

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Online Safety Policy

Agreed by Governors: October 2023

To be reviewed: October 2024

Mission Statement

*As one family working together
to be the best that we can be,
we live, love and learn with Jesus.*

This policy should be read alongside policies and procedures on Safeguarding and Child Protection. It applies to all members of staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in activities at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School.

Introduction and Purpose

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.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children.

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 but that 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 our school's network and devices
- 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
- 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.

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

- appointing an online safety co-ordinator
- providing clear and specific directions to members of staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults
- supporting and encouraging the young people 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

- respond quickly to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child
- 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 permission has been obtained and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- providing supervision, support and training for members of staff and volunteers about online safety

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

- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse
- providing support and training for all members of staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying or 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 safeguarding and online safety plans regularly

Contact details

Online Safety

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MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This policy will be regularly reviewed by staff and governors and when local or national directives are received.