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| **HIGH STREET COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL** |
| E-Safety and Acceptable Use Policy |

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| DATE ADOPTED | Autumn 2024 |
| LAST REVIEWED | N/A |
| AUTHOR/OWNER | Technology Team |
| REVIEW CYCLE | 2 years |
| NEXT REVIEW DATE | Autumn 2026 |

**1: Our Mission Statement**

**‘Working Together to Achieve’   
 W – Welcoming H – Happy S - Safe**

**Our Aims (Outcomes)**

At High Street we aim for all children to:

* Develop confidence and emotional intelligence
* Aspire to reach their full potential
* To become independent thinkers and lifelong learners
* Respect differences in others
* Value themselves and celebrate the achievements of all
* Take responsibility for themselves, the community and the wider world.

**Objectives**

The objectives of our school are:

1. To educate each child through a broad, balanced and creative curriculum
2. To ensure the wellbeing, safety and inclusion of all individuals
3. To provide a positive physical environment to enhance the curriculum through practical and first-hand experiences.
4. To maintain professional communication between all stakeholders
5. To encourage high expectations which value enterprise and effort
6. To prepare children for an interdependent and globalised world.

**Inclusion Statement**

Our school aims to be an inclusive school. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for our children. We make this a reality through the attention we pay to the different groups of children within our school:

* All genders;
* Ethnic and faith groups;
* Children who need support to learn English as an additional language;
* Children with special educational needs and or disabilities;
* Gifted and talented children;
* Any children who are at risk of disaffection or exclusion.

**David Stott Chair of Governors**

**The purpose of this policy statement**

Winsford High Street Community Primary School understands the importance of children being able to use the internet for education and personal development. This includes social media platforms, games and apps. We aim to support children and young people in making use of these in our work. However, we also recognise that safeguards need to be in place to ensure children are kept safe at all times.

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.

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in online activities at Winsford High Street Community Primary School.

**Legal framework**

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

**Key Aspects**

**Online abuse**

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the internet, facilitated through technology like computers, tablets, mobile phones and other internet-enabled devices (Department for Education, 2018; Department of Health, 2017; Scottish Government, 2021; Welsh Assembly Government, 2018). It can happen anywhere online that allows digital communication, such as:

* social networks
* text messages and messaging apps
* email and private messaging
* online chats
* comments on live streaming sites
* voice chat in games.

Children and young people can be revictimised (experience further abuse) when abusive content is recorded, uploaded or shared by others online. This can happen if the original abuse happened online or offline.

Children and young people may experience several types of abuse online:

* bullying/cyberbullying
* emotional abuse (this includes emotional blackmail, for example pressuring children and young people to comply with sexual requests via technology)
* sexting (pressure or coercion to create sexual images)
* sexual abuse
* sexual exploitation.

Children and young people can also be groomed online: perpetrators may use online platforms to build a trusting relationship with the child in order to abuse them. This abuse may happen online or the perpetrator may arrange to meet the child in person with the intention of abusing them.

**Bullying**

Bullying is when individuals or groups seek to harm, intimidate or coerce someone who is perceived to be vulnerable (Oxford English Dictionary, 2021).

It can involve people of any age, and can happen anywhere – at home, school or using online platforms and technologies (cyberbullying). This means it can happen at any time.

Bullying encompasses a range of behaviours which may be combined and may include the behaviours and actions we have set out below.

**Verbal abuse:**

* Name-calling
* Saying nasty things to or about a child or their family.

**Physical abuse:**

* hitting a child
* pushing a child
* physical assault.

**Emotional abuse:**

* Making threats
* Undermining a child
* Excluding a child from a friendship group or activities.

**Cyberbullying/online bullying:**

* Excluding a child from online games, activities or friendship groups
* Sending threatening, upsetting or abusive messages
* Creating and sharing embarrassing or malicious images or videos
* 'trolling' - sending menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games
* Voting for or against someone in an abusive poll
* Setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child
* Creating fake accounts, hijacking or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name.

Bullying can be a form of discrimination, particularly if it is based on a child’s disability, race, religion or belief, gender identity or sexuality.

**Child Protection**

All School and colleges have a duty to safeguard the children under their care. The ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ (KCSIE) statutory guidance for schools and colleges sets out the requirements and legislation on safeguarding children and safer recruitment. All members of staff and volunteers are required to read this document, undertake DBS checks and take part in safeguarding training as provided by the Local Authority.

**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; however 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 Winsford High Street Community primary 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 team/coordinators.

• Providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults.

• Supporting and encouraging the young people using our service 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

• Developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child or young person

• 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 their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given

• Providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety

• Examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

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

• Having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)

• Providing support and training for all 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 the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

Chair of Governors: David Stott

Autumn 2024