



Online Safety

Date: September 2023
Review Due: September 2024

Reviewed Annually

Riverley Primary School's lead professional for Online Safety is Sabrina Reilly (Head).

This policy has been written for Riverley Primary School, in line with local and national guidance.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy (Child Protection), the Anti-bullying Policy and the PSHE policy.

Background

At Riverley Primary School we understand the benefits and the risks associated with using the internet. This policy sets out clear procedures to ensure our pupils are safe and that they can learn how to use the Internet and ever-changing technologies in a safe and discerning way.

Adults, as well as young people, can find themselves vulnerable to malicious use of the Internet both in their personal and professional lives. This policy highlights the importance of training and guidance in good practice in safer use of the Internet for staff. The policy also recognises that there are other safety issues associated with using technologies, such as over-exposure to LCD screens, privacy etc.

The Internet and associated technology is a rapidly evolving environment where new opportunities and risks appear daily. Pupils learn to manage existing risks and understand the dynamic nature of technologies, so that they are able deal confidently with challenges in the future, whatever they might be.

We aim to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors
- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate.

1. Teaching and learning

As we move towards a more digital curriculum, we will actively promote the use of 'real-world' technologies to enhance and support learning.

1.1 Why Internet use is important

- The Internet is an essential element in 21st century life for education, business and social interaction. The school has a duty to provide students with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience
- Internet use is a part of the statutory curriculum and a necessary tool for staff and pupils.

1.2 Internet use will enhance learning

- The school Internet access will be designed expressly for pupil use and will include filtering appropriate to the age of pupils.
- Pupils will be taught the differences between acceptable and unacceptable Internet use and given clear objectives for Internet use.

- The school is vigilant in its supervision of pupils' use at all times, as far as is reasonable, and uses common-sense strategies in learning resource areas where older pupils have more flexible access.
- Pupils will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation.

Good Practice

- Teachers will update and check websites before accessing with the children to ensure that the content is appropriate. The curriculum is planned in context for Internet use to match pupils' ability, using child-friendly search engines where more open Internet searching is required.
- Parents provide consent for pupils to use the Internet, as well as other ICT technologies, as part of the online safety acceptable use agreement form at time of their child's entry to the school.
- The school makes it clear that all users know and understand what the 'rules of appropriate use' are and what sanctions result from misuse – through staff meetings and the curriculum plans.
- A record is kept of any Cyberbullying or inappropriate behaviour in-line with the school behaviour management system. Parents/family members are informed of significant or repeated inappropriate behaviours
- The school ensures the Designated Safeguarding Lead Professional has appropriate training in E-Safety and Online Safety practice.
- The school provides advice and information on reporting offensive materials, abuse/ bullying etc and makes this available for pupils, staff and parents.
- E-Safety advice for pupils, staff and parents is provided.
- The school ensures that when copying materials from the web, staff and pupils understand issues around plagiarism; how to check copyright and also know that they must observe and respect copyright / intellectual property rights.
- The school ensures that staff and pupils understand the issues around aspects of the commercial use of the Internet, as age appropriate. This may include, risks in pop-ups; buying on-line; on-line gaming / gambling.
- The school makes training on the Online Safety education available to staff
- The school gives advice, guidance and training for parents, including Information leaflets; practical sessions; in school newsletters; on the school web site.

1.3 Pupils will be taught how to evaluate Internet content

- The school will ensure that the use of Internet derived materials by staff and pupils complies with copyright law.
- Pupils are taught to be critically aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.

Riverley has a clear, progressive e-safety education programme throughout all Key Stages, built on local and national guidance. Pupils are taught a range of skills and behaviours appropriate to their age and experience, such as:

- to STOP and THINK before they CLICK
- to discriminate between fact, fiction and opinion;
- to develop a range of strategies to validate and verify information before accepting its accuracy
- to skim and scan information;
- to be aware that the author of a web site / page may have a particular bias or purpose and to develop skills to recognise what that may be;

- to know how to narrow down or refine a search;
- [for older pupils] to understand how search engines work and to understand that this affects the results they see at the top of the listings;
- [for older pupils] to understand 'Netiquette' behaviour when using an online environment / email, i.e. be polite, no bad or abusive language or other inappropriate behaviour; keeping personal information private;
- [for older pupils] to understand how photographs can be manipulated and how web content can attract the wrong sort of attention;
- [for older pupils] to understand why on-line 'friends' may not be who they say they are and to understand why they should be careful in online environments;
- [for older pupils] to understand why they should not post or share detailed accounts of their personal lives, contact information, daily routines, location, photographs and videos and to know how to ensure they have turned-on privacy settings;
- [for older pupils] to understand why they must not post pictures or videos of others without their permission;
- [for older pupils] to know not to download any files – such as music files - without permission;
- [for older pupils] to have strategies for dealing with receipt of inappropriate materials;
- [for older pupils] to understand online purchasing e.g. apps and within app purchases
- [for older pupils] to understand why and how some people will 'groom' others with inappropriate or illegal motives.

2. Managing Internet Access

2.1 Information system security

- School ICT systems capacity and security are reviewed regularly.
- Virus protection is updated regularly.

2.2 E-mail

- Pupils may only use approved school e-mail accounts on the school system.
- E-mail sent to an external organisation should be written carefully and authorised before sending, in the same way as a letter written on school headed paper.
- The forwarding of chain letters is not permitted.

2.3 Published content and the school web site

- The contact details on the Web site are the school address, e-mail and telephone number. Staff, pupils' or governor's personal information will not be published.
- The Head will take overall editorial responsibility and ensure that content is accurate and appropriate.

2.4 Publishing pupil's images and work

- Photographs that include pupils will not refer to the pupil by name. Digital images /video of pupils stored in a teacher's documents or shared images folder on the network are deleted at the end of the year – unless specifically required for a key school publication or assessment information.
- Images of children and staff are not to be taken on or away from school premises by parents or visitors, unless prior permission is sought and given by the school or at scheduled school events such as assemblies or festivals.

- Pupils are not identified by their full name in online photographic materials in the credits of any published school produced video materials / DVDs.
- Parental agreement is obtained, through the consent form signed at point of admission, before pupils' images are published on the school's website or other publications e.g. local newspapers.
- Staff are not allowed to use mobile phones / personal equipment for taking pictures of pupils.
- Pupils are taught about how images can be manipulated in their Online Safety education programme and also taught to consider how to publish for a wide range of audiences, which might include governors, parents or younger children.

2.5 Social networking and personal publishing

- The school blocks/filters access to social networking sites or newsgroups unless there is a specific, approved educational purpose.
- Pupils are advised to be very careful about placing any personal photos on any 'social' online network space. They are taught to understand the need to maintain privacy settings so as not to make public, personal information.
- Newsgroups will be blocked unless a specific use is approved.
- Pupils are advised never to give out personal details of any kind which may identify them or their location.
- Pupils and parents are advised that the use of some social network spaces, for example Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat outside school is inappropriate for primary aged pupils and that some of these sites have minimum age requirements.
- Pupils are taught that they should not post images or videos of others without their permission. They are taught about the risks associated with providing information with images (including the name of the file), that reveals the identity of others and their location, such as house number, street name or school. They are taught the need to keep their data secure and what to do if they are subject to bullying or abuse.

2.6 Managing filtering

- The school will work with relevant providers to ensure systems which protect pupils are regularly reviewed and improved.
- If staff or pupils discover an unsuitable site, it must be reported to the Head. Concerns are escalated to the Technical service provider as necessary.
- The school will immediately refer any material we suspect is illegal to the appropriate authorities e.g Police, and the local authority.
- Senior staff will ensure that regular checks are made to ensure that the filtering methods selected are appropriate, effective and reasonable.

2.7 Managing emerging technologies

- Emerging technologies will be examined for educational benefit and a risk assessment will be carried out before use in school is allowed.
- Mobile phones will not be used during lessons or formal school time. The sending of abusive or inappropriate text messages is forbidden.

2.8 Protecting personal data

- Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the Data Protection Act 1998

3. Policy Decisions

3.1 Authorising Internet access

- The school reserves the right to withdraw Internet access from a pupil or member of staff in the event of misuse or infringement of policy.

3.2 Assessing risks

- The school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users access only appropriate material. However, due to the international scale and linked nature of Internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never appear on a school computer. Neither the school nor LBWF can accept liability for the material accessed, or any consequences of Internet access.
- The school will audit ICT provision to establish whether the Online Safety policy is adequate and that its implementation is effective.

3.3 Handling Online Safety complaints

- Complaints of Internet misuse will be dealt with by a senior member of staff.
- Any complaint about staff misuse must be referred to the Head.
- Complaints of a child protection nature must be dealt with in accordance with school child protection procedures.
- Discussions will be held with the Police Youth Crime Reduction Officer to establish procedures for handling potentially illegal issues.

3.4 Community use of the Internet

- The school will liaise with local organisations to establish a common approach to online safety.

4. Communications Policy

4.1 Introducing the Online Safety policy to pupils

- Online Safety rules are displayed in all classrooms and other work areas and are discussed with the pupils on a regular basis.
- Pupils are informed that network and Internet use will be monitored.
- Pupils are not allowed to use mobile phones in school.

4.2 Staff and the Online Safety policy

- The Online Safety Policy is distributed to all staff and is included in child protection training sessions.
- Internet usage is able to be monitored and can be traced to the individual user.
- Discretion and professional conduct is essential.

4.3 Enlisting parents' support

The school will raise parents' awareness of internet safety in letters or other communications home, and in information via our website. This policy will also be shared with parents. Online safety will also be covered during parents' evenings.

If parents have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with the Head and/or the DSL.

Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the Head. Parents/carers' attention will be drawn to the school Online Safety Policy in a variety of ways including: newsletters, open evening events and on the school Web site. A range of resources and activities are available through:

- CEOP – Child Exploitation and Online Protection
- http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5_7/
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/Teachers/Lee-And-Kim/>
- http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers/resources/?tabID=2>

5. Cyber-bullying

5.1 Definition

Cyber-bullying takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites. Like other forms of bullying, it is the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. (See also the school behaviour policy.)

5.2 Preventing and addressing cyber-bullying

- To help prevent cyber-bullying, we will ensure that pupils understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure that pupils know how they can report any incidents and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim.
- The school will actively discuss cyber-bullying with pupils, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. Staff will discuss cyber-bullying with their classes, and the issue will be addressed in assemblies.
- Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the curriculum to cover cyber-bullying. This includes personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, and other subjects where appropriate.
- All staff, governors and volunteers (where appropriate) receive training on cyber-bullying, its impact and ways to support pupils, as part of safeguarding training.
- In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, the school will follow the processes set out in the school behaviour policy. Where illegal, inappropriate or harmful material has been spread among pupils, the school will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the incident is contained.
- The DSL will consider whether the incident should be reported to the police if it involves illegal material, and will work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

5.3 Examining electronic devices

- School staff have the specific power under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (which has been increased by the Education Act 2011) to search for and, if necessary, delete inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices, including mobile phones, iPads and other tablet devices, where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

- When deciding whether there is a good reason to examine or erase data or files on an electronic device, staff must reasonably suspect that the data or file in question has been, or could be, used to:
 - Cause harm, and/or
 - Disrupt teaching, and/or
 - Break any of the school rules
- If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the staff member in conjunction with the DSL or other member of the senior leadership team to decide whether they should:
 - Delete that material, or
 - Retain it as evidence (of a criminal offence or a breach of school discipline), and/or
 - Report it to the police
- Any searching of pupils will be carried out in line with the DfE's latest guidance on [screening, searching and confiscation](#).
- Any complaints about searching for or deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices will be dealt with through the school complaints procedure.