



# Southlands School

**(Amended for Melrose School Nov 2020)**

## Online Safety Policy

This policy has been updated in line with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into effect on 25 May 2018, to include further information on consent, data security and the responsibilities of the data protection officer (DPO). The updated policy also includes reference to the 2018 version of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Elements added or updated in response to the regulations have been highlighted as appropriate, e.g. **[New]** or **[Updated]**.

Checked Oct 2020

**ICT co-ordinator D Ferguson**

**ICT Technician Mick Priest**

Last updated: Jan 2019

## **Contents:**

### [Statement of intent](#)

1. [Legal framework](#)
2. [Use of the internet](#)
3. [Roles and responsibilities](#)
4. [Online safety education](#)
5. [Online safety control measures](#)
6. [Cyber bullying](#)
7. [Reporting misuse](#)
8. [Monitoring and review](#)

## 1.1. Statement of intent

At [Southlands School](#), we understand that computer technology is an essential resource for supporting teaching and learning. The internet, and other digital and information technologies, open up opportunities for pupils and play an important role in their everyday lives.

Whilst Southlands school recognises the importance of promoting the use of computer technology throughout the curriculum, we also understand the need for safe internet access and appropriate use.

Southlands school has created this policy with the aim of ensuring appropriate and safe use of the internet and other digital technology devices by all pupils and staff.

Southlands school is committed to providing a safe learning and teaching environment for all pupils and staff and has implemented important controls to mitigate the risk of harm.

## **2. Legal framework**

- 2.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to:
  - **[New]** The General Data Protection Regulation
  - Freedom of Information Act 2000
- 2.2. This policy also has regard to the following statutory guidance:
  - **[Updated]** DfE (2020 'Keeping children safe in education')
  - **[New]** National Cyber Security Centre (2017) 'Cyber Security: Small Business Guide'

## **3. Use of the internet**

- 3.1. Southlands school understands that using the internet is important when raising educational standards, promoting pupil achievement and enhancing teaching and learning.
- 3.2. Internet use is embedded in the statutory curriculum and is therefore an entitlement for all pupils, though there are a number of controls the school is required to implement to minimise harmful risks.
- 3.3. When accessing the internet, individuals are especially vulnerable to a number of risks which may be physically and emotionally harmful, including the following:
  - Access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate images
  - Cyber bullying
  - Access to, or loss of, personal information
  - Access to unsuitable online videos or games
  - Loss of personal images
  - Inappropriate communication with others
  - Illegal downloading of files
  - Exposure to explicit or harmful content, e.g. content involving radicalisation
  - Plagiarism and copyright infringement
  - Sharing the personal information of others without the individual's consent or knowledge

## **4. Roles and responsibilities**

- 4.1. It is the responsibility of all staff to be alert to possible harm to pupils or staff due to inappropriate internet access or use, both inside and outside of the school, and to deal with incidents of such as a priority.
- 4.2. The local authority is responsible for ensuring that there are appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place to safeguard pupils.

- 4.3. All staff are responsible for ensuring the day-to-day online safety in the school and managing any issues that may arise.
- 4.4. Any issues that arise should be made aware to the IT technician, ICT co-ord or a member of the SLT.
- 4.5. The **ICT co-ord** or relevant outside provider will provide all relevant training and advice for members of staff as part of the requirement for staff to undergo regularly updated safeguarding training and be able to teach pupils about online safety.
- 4.6. **[Updated]** The headteacher and data protection officer (DPO) will ensure there is a system in place which monitors and supports the monitoring of online safety in the school, keeping in mind data protection requirements.
- 4.7. The **ICT co-ord and IT Technician** will regularly monitor the provision of e-safety in the school and will provide feedback to the headteacher.
- 4.8. The headteacher will establish a procedure for reporting incidents and inappropriate internet use, either by pupils or staff. (CPOMS)
- 4.9. **The ICT co-ord will ensure that all members of staff are aware of the procedure when reporting online safety incidents and will keep a log of all incidents recorded. (CPOMS)**
- 4.10. The governing board will evaluate and review this online safety Policy on an annual basis, considering the latest developments in ICT and the feedback from staff/pupils.
- 4.11. **[Updated]** The headteacher will review and amend this policy with the ICT co-ord and DPO, taking into account new legislation, government guidance and previously reported incidents, to improve procedures.
- 4.12. Teachers are responsible for ensuring that online safety issues are embedded in the curriculum and safe internet access is promoted at all times.
- 4.13. All staff are responsible for ensuring they are up-to-date with current online safety issues, and this online safety Policy.
- 4.14. All pupils are aware of their responsibilities regarding the use of school-based ICT systems and equipment, including their expected behaviour.

## **5. Online safety education**

### **Educating pupils:**

- 5.1. An online safety programme will be established and taught across the curriculum on a regular basis, ensuring that pupils are aware of the safe use of new technology both inside and outside of the school.
- 5.2. Pupils will be taught about the importance of online safety and are encouraged to be critically aware of the content they access online, including extremist material, and the validity of website content.
- 5.3. Clear guidance on the rules of internet use will be presented in all classrooms.

- 5.4. **[Updated]** Pupils are instructed to report any suspicious use of the internet and digital devices to their classroom teacher.
- 5.5. PSHE lessons will be used to educate pupils about cyber bullying, including how to report cyber bullying, the social effects of spending too much time online and where to access help.
- 5.6. Southlands school will hold online safety events, such as Safer Internet Day and Anti-Bullying Week, to promote online safety.

#### **Educating staff:**

- 5.7. Online training opportunities will be available to all staff members, including whole school activities and CPD training courses.
- 5.8. All staff will undergo online safety training on an annual basis to ensure they are aware of current e-safety online issues and any changes to the provision of online safety, as well as current developments in social media and the internet as a whole.
- 5.9. All staff will employ methods of good practice and act as role models for pupils when using the internet and other digital devices.
- 5.10. All staff will be educated on which sites are deemed appropriate and inappropriate.
- 5.11. The ICT co-ord will act as the first point of contact for staff requiring online safety advice.

#### **Educating parents:**

- 5.12. Online safety information will be directly delivered to parents through a variety of formats, including newsletters, the school website and social media.
- 5.13. Parents' evenings, meetings and other similar occasions will be utilised to inform parents of any e-safety related concerns.

### **6. E-safety control measures**

#### **Internet access:**

- 6.1. **[New]** Internet access will be monitored daily by the IT technician and relevant appropriate monitoring software.
- 6.2. All users will be provided with usernames and passwords and will be instructed to keep these confidential to avoid any other pupils using their login details.
- 6.3. Management systems will be in place to allow relevant teachers and members of staff to control workstations and monitor pupils' activity.
- 6.4. Effective filtering systems will be established to eradicate any potential risks to pupils through access to, or trying to access, certain websites which are harmful or use inappropriate material.
- 6.5. Filtering systems will be used which are relevant to pupils' age ranges, their frequency of use of ICT systems, and the proportionality of costs compared to risks.

- 6.6. Any requests by staff for websites to be added or removed from the filtering list must be first authorised by the local authority
- 6.7. All school systems will be protected by up-to-date virus software.
- 6.8. An agreed procedure will be in place for the provision of temporary users, e.g. volunteers.
- 6.9. Master users' passwords will be available to the headteacher for regular monitoring of activity.
- 6.10. Staff are able to use the internet for personal use during out-of-school hours, as well as break and lunch times.
- 6.11. Personal use will only be monitored by the ICT co-ord for access to any inappropriate or explicit sites, where the need to do so outweighs the need for privacy.
- 6.12. Inappropriate internet access by staff may result in the staff member being permitted to use the internet for school purposes only and prohibited from using any personal devices. This will be dealt with following the process outlined in the [misuse by staff](#) section of this policy.

**Email:**

- 6.13. Pupils and staff will be given approved email accounts and are only able to use these accounts.
- 6.14. The use of personal email accounts to send and receive personal data or information is prohibited.
- 6.15. No sensitive personal data shall be sent to any other pupils, staff or third parties via email.
- 6.16. Pupils are made aware that all email messages are monitored and that the filtering system will detect inappropriate links, viruses, malware and profanity.
- 6.17. Staff members are aware that their email messages are not monitored.
- 6.18. Chain letters spam and all other emails from unknown sources will be deleted without opening.
- 6.19. **[New]** Staff will not be punished if they are caught out by cyber-attacks as this may prevent similar reports in the future. The ICT co-ord/IT Tech will conduct an investigation; however, this will be to identify the cause of the attack, any compromised data and if there are any steps that can be taken in the future to prevent similar attacks happening.

**Social networking:**

- 6.20. The use of social media on behalf of the school will be conducted following the processes outlined in our Social Media Policy.
- 6.21. Access to social networking sites will be filtered as appropriate.

- 6.22. Should access be needed to social networking sites for any reason, this will be monitored and controlled by staff at all times and must be first authorised by the headteacher.
- 6.23. Pupils are regularly educated on the implications of posting personal data online outside of the school.
- 6.24. Staff are regularly educated on posting inappropriate photos or information online, which may potentially affect their position and the school as a whole.
- 6.25. Staff are not permitted to communicate with pupils over social networking sites and are reminded to alter their privacy settings.
- 6.26. Staff are not permitted to publish comments about the school which may affect its reputation.
- 6.27. Staff are not permitted to access social media sites during teaching hours unless it is beneficial to the material being taught. This will be discussed with the headteacher prior to accessing the social media site.

**Published content on the school website:**

- 6.28. The headteacher will be responsible for the overall content of the website and will ensure the content is appropriate and accurate.
- 6.29. Contact details on the school website will include the phone number, email and address of the school – no personal details of staff or pupils will be published.
- 6.30. Images and full names of pupils, or any content that may easily identify a pupil, will be selected carefully and will not be posted until authorisation from parents has been received.
- 6.31. Pupils are not permitted to take or publish photos of others without permission from the individual.
- 6.32. Staff are able to take pictures, though they must do so in accordance with photography permission for students signed as part of the school contract. Staff will not take pictures using their personal equipment.
- 6.33. Any member of staff that is representing the school online, e.g. through blogging, must express neutral opinions and not disclose any confidential information regarding the school, or any information that may affect its reputability.

**Mobile devices and hand-held computers:**

- 6.34. Pupils are not permitted to access the school's Wi-Fi system at any time using their mobile devices and hand-held computers.
- 6.35. Mobile devices are not permitted to be used during school hours by pupils.
- 6.36. **[Updated]** Staff are permitted to use hand-held computers which have been provided by the school, though internet access will be monitored for any inappropriate use by the ICT co-ord where it is justifiable to do so and the justification outweighs the need for privacy.
- 6.37. The sending of inappropriate messages or images from mobile devices is prohibited.

- 6.38. **[New]** The DPO will, in collaboration with the ICT co-ord, ensure all school-owned devices are password protected – these passwords will be changed after each use to ensure their security.
- 6.39. **[New]** **ICT technicians** may review mobile devices and hand-held computers on a request basis to ensure all apps are compliant with data protection regulations and up-to-date, and to carry out any required updates.
- 6.40. **[New]** **ICT technicians and the ICT co-ord** will review and authorise any apps and/or computer programmes before they are downloaded – no apps or programmes will be downloaded without express permission from an ICT technician or the ICT co-ord.
- 6.41. **[New]** Apps will only be downloaded from manufacturer approved stores, e.g. Google Play and the Apple App Store.
- 6.42. **[New]** Mobile devices includes watches.

#### **Network security:**

- 6.43. Network profiles for each pupil and staff member are created in which the individual must enter a username and personal password when accessing the ICT systems within the school.
- 6.44. Passwords have a minimum and maximum length, to prevent 'easy' passwords or mistakes when creating passwords.
- 6.45. Passwords will require a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols to ensure they are secure as possible.
- 6.46. **[New]** The ICT technicians will ensure all school-owned laptops and computers have their encryption settings turned on or, if there is no built-in encryption option, encryption software is installed.
- 6.47. **[New]** Important folders, e.g. those including pupils' medical records, will be password protected for data protection.

#### **Virus management:**

- 6.48. Technical security features, such as virus software, are kept up-to-date and managed by the ICT technicians.
- 6.49. The ICT technician will ensure that the filtering of websites and downloads is up-to-date and monitored.
- 6.50. **[New]** Firewalls will be switched on at all times – ICT technician will review these on a regular basis to ensure they are running correctly and to carry out any required updates.
- 6.51. **[New]** Firewalls and other virus management systems, e.g. anti-virus software, will be maintained.
- 6.52. **[New]** Staff members will report all malware and virus attacks to the ICT technician/ICT co-ord and DPO immediately.

#### **Online safety committee:**

- 6.53. The Online safety Policy will be monitored and evaluated by the school's ICT co-ord on an annual basis.

## **7. Cyber bullying**

- 7.1. For the purposes of this policy, cyber bullying is a form of bullying whereby an individual is the victim of harmful or offensive messages, or the posting of information or images online.
- 7.2. Southlands school recognises that both staff and pupils may experience cyber bullying and is committed to responding appropriately to instances that should occur.
- 7.3. Southlands school will regularly educate staff, pupils and parents on the importance of staying safe online, as well as being considerate to what they post online.
- 7.4. Pupils will be educated about online safety through teaching and learning opportunities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum; this includes covering relevant issues within PSHE lessons as well as sex and relationship education.
- 7.5. Southlands school will commit to creating a learning and teaching environment which is free from harassment and bullying, ensuring the happiness of all members of staff and pupils.
- 7.6. Southlands school has zero tolerance for cyber bullying, and any incidents will be treated with the utmost seriousness and will be dealt with.
- 7.7. The headteacher will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the police or anti-social behaviour coordinator in their LA of the action taken against a pupil.

## **8. Reporting misuse**

- 8.1. Southlands School will clearly define what is classed as inappropriate behaviour in the Acceptable Use Agreement, ensuring all pupils and staff members are aware of what behaviour is expected of them.
- 8.2. Inappropriate activities are discussed and the reasoning behind prohibiting activities due to online safety are explained to pupils as part of the curriculum in order to promote responsible internet use.

### **Misuse by pupils:**

- 8.3. Teachers have the power to discipline pupils who engage in misbehaviour with regards to internet use.
- 8.4. Any instances of misuse should be immediately reported to a member of staff, who will then report this to the headteacher using.
- 8.5. Any pupil who does not adhere to the rules outlined in our Acceptable Use Agreement and is found to be wilfully misusing the internet will have their parents contacted and may have internet use suspended.
- 8.6. Members of staff may decide to issue other forms of disciplinary action to a pupil upon the misuse of the internet.

- 8.7. Complaints of a child protection nature, such as when a pupil is found to be accessing extremist material, shall be dealt with in accordance with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

**Misuse by staff:**

- 8.8. Any misuse of the internet by a member of staff should be immediately reported to the headteacher.
- 8.9. The headteacher will deal with such incidents and may decide to take disciplinary action against the member of staff.

**Use of illegal material:**

- 8.10. In the event that illegal material is found on the school's network, or evidence suggests that illegal material has been accessed, headteacher will be informed and the police will be contacted.
- 8.11. If a child protection incident is suspected, the school's child protection procedure will be followed – the DSL and headteacher will be informed and the police contacted.
- 8.12. **[New]** Staff will not view or forward illegal images of a child. If they are made aware of such an image, they will contact the DSL.

**9. Monitoring and review**

- 9.1. The ICT co-ord will evaluate and review this Online safety Policy on an annual basis, the latest developments in ICT and feedback from staff/pupils.
- 9.2. This policy will also be reviewed on an annual basis by the governing board; any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.
- 9.3. Members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction programmes.

No addendum added for Melrose Centre