systems in place to deal with problems, such as tracing communications. Teachers or parents can contact providers at any time for advice on what action can be taken.

- Where the bullying takes place by mobile phone texts, the mobile phone company can be contacted to ask them to trace the calls. The pupil should also consider changing their phone number.
- Where the bullying takes place by email, and the messages are being sent from a personal email account, contact the service provider so that the sender can be traced. The pupil should also consider changing email address.
- Where bullying takes place in chat rooms or gaming sites, the pupil should leave the chat room or gaming site immediately and seek advice from parents or teachers. Bullying should be reported to any chat room moderator to take action.
- Where bullying involves messages on social networking sites or blogs, contact the website provider to request that the comments are removed. In extreme cases, the bully's access to the site can be blocked.
- Parents should be notified of any incidents and advised on what measures they can take to block any offensive messages on computers at home.

#### **4.5.4 Cyberbullying of teachers**

- Head teachers should be aware that teachers may become victims of cyberbullying by pupils. Because of the duty of care owed to staff, head teachers should ensure that teachers are able to report incidents in confidence and receive adequate support, including taking any appropriate action against pupils.

- The issue of cyberbullying of teachers should be incorporated into any anti-bullying policies, education programme or discussion with pupils so that they are aware of their own responsibilities.
- Incidents of cyber bullying involving teachers should be recorded and monitored by the e-safety contact officer in the same manner as incidents involving pupils.
- Teachers should follow the guidance on safe IT use in section 3.4 of this policy and avoid using their own mobile phones or email addresses to contact parents or pupils so that no record of these details becomes available.
- Personal contact details for teachers should not be posted on the school website or in any other school publication.
- Teachers should follow the advice above on cyberbullying of pupils and not reply to messages but report the incident to the head teacher immediately.

#### 4.6 Risk from inappropriate contacts and non-contact sexual abuse

Teachers may be concerned about a pupil being at risk as a consequence of their contact with an adult they have met over the internet. The pupil may report inappropriate contacts or teachers may suspect that the pupil is being groomed or has arranged to meet with someone they have met on-line.

School staff should also be aware of pupils being sexually abused on-line through video messaging such as Skype. In these cases, perpetrators persuade the young person concerned to carry out sexual acts while the perpetrator watches/records. The perpetrators may be adults but may also be peers.

- All concerns around inappropriate contacts should be reported to the e-safety contact officer who is also the designated child protection teacher.
- The designated child protection teacher should discuss the matter with the referring teacher and where appropriate, speak to the pupil involved, before deciding whether or not to make a referral to Family Services and Social Work and/or the police.
- The police should always be contacted if there is a concern that the child is at immediate risk, for example if they are arranging to meet the adult after school.

- The designated child protection teacher can seek advice on possible courses of action from Camden's e-safety officer in Family Services and Social Work.
- Teachers will advise the pupil how to terminate the contact and change contact details where necessary to ensure no further contact.
- The designated child protection teacher and the e-safety contact officer should always notify the pupil's parents of any concerns or incidents and where appropriate, arrange to meet with them discuss what action they can take to ensure their child's safety.
- Where inappropriate contacts have taken place using school IT equipment or networks, the e-safety contact officer should make a note of all actions taken and contact the network manager or learning platform provider to ensure that all evidence is preserved and that an audit of systems is carried out to ensure that the risk to other pupils is minimised.

#### 4.7 Risk from contact with violent extremists

Many extremist groups who advocate violence use the internet as a means of either inciting violence against specific groups or providing information on preparing explosives or carrying out terrorist acts. Because of their personal circumstances, some young people may be susceptible to these influences.

- Staff need to be aware of those pupils who are being targeted by or exposed to harmful influences from violent extremists via the internet. Pupils and staff should be warned of the risks of becoming involved in such groups and informed that accessing such websites is against school policies.
- The school should ensure that adequate filtering is in place and review filtering in response to any incident where a pupil or staff member accesses websites advocating violent extremism.
- All incidents should be dealt with as a breach of the acceptable use policies and the school's behaviour and staff disciplinary procedures should be used as appropriate.
- The e-safety contact officer who is also the designated child protection teacher should record and review all incidents in order to establish whether there are any patterns of extremist groups targeting the school and whether current school procedures are robust enough to deal with the issue.
- If there is evidence that the pupil is becoming deeply enmeshed in the extremist narrative, schools should seek advice from Camden's Integrated Youth Support Services on accessing programmes that

prevent radicalisation. Where there is evidence that their parents are involved in advocating extremist violence, referral should be made to FSSW.

#### 4.8 Risk from sites advocating suicide, self-harm and anorexia

Some internet sites advocate dangerous activities such as self-harming, suicide or anorexia. Other sites contain sexually explicit material or glorify risky and illegal behaviours like substance misuse.

Exposure to potentially harmful materials online may normalise the issue for young people and desensitise them to the harm. Most young people who visit these sites will not be adversely affected, but some vulnerable, less resilient young people may feel drawn to the sites which may trigger harmful or even fatal behaviours.

- The school should ensure that young people have an opportunity to openly discuss issues such as self-harming, suicide, substance misuse and anorexia as part of the PHSE curriculum.
- Pastoral support should be made available to all young people to discuss issues affecting them and to establish whether their online activities are an added risk factor
- Staff should receive the training needed to raise awareness of these issues so that they are able to identify those young people who are at risk, offer appropriate support and make appropriate referrals for help.

### 5 Sanctions for misuse of school IT

At St Aloysius' Catholic Primary School the sanction for a breach of the acceptable use policy will be decided on a case by case basis but always in line with the school's Rights Respecting Behaviour Policy. Sanctions applied will reflect the seriousness of the breach and should take into account all other relevant factors. The following is a framework recommended by LGfL that we use as guidance.

#### 5.1 Sanctions for pupils

##### 5.1.1 Category A infringements

These are basically low-level breaches of acceptable use agreements such as:

- use of non-educational sites during lessons
- unauthorised use of email or mobile phones
- unauthorised use of prohibited sites for instant messaging or social networking.

Sanctions could include referral to the class teacher as well as a referral to the Headteacher.

### **5.1.2 Category B infringements**

These are persistent breaches of acceptable use agreements following warnings and use of banned sites or serious breaches of e-safety policy that are non-deliberate, such as:

- continued use of non-educational or prohibited sites during lessons
- continued unauthorised use of email, mobile phones or social networking sites during lessons
- use of file sharing software
- accidentally corrupting or destroying other people's data without notifying staff
- accidentally accessing offensive material without notifying staff.

Sanctions could include:

- referral to class teacher
- referral to Headteacher
- loss of internet access for a period of time
- removal of mobile phone until the end of the day
- contacting parents

### **5.1.3 Category C infringements**

These are deliberate actions that either negatively affect school ICT systems or are serious breaches of acceptable use agreements or anti-bullying policies, such as:

- deliberately bypassing security or access
- deliberately corrupting or destroying other people's data or violating other's privacy
- cyber bullying
- deliberately accessing, sending or distributing offensive or pornographic material
- purchasing or ordering items over the internet
- transmission of commercial or advertising material.

Sanctions could include:

- referral to class teacher
- referral to head teacher
- loss of access to the internet for a period of time
- in school exclusion
- contact with parents
- any sanctions agreed under other school policies.

### **5.1.4 Category D infringements**

These are continued serious breaches of acceptable use agreements following warnings or deliberately accessing and distributing banned or illegal materials which may result in a criminal offence, such as:

- persistent and/or extreme cyber bullying
- deliberately accessing, downloading or disseminating any material deemed offensive, obscene, defamatory, racist, homophobic or violent
- receipt or transmission of material that infringes the copyright of other people or is in breach of the Data Protection Act
- bringing the school name into disrepute.

Sanctions could include:

- referral to head teacher
- contact with parents
- possible exclusion
- removal of equipment
- referral to community police officer
- referral to Camden's e-safety officer.

## **5.2 Sanctions for staff**

These should reflect the seriousness with which any breach of acceptable use policies by staff members will be viewed given their position of trust and the need to ensure acceptable standards of behaviour by adults who work with children.

### **5.2.1 Category A infringements**

These are minor breaches of the school's acceptable use policy which amount to misconduct and will be dealt with internally by the head teacher.

- excessive use of internet for personal activities not connected to professional development
- use of personal data storage media (eg: removable memory sticks) without carrying out virus checks
- any behaviour on the world wide web and social media sites such as Twitter that compromises the staff member's professional standing in the school and community, for example inappropriate comments about the school, staff or pupils or inappropriate material published on social networking sites
- sharing or disclosing passwords to others or using other user's passwords
- breaching copyright or licence by installing unlicensed software.

Possible sanctions include referral to the head teacher who will issue a warning.

### **5.2.2 Category B infringements**

These infringements involve deliberate actions that undermine safety on the internet and activities that call into question the person's suitability to work with children. They represent gross misconduct that would require a strong response and possible referral to other agencies such as the police or Camden's LADO.

- serious misuse of or deliberate damage to any school computer hardware or software, for example deleting files, downloading unsuitable applications
- any deliberate attempt to breach data protection or computer security rules, for example hacking
- deliberately accessing, downloading or disseminating any material deemed offensive, obscene, defamatory, racist, homophobic or violent
- receipt or transmission of material that infringes the copyright of other people or is in breach of the Data Protection Act
- bringing the school name into disrepute.

Possible sanctions include:

- referral to the head teacher
- removal of equipment
- referral to Camden's e-safety officer
- referral to Camden's LADO or the police
- suspension pending investigation
- disciplinary action in line with school policies.

Appendix 1:

### **Acceptable use policy for primary school pupils**

**Name:**

**School:**

**Class:**

*I want to stay safe while I am using a computer and I know that anything I do on the computer may be seen by someone else.*

**I will:**

- *keep my password a secret*
- *only open pages which my teacher has said are okay*
- *tell my teacher if anything makes me feel scared or uncomfortable*
- *make sure all the messages I send are polite*
- *tell my teacher if I get a nasty message*
- *not reply to any nasty message which makes me feel upset or uncomfortable*
- *not give my mobile number, home number or address to anyone who is not a real friend*
- *only email people I know or if my teacher agrees*
- *only use my school email address*
- *talk to my teacher before using anything on the internet*
- *not tell people about myself on-line (I will not tell them my name, anything about where I live or where I go to school)*
- *not load photographs of myself onto the computer*
- *never agree to meet a stranger.*

#### **Parents**

- I have read the above school rules for responsible internet use and agree that my child may have access to the internet at school. I understand that the school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure pupils do not have access to inappropriate websites, and that the school cannot be held responsible if pupils do access inappropriate websites.*
- I agree that my child's work can be published on the school website.*
- I agree that photographs that include my child may be published but that any photography will not clearly identify my child and that their name will not be published.*

**Signed:**

**Date:**

## Appendix 2

### **Acceptable use policy for staff and governors**

#### **Access and professional use**

- *All computer networks and systems belong to the school and are made available to staff and governors for educational, professional, administrative and governance purposes only.*
- *Staff and governors are expected to abide by all school e-safety rules and the terms of this acceptable use policy. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken against staff or governors being removed.*
- *The school reserves the right to monitor internet activity and examine and delete files from the school's system.*
- *Staff and governors have a responsibility to safeguard pupils in their use of the internet and reporting all e-safety concerns to the e-safety contact officer.*
- *Copyright and intellectual property rights in relation to materials used from the internet must be respected.*
- *E-mails and other written communications must be carefully written and polite in tone and nature.*
- *Anonymous messages and the forwarding of chain letters are not permitted.*
- *Staff and governors will have access to the internet as agreed by the school but will take care not to allow pupils to use their logon to search the internet.*

#### **Data protection and system security**

- *Staff and governors should ensure that any personal data sent over the internet will be encrypted or sent via secure systems. Where personal data is taken off the school premises via laptops and other mobile systems, the information must be encrypted beforehand.*
- *Use of any portable media such as USB sticks or CD-ROMS is permitted where virus checks can be implemented on the school ICT system using SOPHOS software.*
- *Downloading executable files or unapproved system utilities will not be allowed and all files held on the school ICT system will be regularly checked.*
- *Sharing and use of other people's log-ins and passwords is forbidden. Users should ensure that they log-out when they have finished using a computer terminal.*
- *Files should be saved, stored and deleted in line with the school policy.*

### **Personal use**

- *Staff and governors should not browse, download or send material that could be considered offensive to colleagues and pupils or is illegal.*
- *Staff and governors should not allow school equipment or systems to be used or accessed by unauthorised persons and keep any computers or hardware used at home safe.*
- *Staff and governors should ensure that personal websites or blogs do not contain material that compromises their professional standing or brings the school's name into disrepute.*
- *School ICT systems may not be used for private purposes without permission from the head teacher.*
- *Use of school ICT systems for financial gain, gambling, political purposes or advertising is not permitted.*

*I have read the above policy and agree to abide by its terms.*

**Name:**

**School:**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

## Appendix 3:

### **E-safety incident report form**

*This form should be kept on file and a copy emailed to Camden's e-safety officer at [jenni.spencer@camden.gov.uk](mailto:jenni.spencer@camden.gov.uk)*

#### **School/organisation's details:**

**Name of school/organisation:**

**Address:**

**Name of e-safety contact officer:**

**Contact details:**

#### **Details of incident**

**Date happened:**

**Time:**

**Name of person reporting incident:**

If not reported, how was the incident identified?

**Where did the incident occur?**

- In school/service setting                       Outside school/service setting

**Who was involved in the incident?**

- child/young person                       staff member                       other (please specify)

**Type of incident:**

- bullying or harassment (cyber bullying)  
 deliberately bypassing security or access  
 hacking or virus propagation  
 racist, sexist, homophobic religious hate material  
 terrorist material  
 drug/bomb making material  
 child abuse images  
 on-line gambling  
 soft core pornographic material  
 illegal hard core pornographic material  
 other (please specify)

#### **Description of incident**

## Nature of incident

<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Deliberate access</b></p> <p>Did the incident involve material being;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> created      <input type="checkbox"/> viewed      <input type="checkbox"/> printed      <input type="checkbox"/> shown to others</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> transmitted to others      <input type="checkbox"/> distributed</p> <p>Could the incident be considered as;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> harassment      <input type="checkbox"/> grooming      <input type="checkbox"/> cyber bullying      <input type="checkbox"/> breach of AUP</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Accidental access</b></p> <p>Did the incident involve material being;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> created      <input type="checkbox"/> viewed      <input type="checkbox"/> printed      <input type="checkbox"/> shown to others</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> transmitted to others      <input type="checkbox"/> distributed</p>
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## Action taken

<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Staff</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> incident reported to head teacher/senior manager</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> advice sought from Family Services and Social Work</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> referral made to Family Services and Social Work</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> incident reported to police</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> incident reported to Internet Watch Foundation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> incident reported to IT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> disciplinary action to be taken</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> e-safety policy to be reviewed/amended</p> <p><b>Please detail any specific action taken (ie: removal of equipment)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Child/young person</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> incident reported to head teacher/senior manager</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> advice sought from Family Services and Social Work</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> referral made to Family Services and Social Work</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> incident reported to police</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> incident reported to social networking site</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> incident reported to IT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> child's parents informed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> disciplinary action to be taken</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> child/young person debriefed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> e-safety policy to be reviewed/amended</p>
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## Outcome of incident/investigation

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