SOMPTING ABBOTTS SCHOOL

Online safety policy

Approved by:	Stuart Douch	**Date:** 6th September 2022
Last reviewed on:	September 2022	
Next review due by:	September 2023	

The school’s Online Safety Policy is reviewed annually by the Director of Studies and DSL in conjunction with the Head of IT and SLT.

Contents

1. Aims

Sompting Abbotts aims to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff
- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as 'mobile phones')
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate

The 4 key categories of risk

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

- **Content** – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism
- **Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as peer-to-peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes
- **Conduct** – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, such as making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography), sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
- **Commerce** – risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scam

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory safeguarding guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education, and its advice for schools on:

- Teaching online safety in schools
- Preventing and tackling bullying and cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff
- Relationships and sex education
- Searching, screening and confiscation

It also refers to the DfE's guidance on protecting children from radicalisation.

It reflects existing legislation, including but not limited to the Education Act 1996 (as amended), the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the Equality Act 2010. In addition, it reflects the Education Act 2011, which has given teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by, if necessary, searching for and deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

The policy also takes into account the National Curriculum computing programmes of study.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Everyone in the school community has a responsibility to ensure that they are aware of the potential benefits and risks associated with modern technology. Staff should follow the school's procedure concerning electronic devices and know how to deal with Online Safety incidents according to the Online Safety policy. There are, however, key roles for members of staff to produce and monitor the school Online Safety policy. They are as follows:

3.2 The Health and Safety Committee:

Comprising of the Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Stuart Douch, and the Bursar and Director, David Sinclair, working with the Head of IT, Chris Gunn and DDSL, Kirsty Miles, the committee will oversee all aspects of Online Safety within the school and report, via the Head, on an annual basis, to the school's Proprietor.

3.3 The Head and designated safeguarding lead

Details of the school's DSL and deputy are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy as well as relevant job descriptions.

The DSL takes lead responsibility for online safety in school, in particular:

- Ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school
- Working with the Head of IT and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents
- Managing all online safety issues and incidents in line with the school child protection policy
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 5) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- Updating and delivering staff training on online safety (appendix 4 contains a self-audit for staff on online safety training needs)
- Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary
- Providing regular reports on online safety in school to the headteacher and/or governing board

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.3 The Head of IT

The Head of IT is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the school's ICT systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware, and that such safety mechanisms are updated regularly
- Conducting a full security check and monitoring the school's ICT systems on a [weekly/fortnightly/monthly] basis
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 5) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.4 The Bursar

The Bursar is responsible for the following:

- Reporting any Online Safety related issues that arises, to the Head of IT or the Head
- Putting in place an appropriate level of security protection procedures, such as filtering and monitoring systems, which are reviewed and updated on a regular basis to assess effectiveness and ensure pupils are kept safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material
- Ensuring that users may only access the school's networks through an authorised and properly enforced password protection policy, in which passwords are regularly changed
- Ensuring that provision exists for misuse detection and malicious attack e.g. keeping virus protection up to date)
- Ensuring the security of the school's IT system

- Ensuring that access controls/encryption exist to protect personal and sensitive information held on school-owned devices
- Applying and updating the school’s policy on web filtering on a regular basis
- That he keeps up to date with the school’s Online Safety policy and technical information in order to effectively carry out their online safety role and to inform and update others as relevant
- Ensuring appropriate backup procedures exist so that critical information and systems can be recovered in the event of a disaster. Keep up-to-date documentation of the school’s e-security and technical procedures

3.5 All Staff

All staff, including support staff, are responsible for:

- Maintaining an understanding of this policy
- Implementing this policy consistently
- Agreeing and adhering to the terms on acceptable use of the school’s ICT systems and the internet (appendix 3), and ensuring that pupils follow the school’s terms on acceptable use (appendices 1 and 2)
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 5) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- Responding appropriately to all reports and concerns about sexual violence and/or harassment, both online and offline and maintaining an attitude of ‘it could happen here’

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.6 Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- To read, understand, sign and adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy (within Pre-Prep it would be expected that parents/carers would read these with their children and sign on behalf of the pupils). See appendices 1 and 2
- To understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials
- To know what action to take if they or someone they know feels worried or vulnerable when using online technology
- Should not bring personal mobile devices into school, unless previously agreed with the Head of IT
- To know and understand school policy on the taking/use of images and on cyber-bullying
- To understand the importance of adopting good online safety practice when using digital technologies out of school and realise that the school’s Online Safety Policy covers their actions out of school, if related to their membership of the school
- To take responsibility for learning about the benefits and risks of using the internet and other technologies safely both in school and at home to help the school in the creation/review of E-Safety policies
- Have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations

3.7 Parents/Carers

Parents are expected to:

- Support the school in promoting e-safety and ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet (appendices 1 and 2)
- Notify a member of staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding this policy

Parents can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online from the following organisations and websites:

- What are the issues? – UK Safer Internet Centre
- Hot topics – Childnet International
- Parent resource sheet – Childnet International
- Healthy relationships – Disrespect Nobody

3.8 Visitors and members of the community

Any external individual/organisation will be made aware of this policy, when relevant, and expected to read and follow it. And will be given a Guest Password which expired within 24 hours.

4. Educating pupils about online safety

Pupils will be taught about online safety as part of the curriculum:

In **Pre-Prep** pupils will be taught to:

- Use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private
- Identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies

Pupils in **Main School** will be taught to:

- Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly
- Recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- Identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact

By the **end of Year 6**, pupils will know:

- That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not
- That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous
- The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them
- How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met
- How information and data is shared and used online
- What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)
- How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know

In **Years 7 and 8**, pupils will be taught to:

- Understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting their online identity and privacy
- Recognise inappropriate content, contact and conduct, and know how to report concerns

By the **end of Year 8**, pupils will know:

- Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online
- About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online
- Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them
- What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online
- The impact of viewing harmful content
- How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online
- How to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours

The safe use of social media and the internet will also be covered in other subjects where relevant.

Where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, will be adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with SEND.

5. Educating parents about online safety

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 headteacher and/or the DSL.

Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the headteacher.

6. Cyber-bullying

6.1 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.)

6.2 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.

During IT lessons, teachers will actively discuss cyber-bullying with pupils, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. Form teachers may also discuss cyber-bullying with their form groups during form time or PSHE lessons.

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, will receive training on cyber-bullying, its impact and ways to support pupils, as part of safeguarding training (see section 11 for more detail).

The school also sends information/leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents so that they are aware of the signs, how to report it and how they can support children who may be affected.

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.

6.3 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*

* Staff may also confiscate devices for evidence to hand to the police, if a pupil discloses that they are being abused and that this abuse includes an online element.

Any searching of pupils will be carried out in line with:

- The DfE's latest guidance on screening, searching and confiscation
- UKCIS guidance on sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people
- The school's COVID-19 risk assessment

Any complaints about searching for or deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices will be dealt with through the school complaints procedure.

7. Acceptable use of the internet in school

All pupils, parents, staff are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendices 1-3). Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use if relevant.

Use of the school's internet must be for educational purposes only, or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of an individual's role.

We will monitor the websites visited by pupils, staff, volunteers, governors and visitors (where relevant) to ensure they comply with the above.

More information is set out in the acceptable use agreements in appendices 1, 2 and 3.

Digital Images and video

At Sompting Abbotts School:

- Gain parental carer permission for use of digital photographs or video involving their child as part of the school agreement form when their daughter/son joins the school
- Do not identify pupils in online photographic materials or include the full names of pupils in the credits of any published school produced video materials/DVDs
- If specific pupil photos (not group photos) are used on the school website, in the prospectus or in other high-profile publications the school will obtain individual parental or pupil permission for its long-term use
- The school blocks/filters access to social networking sites and/or newsgroups unless there is a specific approved educational purpose
- Pupils are taught how images can be manipulated in their Online Safety education lessons and also taught to consider how to publish for a wide range of audiences which might include Directors, parents or younger children as part of their IT scheme of work
- 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
- Pupils are taught that they should not post images or videos of others without their permission
- We teach them 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.
- We teach them about the need to keep their data secure and what to do if they are subject to bullying or abuse

8. Pupils using mobile devices in school

Pupils may not bring mobile devices into school, without prior agreement:

- We acknowledge that sometimes parents may need a child to bring one in for changes regarding pick-up or other arrangements. In this instance, the phone should always be brought into the school office and left with Mrs. Sinclair at the start of the school day.
- If a pupil breaches the school policy then the phone or device will be held in a secure place in the school office.
- Mobile phones and mobile devices will be released to parents or carers in accordance with the school policy.

9. Staff using mobile devices at school

- Staff at Sompting Abbotts are permitted to carry mobile phones in school, however they may not be used for non-teaching reasons during lessons. They should be ideally switched to silent at all times
- Staff’s personal handheld mobile devices, including mobile phones, iPads and cameras should not be used for photographing children
- Staff in Early Years Foundation Stage are required to keep personal mobile phones and other mobile devices in a secure place away from the direct working area with the children
- Staff are not permitted to use their own mobile phones or mobile devices for contacting children, young people or their families within or outside of the setting in a professional capacity
- If members of staff have an educational reason to allow children to use mobile phones or a personally-owned device as part of an educational activity then it will only take place when approved by the senior leadership team
- If a member of staff breaches the school policy then disciplinary action may be taken

10. Staff using work devices outside school

IAll staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Keeping the device password-protected – strong passwords are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters (e.g. asterisk or currency symbol)
- Ensuring their hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device
- Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time
- Not sharing the device among family or friends
- Installing anti-virus and anti-spyware software
- Keeping operating systems up to date – always install the latest updates

Staff members must not use the device in any way which would violate the school's terms of acceptable use, as set out in appendix 3.

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from Head of IT.

10. How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a pupil misuses the school's ICT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in our policies on behaviour policy. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident, and will be proportionate.

Where a staff member misuses the school's ICT systems or the internet, or misuses a personal device where the action constitutes misconduct, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the staff code of conduct. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident.

The school will consider whether incidents which involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the police.

11. Training

All new staff members will receive training, as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation.

All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year as part of safeguarding training, as well as relevant updates as required (for example through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings).

By way of this training, all staff will be made aware that:

- Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues, and that children are at risk of online abuse
- Children can abuse their peers online through:
    - Abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages
    - Non-consensual sharing of indecent nude and semi-nude images and/or videos, especially around chat groups
    - Sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who don't want to receive such content
- Physical abuse, sexual violence and initiation/hazing type violence can all contain an online element

Training will also help staff:

- develop better awareness to assist in spotting the signs and symptoms of online abuse
- develop the ability to ensure pupils can recognise dangers and risks in online activity and can weigh the risks up
- develop the ability to influence pupils to make the healthiest long-term choices and keep them safe from harm in the short term

The DSL and deputy will undertake child protection and safeguarding training, which will include online safety, at least every 2 years. They will also update their knowledge and skills on the subject of online safety at regular intervals, and at least annually.

More information about safeguarding training is set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

12. Monitoring arrangements

The DSL logs behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety. An incident report log can be found in appendix 5.

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Headteacher. At every review, the policy will be shared with the proprietor. The review will be supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks pupils face online. This is important because technology, and the risks and harms related to it, evolve and change rapidly.

13. Links with other policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy
- Staff code of conduct
- GDPR policy and Privacy notices
- Complaints procedure

Appendix 1: Pre-Prep acceptable use agreement (pupils and parents/carers)

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS/CARERS	
Name of pupil:	
When I use the school's ICT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in school I will: ● Ask a teacher or adult if I can do so before using them ● Only use websites that a teacher or adult has told me or allowed me to use ● Tell my teacher immediately if: ○ I click on a website by mistake ○ I receive messages from people I don't know ○ I find anything that may upset or harm me or my friends ● Use school computers for school work only ● Be kind to others and not upset or be rude to them ● Look after the school ICT equipment and tell a teacher straight away if something is broken or not working properly ● Only use the username and password I have been given ● Try my hardest to remember my username and password ● Never share my password with anyone, including my friends. ● Never give my personal information (my name, address or telephone numbers) to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer ● Check with my teacher before I print anything ● Log off or shut down a computer when I have finished using it **I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don't follow the rules.**	
Signed (pupil):	**Date:**
Parent/carer agreement: I agree that my child can use the school's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for pupils using the school's ICT systems and internet, and will make sure my child understands these.	
Signed (parent/carer):	**Date:**

Appendix 2: Main School acceptable use agreement (pupils and parents/carers)

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL’S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Name of pupil:

I will read and follow the rules in the acceptable use agreement policy

When I use the school’s ICT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in school I will:

- Always use the school’s ICT systems and the internet responsibly and for educational purposes only
- Only use them when a teacher is present, or with a teacher’s permission
- Computers and Chromebooks - school and personally-owned- can only be used on-site for schoolwork.
- Log on via the school's Google Apps for Education accounts - this means using any facility Google offers (search, Drive, Docs, Slides, Sheets) with the account we have given each pupil, ending in @somptingabbotts.org.uk.
- Keep my username and passwords safe and not share these with others
- Keep my private information safe at all times and not give my name, address or telephone number to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer
- Tell a teacher immediately if I find any material which might upset, distress or harm me or others
- Always log off or shut down a computer when I’m finished working on it

I will not:

- Access any inappropriate websites including: social networking sites, chat rooms and gaming sites unless my teacher has expressly allowed this as part of a learning activity
- Open any attachments in emails, or follow any links in emails, without first checking with a teacher
- Use any inappropriate language when communicating online, including in emails
- Log in to the school’s network using someone else’s details
- Arrange to meet anyone offline without first consulting my parent/carer, or without adult supervision

If I bring a personal mobile phone or other personal electronic device into school:

- I will leave my mobile phone in the school office during the school day
- I will only use it with permission of Mrs Sinclair or the teaching staff

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don’t follow the rules.

Signed (pupil):	**Date:**

Parent/carer’s agreement: I agree that my child can use the school’s ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for pupilsusing the school’s ICT systems and internet, and for using personal electronic devices in school, and will make sure my child understands these.

Signed (parent/carer):	**Date:**

Appendix 3: acceptable use agreement (staff)

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL’S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR STAFF, GOVERNORS,VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

Name of staff member / visitor:

When using the school’s ICT systems and accessing the internet in school, or outside school on a work device (if applicable), I will not:

- Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal or pornographic nature (or create, share, link to or send such material)
- Use them in any way which could harm the school’s reputation
- Access social networking sites or chat rooms
- Use any improper language when communicating online, including in emails or other messaging services
- Install any unauthorised software, or connect unauthorised hardware or devices to school devices
- Share my password with others or log in to the school’s network using someone else’s details
- Take photographs of pupils without checking with teachers first
- Share confidential information about the school, its pupils or staff, or other members of the community
- Access, modify or share data I’m not authorised to access, modify or share
- Promote private businesses, unless that business is directly related to the school

I will only use the school’s ICT systems and access the internet in school, or outside school on a work device, for educational purposes or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of my role.

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the school’s ICT facilities and systems.

I will take all reasonable steps to ensure that work devices are secure and password-protected when using them outside school, and keep all data securely stored in accordance with this policy and the school’s data protection policy.

I will let the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and ICT manager know if a pupil informs me they have found any material which might upset, distress or harm them or others, and will also do so if I encounter any such material.

I will always use the school’s ICT systems and internet responsibly, and ensure that pupils in my care do so too.

Signed (staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor):	**Date:**

Appendix 4: online safety training needs – self audit for staff

ONLINE SAFETY TRAINING NEEDS AUDIT	
Name of staff member/volunteer:	**Date**:
Question	**Yes/No (add comments if necessary)**
Do you know the name of the person who has lead responsibility for online safety in school?	
Are you aware of the ways pupils can abuse their peers online?	
Do you know what you must do if a pupil approaches you with a concern or issue?	
Are you familiar with the school's acceptable use agreement for staff, volunteers, governors and visitors?	
Are you familiar with the school's acceptable use agreement for pupils and parents?	
Do you regularly change your password for accessing the school's ICT systems?	
Are you familiar with the school's approach to tackling cyber-bullying?	
Are there any areas of online safety in which you would like training/further training?	

Appendix 5: online safety incident report log

ONLINE SAFETY INCIDENT LOG				
Date	**Where the incident took place**	**Description of the incident**	**Action taken**	**Name and signature of staff member recording the incident**