



**Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies**

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

# E-Safety Policy

## **Background / Rationale**

New technologies have become integral to the lives of our children and young people, in today's society, both within the Academies and in their lives outside the Academies.

The internet and other digital and information technologies are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. Electronic communication helps teachers and students learn from each other. These technologies can stimulate discussion, promote creativity and increase awareness of context to promote effective learning. Children and young people should always have an entitlement to safe internet access.

The requirement to ensure that children and young people are able to use the internet and related communications technologies appropriately and safely is addressed as part of the wider duty of care to which all who work in the Academies are bound. A school e-safety policy should help to ensure safe and appropriate use. The development and implementation of such a strategy should involve all the stakeholders in a child's education from the Principal and Governors to the Senior Leaders and classroom teachers, support staff, parents, members of the community and the students themselves. The use of these exciting and innovative tools in school and at home has been shown to raise educational standards and promote student achievement.

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

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

Many of these risks reflect situations in the off-line world and it is essential that this E-Safety Policy is used in conjunction with other Academy Policies, including the Acceptable Use Policy, Behaviour Policy and Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy.

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

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

The Academies will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- Logs of reported incidents
- Internet provider monitoring logs of internet activity (including sites visited)
- Internal monitoring data for network activity
- Surveys / questionnaires – students; parents/carers; staff

### **Scope of the Policy**

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

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers Headteachers, to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of students when they are off the Academies site and empowers members of staff to impose disciplinary penalties for inappropriate behaviour. This is pertinent to incidents of cyber-bullying, or other e-safety incidents covered by this policy, which may take place outside of the Academies, but is linked to membership of the Academies. The Academies will deal with such incidents within this policy and associated behaviour and anti-bullying policies and will, where known, inform parents/carers of incidents of inappropriate e-safety behaviour that take place out of the Academies.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The following section outlines the roles and responsibilities for e-safety of individuals and groups within the Academies:

### Governors:

- Governors are responsible for the approval of the E-Safety Policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy. This will be carried out through regular reporting to the Governor Committee by the Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding and Child Protection.

### Principal / Senior Leaders:

- The Principal is responsible for ensuring the safety (including e-safety) of members of the Academies community, through the day-to-day responsibility for e-safety will be delegated to the Designated Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection
- The Designated Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection will liaise with the Academies Network Manager and ICT staff in order to monitor all aspects of E-Safety
- The Principal and Designated Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection will set out procedures to be followed in the event of a serious e-safety allegation being made against a member of staff in line with the Academies Acceptable User Policy and Safeguarding Policy

The Designated Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection will also:

- Liaise with relevant staff
- Have a leading role in establishing and reviewing the Academies e-safety policy and other relevant documents
- Ensures that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an e-safety incident taking place
- Provides training and advice for staff
- Liaise with the Academies ICT teaching and technical staff
- Receive reports of e-safety incidents and ensure a log of incidents is kept informing future e-safety developments
- Meets regularly with the Safeguarding Governors to discuss current issues, review incident logs and filtering / change control logs
- Attends relevant Governor meetings

## **Network Manager / Technical Staff**

The Network Manager, ICT Support Staff are responsible for ensuring:

- That the Academies ICT infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack
- That the Academies meet appropriate e-safety technical requirements to fulfil the Acceptable Use Policy
- That users may only access the Academies networks through a properly enforced password protection system, in which passwords are regularly changed
- That the filtering software provider is informed of issues relating to the filtering they apply
- That they keep up to date with e-safety technical information in order to effectively carry out their e-safety role and to inform and update others as relevant
- That the use of the network / Virtual Learning Environment (**VLE**) / remote access / email is regularly monitored in order that any misuse or attempted misuse can be reported to the Designated Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection for investigation and action
- That monitoring software / systems are implemented and updated as agreed in Academy policies

## **Teaching and Support Staff**

Teaching and Support Staff are responsible for ensuring that:

- They have an up-to-date awareness of e-safety matters and of the current Academies e-safety policy and practices
- They have read, understood and signed off the Academies Staff Acceptable Use Policy
- They report any suspected misuse of problem to the Designated Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection or Network Manager as appropriate
- Digital communications with students (email / Virtual Learning Environment) should be on a professional level and only carried out using official Academy systems
- E-safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other Academy activities
- Students understand and follow the Academies e-safety and Acceptable Use Policy
- Students have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations
- They monitor ICT activity in lessons, extra-curricular and extended Academy activities

- They are aware of e-safety issues related to the use of mobile phones, cameras and handheld devices and that they monitor their use and implement current Academy policies about these devices
- In lessons where internet use is pre-planned, students should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches

## **Students**

- Are responsible for using the Academies ICT systems in accordance with the Student Acceptable Use Policy, which they will be expected to sign before being given access to Academy systems
- Have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations
- Need to understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and know how to do so
- Will be expected to know and understand Academy policies on the use of mobile phones, digital cameras and handheld devices. They should also know and understand Academy policies on the taking / use of images and on cyberbullying
- Should understand the importance of adopting good e-safety practice when using digital technologies out of the Academy and realise that the Academies E-Safety Policy covers their actions whilst outside of the Academies, if related to their membership of the Academies

## **Parents / Carers**

Parents / Carers play a crucial role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use the internet/mobile devices in an appropriate way. Research shows that many parents and carers do not fully understand the issues and are less experienced in the use of ICT than their children. The Academies will therefore take every opportunity to help parents understand these issues through parents' evenings, newsletters, letters, website / **VLE** and information about national / local e-safety campaigns / literature.

Parents and carers will be responsible for:

- Endorsing (by signature) the Student Acceptable Use Policy
- Accessing the Academies website / on-line student systems / student records in accordance with the relevant Academy Acceptable Use Policy

Whilst regulation and technical solutions are very important, their use must be balanced by educating students to take a responsible approach. The education of students in e-safety is therefore an essential part of the Academies e-safety provision. Children and young people need the help and support of the Academies to recognise and avoid e-safety risks and build their resilience.

E-Safety education will be provided in the following ways:

- Through a planned e-safety programme through SMSC and other lessons and should be regularly revisited – this will cover both the use of ICT and new technologies in and outside school
- Through key e-safety messages reinforced as part of a planned programme of assemblies and tutor activities
- Students should be taught in all lessons to be critically aware of the materials / content they access on-line and be guided to validate the accuracy of information
- Students should be helped to understand the Acceptable Use Policy and encouraged to adopt safe and responsible use of ICT, the internet and mobile devices both within and outside of the Academies
- Students will be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet
- Staff should act as good role models in their use of ICT, the internet and mobile devices  
Many parents and carers have only a limited understanding of e-safety risks and issues, yet they play an essential role in the education of their children and in the monitoring / regulation of the children's on-line experiences. Parents often either underestimate or do not realise how often children and young people come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the internet and are often unsure about what they would do about it. "There is a generational digital divide" – Byron Report.

The Academies will therefore seek to provide information and awareness to parents and carers through:

- Letters, newsletters, web site, VLE
- Parents consultation and information evenings

All staff will receive e-safety training in order to understand their responsibilities, as outlined in the policy. Training may take the format of:

- A planned programme of formal e-safety training made available to staff. It is expected that some staff will identify e-safety as a training need within the performance management process

- All new staff will receive e-safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the Academies E-Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Policy
- Regular updates will be provided to all staff through ICT staff or the Designated Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection

Governors will be invited to take part in E-Safety training through:

- Attendance at training provided by the Local Authority / National Governors Association / SWGfL or another relevant organisation
- Participation in Academy training / information sessions for staff or parents

## Curriculum

### **E-Safety should be a focus in all areas of the curriculum and should reinforce E-Safety messages in the use of ICT across the curriculum**

- In lessons where internet use is pre-planned, it is best practice that students should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches
- Where students can freely search the internet, e.g. using search engines, staff should be vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites the young people visit  
It is accepted that from time to time, for good educational reasons, students may need to research topics (e.g. racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request that the Network Manager can temporarily remove those sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Any request to do so, should be auditable, with clear reasons for the need
- Students should be taught in all lessons to be critically aware of the materials / content they access on-line and be guided to validate the accuracy of information
- Students should be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet

## **Use of digital and video images – photographic, video**

The development of digital imaging technologies has created significant benefits to learning, allowing staff and students instant use of images that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet. However, staff and students need to be aware of the risks associated with sharing images and with posting digital images on the internet. Those images may remain available on the internet forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term. There are many reported incidents of employers carrying out internet searches for information about potential and existing employees. The Academies will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement systems to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm.

### **When using digital images, staff should inform and educate students about the rules and risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images.**

- Staff are allowed to take digital / video images to support educational aims but must follow Images of Children protocol concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images. Those images should only be taken on Academy equipment, the personal equipment of staff should not be used for such purposes unless explicit permission has been given by the Principal – see Safeguarding Policy for further details
- Care should be taken when taking digital / video images that students are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals of the Academy into disrepute
- Students must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission
- Photographs published on the website, or elsewhere that include students will be selected carefully and will comply with Images of Children protocol
- Students' full names will not be used anywhere on a website or blog, particularly in association with photographs unless complying with Images of Children protocol
- Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of students are published on the Academies websites

## **Data Protection**

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the Data Protection Act 1998 which states that personal data must be:

- Fairly and lawfully processed
- Processed for limited purposes
- Adequate, relevant and not excessive

- Accurate
- Kept no longer than is necessary
- Processed in accordance with the data subject's rights
- Secure
- Only transferred to others with adequate protection

Staff must ensure that they:

- At all times take care to ensure the safe keeping of personal data, minimising the risk of its loss or misuse
- Use personal data only on secure password protected computers and other devices, ensuring that they are properly 'logged-off' at the end of any session in which they are using personal data
- Transfer data using encryption and secure password protected devices

When personal data is stored on any portable computer system:

- The data must be encrypted, and password protected
- The device must be password protected (many memory sticks / cards and other mobile devices cannot be password protected)
- The device must offer approved virus and malware checking software
- The data must be securely deleted from the device, in line with Academy policy once it has been transferred or its use is complete

## **Communications**

When using communication technologies, the Academies will consider the following as good practice:

- The official Academy email service may be regarded as safe and secure and is monitored
- Users need to be aware that email communications are monitored
- Users must immediately report the receipt of any email that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such email
- Any digital communication between staff and students or parents / carers (email, chat, VLE etc) must be professional in tone and content. These communications may only take place on official (monitored) Academy systems. Personal email addresses, text messaging or public chat / social networking programmes must not be used for these communications

- Students should be taught about email safety issues, such as the risks attached to the use of personal details. They should also be taught strategies to deal with inappropriate emails and be reminded of the need to write emails clearly and correctly and not include any unsuitable or abusive material
- Personal information should not be posted on the Academies website and only official email addresses should be used to identify members of staff

### Responding to incidents of misuse

It is hoped that all members of the Academies community will be responsible users of ICT, who understand and follow this policy. However, there may be times when infringements of the policy could take place, through careless, irresponsible or, very rarely, through deliberate misuse.

Examples of misuse include:

- Child sexual abuse images
- Adult material which potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act
- Criminally racist material
- Other criminal conduct, activity or materials

Incidents of misuse will be dealt with in line with either the LA or United Learning Safeguarding and Disciplinary procedures.

Any breach of the above will be sanctioned under our behaviour system rules. A warning letter is given on the first occasion and a SLT detention on the second in a term. We reserve the right to remove a student's access to the internet for continued violations of the Acceptable Use Policy and E-safety Policy. Any internet search of concern is referred to our safeguarding team.

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