



Dobcroft Junior School Online Safeguarding Policy

Reviewed: November 2025
Review Date: November 2026

When reviewing this policy, the governing board and head teacher have considered the impact of the scope of the policy on the whole school community. Specifically, they have taken account of the categories used by Sheffield City Council as a public authority to assess impact, as set out below.

Protected characteristics defined by the Equality Act 2010:

- age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation

Plus, additional equality groups and interests also recognised by the Council:

- armed forces, *care experience, health & wellbeing, poverty & financial inclusion, social cohesion, unpaid caring responsibilities and voluntary, community & faith sector

*(*note – care experience was added in December 2023 and recognises those who are, or who have been, looked-after children. It includes Children Looked After (CLA) who are under the care of the local authority; children and young people who are post-CLA adopted; and those who are leaving, or have previously left, care or adoption arrangements).*

Policy Introduction

Computing in the 21st Century has an all-encompassing role within the lives of children and adults. New technologies are enhancing communication and the sharing of information.

Our pupils are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives seamlessly on and off line. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks.

The use of the latest technology is actively encouraged at Dobcroft but with this comes a responsibility to protect both pupils and the school from abuse of the system. Dobcroft Junior School must demonstrate that it has 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. This online safeguarding policy explains how we intend to do this, while also addressing wider educational issues in order to help young people, their parents / carers and all staff to be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other communications technologies for educational and personal use.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all stakeholders associated with Dobcroft Junior School and their responsibilities for complying with it. In particular-

- This policy applies to all members of the school community (including staff, pupils, volunteers, parents / carers, work placement students, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of school ICT systems, both in and out of school.
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers Headteachers, to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site and empowers members of staff to impose disciplinary penalties for inappropriate behaviour. This applies to incidents of cyber-bullying, or other e-safeguarding incidents covered by this policy, which may take place out of school, but is linked to membership of the school.
- The Education Act 2011 gives the school the power to confiscate and search the contents of any mobile device if the Headteacher believes it contains any illegal content or material that could be used to bully or harass others.
- This policy ensures that Dobcroft Junior school is following guidance laid out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68add931969253904d155860/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_from_1_September_2025.pdf
-

- The school identifies within this policy and in the associated behaviour and anti-bullying policy, how incidents will be managed and will, where known, inform parents / carers of incidents of inappropriate e-safeguarding behaviour that take place out of school.
- The policy should read in-conjunction with other school policies, including the curriculum policy, safeguarding policy, behaviour and anti-bullying policy and information management and security manual.

Development / Monitoring / Review of this Policy

This policy has been developed by a working group / committee made up of:

- School Online-Safeguarding Lead
- Headteacher / Senior Leadership Team
- ICT Technical staff
- Governors
- Pupils via Pupils' Parliament

All staff and members of the School community must be informed of any relevant amendments to the policy.

Communication of the Policy

It is important to understand that any policy is only as good as the training and awareness that is packaged around it. There is no point in having an updated policy which covers all elements of Online Safeguarding if no one within school is aware of the policy.

All amendments will be discussed and reviewed by the Online Safeguarding Lead and the school's senior leadership team and then circulated and discussed with teaching staff and other members of the school community when it is considered appropriate.

- The Dobcroft Junior School's senior leadership team will be responsible for ensuring all members of school staff and pupils are aware of the existence and contents of the school Online Safeguarding policy and the use of any new technology within school.
- The Online Safeguarding policy will be provided to and discussed with all members of staff formally.
- All amendments will be published and awareness sessions will be held for all members of the school community.
- Appropriate parts of the policy will be discussed with the Pupils' Parliament to ensure the language and vocabulary is appropriate and understandable for the policy's intended audience.
- Online Safety will be included in the Personal Development and Computing curriculum.
- Annual Online Safety briefings will be established across the school – held on September Training Day.
- Regular, pertinent Online Safety Briefings will be shared weekly in the staff weekly briefing.
- Pertinent points from the school Online Safeguarding policy will be reinforced across the curriculum, including the online safeguarding curriculum and across all subject areas when using ICT equipment within school.
- The key messages contained within the Online Safeguarding policy will be reflected and consistent within all acceptable use policies in place within school.
- We endeavour to embed Online Safeguarding messages across the curriculum whenever the internet or related technologies are used.
- The Online Safeguarding messages will be shared with pupils during assemblies, as well as in class.
- Safeguarding posters will be displayed around the school and key messages will be communicated to parents via the school website or other forms of school communication (email, text, letter, face to face).

Roles and Responsibilities

Online Safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole school community, and everyone has a responsibility to ensure that all members of the community are able to benefit from the opportunities that technology provides for learning and teaching. The following responsibilities demonstrate how each member of the community will contribute.

Responsibilities of the Senior Leadership Team

- The Headteacher has overall responsibility for online-safeguarding all members of the school community, though the day to day responsibility for online-safeguarding will be delegated to the Online-Safeguarding Lead.
- The headteacher and senior leadership team are responsible for ensuring that the online-Safeguarding Lead and other relevant staff receive suitable training to enable them to carry out their online-Safeguarding roles and to train other colleagues when necessary.
- The headteacher and senior leadership team should ensure that they are aware of procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online-Safeguarding incident (see flow chart on dealing with online-safety incidents, appendix 6)

Responsibilities of the Online Safeguarding Lead (Paul Harrison)

- To ensure that the school Online Safeguarding policy is current and pertinent.
- To ensure that the school Online Safeguarding policy is systematically reviewed at agreed time intervals.
- To ensure that school Acceptable Use Policies are appropriate for the intended audience.
- To promote to all members of the school community the safe use of the internet and any technologies deployed within school.
- To promote an awareness and commitment to Online Safeguarding throughout the school.
- To be the first point of contact in school on all Online Safeguarding matters.
- To take day-to-day responsibility for Online Safeguarding within school and to have a leading role in establishing and reviewing the school Online Safeguarding policies and procedures.
- To have regular contact with other Online Safeguarding committees, e.g. Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership
- To communicate regularly with school technical staff (Blue Box representative).
- To communicate regularly with the designated Safeguarding governor (Andrew Davies)
- To provide updates to Governors.
- To communicate regularly with the senior leadership team.
- To develop an understanding of current Online Safeguarding issues, guidance and appropriate legislation.
- To ensure that all members of staff receive an appropriate level of knowledge in Online Safeguarding issues.
- To ensure that Online Safeguarding education is embedded across the curriculum, in consultation with the Personal Development Lead.
- To ensure that Online Safeguarding is promoted to parents and carers.
- To liaise with the local authority, Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership other relevant agencies as appropriate.
- To monitor and report on Online Safeguarding issues to the Online Safeguarding group and the senior leadership team as appropriate.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an Online Safeguarding incident.
- To ensure that an Online Safeguarding incident log is kept up to date (recorded onto CPOMS)

Responsibilities of the Teaching and Support Staff

- To read, understand and help promote the school's Online Safeguarding policies and guidance.
- To read, understand and adhere to the school staff Acceptable Use Policy.
- To report any suspected misuse or problem to the Online Safeguarding Lead.
- To develop and maintain an awareness of current Online Safeguarding issues and guidance.
- To model safe and responsible behaviours in their own use of technology.
- To ensure that any digital communications with pupils should be on a professional level and only through school based systems, NEVER through personal mechanisms, e.g. email, text, mobile phones etc.
- To embed Online Safeguarding messages in learning activities across all areas of the curriculum.
- To supervise and guide pupils carefully when engaged in learning activities involving technology.
- To ensure that pupils are fully aware of research skills and are fully aware of legal issues relating to electronic content such as copyright laws.

- To be aware of Online Safeguarding issues related to the use of mobile phones, cameras and handheld devices.
- To understand and be aware of incident-reporting mechanisms that exist within the school.
- To maintain a professional level of conduct in personal use of technology at all times.
- Ensure that sensitive and personal data is kept secure at all times by using encrypted data storage and by transferring data through secure communication systems.

Protecting the professional identity of all staff, work placement students and volunteers

Communication between adults and between children / young people and adults, by whatever method, should be transparent and take place within clear and explicit boundaries. This includes the wider use of technology such as mobile phones, text messaging, social networks, e-mails, digital cameras, videos, web-cams, websites, forums and blogs.

When using digital communications, staff and volunteers should:

- Only make contact with children and young people for professional reasons and in accordance with the policies and professional guidance of the school.
- Not share any personal information with a child or young person eg should not give their personal contact details to children and young people including e-mail, home or mobile telephone numbers.
- Not request, or respond to, any personal information from the child/young person, other than that which might be appropriate as part of their professional role, or if the child is at immediate risk of harm.
- Be aware of and use the appropriate reporting routes available to them if they suspect any of their personal details have been compromised.
- Ensure that all communications are transparent and open to scrutiny (for example, using CPOMs and email for professional communication and not end-to-end encrypted messaging systems, eg Whatsapp).
- Ensure that if they have a personal social networking profile, details are not shared with children and young people in their care (making every effort to keep personal and professional online lives separate).
- Staff will not send or accept a friend request from the child/young person on social networks.
- Not post information online that could bring the school into disrepute.
- Be careful in their communications with children so as to avoid any possible misinterpretation.
- Be aware of the sanctions that may be applied for breaches of policy related to professional conduct.

Responsibilities of Technical Staff (Blue Box)

- To read, understand, contribute to and help promote the school's Online Safeguarding policies and guidance.
- To read, understand and adhere to the school staff Acceptable Use Policy.
- To report any Online Safeguarding related issues that come to your attention to the Online Safeguarding Lead.
- To develop and maintain an awareness of current Online Safeguarding issues, legislation and guidance relevant to their work.
- To maintain a professional level of conduct in their personal use of technology at all times.
- To support the school in providing a safe technical infrastructure to support learning and teaching.
- To ensure that access to the school network is only through an authorised, restricted mechanism.
- To ensure that provision exists for misuse detection and malicious attack.
- To take responsibility for the security of the school ICT system.
- To liaise with the local authority and other appropriate people and organisations on technical issues.
- To document all technical procedures and review them for accuracy at appropriate intervals.
- To restrict all administrator level accounts appropriately.
- To ensure that access controls exist to protect personal and sensitive information held on school-owned devices.
- To ensure that appropriate physical access controls exist to control access to information systems and telecommunications equipment situated within school.
- To ensure that appropriate backup procedures exist so that critical information and systems can be recovered in the event of a disaster.

- To ensure that controls and procedures exist so that access to school-owned software assets is restricted.

Responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

- To understand the issues surrounding the sharing of personal or sensitive information in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018.
- To understand the dangers regarding access to inappropriate online contact with adults and strangers.
- To be aware of potential or actual incidents involving grooming of young children.
- To be aware of and understand cyberbullying and the use of social media for this purpose.

Responsibilities of pupils

- 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 take responsibility for each other's safe and responsible use of technology in school and at home, including judging the risks posed by the personal technology owned and used outside school.
- To ensure they respect the feelings, rights, values and intellectual property of others in their use of technology in school and at home.
- To understand what action they should take if they feel worried, uncomfortable, vulnerable or at risk while using technology in school and at home, or if they know of someone who this is happening to.
- To understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and to be fully aware of the incident-reporting mechanisms that exists within school.
- To discuss Online Safeguarding issues with family and friends in an open and honest way.
- Also see 'Pupil Acceptable Usage Agreement'

Responsibilities of Parents / Carers

- To help and support the school in promoting Online Safeguarding.
- To take responsibility for learning about the benefits and risks of using the internet and other technologies that their children use at home.
- To take responsibility for their own awareness and learning in relation to the opportunities and risks posed by new and emerging technologies.
- To discuss Online Safeguarding concerns with their children, show an interest in how they are using technology and encourage them to behave safely and responsibly when using technology.
- To model safe and responsible behaviours in their own use of technology
- To consult with the school if they have any concerns about their children's use of technology
- To implement and be aware of appropriate online 'APP' restrictions and the impact of accessing materials beyond their age group

E-safety and Social Media Code of Conduct for Parents / Carers

Dobcroft Junior School understands and appreciates the benefits of social media; however, there may also be some significant negative impacts, such as cyber bullying, which the school does not tolerate.

For us to set the best example possible to pupils at the school, we would ask parents to also lead by example. The school urges parents to review and sign our code of conduct, which outlines how to act when using social media.

The school expects parents to behave in a civilised nature on any online platform or website and will not tolerate any of the following online behaviour:

- Posting defamatory statuses about parents, pupils, the school or its employees
- Complaining about the school's values and methods on social media or other websites
- Posting statuses containing confidential information, e.g. regarding a complaint outcome
- Contacting school employees through social media, including requesting to 'follow' them or sending them private messages
- Creating or joining private groups or chats that victimise or harass a member of staff or the school in general
- If parents wish to raise a complaint, the school has a Complaints Procedures Policy in place.
- Breaches of this code of conduct will be taken seriously by the school and, in the event of illegal, defamatory, or discriminatory content, breaches could lead to prosecution.
- Parents will not attempt to 'friend' or 'follow' any member of staff on social media.

- Parents are instructed not to post anonymously or under an alias to evade the guidance given in this code of conduct.
- The school retains the right to request any damaging material is removed from social media websites
- Parents' social media usage will be in accordance with the school's Social Media Policy.

Online messaging

The school expects that parents may use messaging apps, such as WhatsApp, for purposes beneficial to themselves and the school, but will not accept any of the following behaviour:

- Sending abusive messages to fellow parents
- Sending abusive messages about members of staff, parents or the school
- Sending abusive and/or frequent messages to members of staff
- The school appreciates the simplicity and ease of instant messaging; keeping in contact outside of school can benefit the school community by keeping it closer.
- The school does not, however, condone parents sending frequent and/or unimportant messages to staff. Please refer to our communication policy
- Should any problems arise from contact over messaging apps, the school will act quickly by contacting parents directly to stop any issues continuing.
- The school can request a meeting with parents if any misconduct, such as sending abusive messages or posting defamatory statuses, occurs online.
- The school's complaints procedure will be followed as normal if any members of the parent teacher association or governing board cause any issues through their conduct whilst using online messaging.
- The headteacher can, with the permission of the parent, view messages sent between members of the parental body to deal with problems quickly and effectively.
- The headteacher can request that 'group chats' are closed down should any problems continue between parents or parental bodies.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

- To read, understand, contribute to and help promote the school's Online Safeguarding policies and guidance.
- To develop an overview of the benefits and risks of the internet and common technologies used by pupils.
- To develop an overview of how the school ICT infrastructure provides safe access to the internet.
- To develop an overview of how the school encourages pupils to adopt safe and responsible behaviours in their use of technology in and out of school.
- To support the work of the Online Safeguarding Lead in promoting and ensuring safe and responsible use of technology in and out of school, including encouraging parents to become engaged in Online Safeguarding activities.

Education

Pupils

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

When teaching E-safety school will often refer to the term 'cyber bullying'. At Dobcroft junior school we define cyber bullying as using digital technology (for example social media, texts, or games) to; harass, threaten, embarrass, or intimidate someone, often repeatedly. It includes actions such as spreading rumours, posting or sending unkind messages, posting hurtful images, creating fake profiles, trolling, or excluding people online, and can have severe emotional impact.

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

- We will provide a series of specific online Safeguarding-related lessons in every year group as part of the Personal Development curriculum. These skills will be reinforced in the Computing curriculum and in other lessons.
- We will celebrate and promote online Safeguarding through a planned programme of assemblies and whole-school activities, including promoting Safer Internet Day each year.
- We will discuss, remind or raise relevant Online Safeguarding messages with pupils routinely wherever suitable opportunities arise during all lessons; including the need to protect personal information, consider the

consequences their actions may have on others, the need to check the accuracy and validity of information they use and the need to respect and acknowledge ownership of digital materials.

- Any internet use will be carefully planned to ensure that it is age appropriate and supports the learning objectives for specific curriculum areas.
- Pupils will be taught how to use a range of age-appropriate online tools in a safe and effective way.
- Staff will model safe and responsible behaviour in their own use of technology during lessons.
- We will teach pupils how to search for information and to evaluate the content of websites for accuracy when using them in any curriculum area.
- When searching the internet for information, pupils will be guided to use age-appropriate search engines. All use will be monitored and pupils will be reminded of what to do if they come across unsuitable content. Search engines will only be used if the learning objectives specifically requires it.
- All pupils will be taught in an age-appropriate way about copyright in relation to online resources and will be taught to understand about ownership and the importance of respecting and acknowledging copyright of materials found on the internet.
- Pupils will be taught about the impact of cyberbullying and know how to seek help if they are affected by any form of online bullying.
- Pupils will be made aware of where to seek advice or help if they experience problems when using the internet and related technologies; i.e. parent or carer, teacher or trusted staff member, or an organisation such as Childline or the CEOP report abuse button

All Staff (including safeguarding link governor)

It is essential that all staff receive online-safety training and understand their responsibilities, as outlined in this policy. Training will be offered as follows:

- A planned briefing of formal online-safety information will be made to staff annually – September Training Day.
- An audit of the online-safety training needs of all staff will be carried out.
- All new staff receive online-safety briefing as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the school online-safety policy and Acceptable Use Policies.
- This Online-Safeguarding policy and its updates will be presented to and discussed by staff during INSET days or staff meetings, where appropriate.
- The Online-Safety Lead will provide advice / guidance / training as required to individuals as required.

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 and in promoting the positive use of the internet and social media. 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 school will therefore take every opportunity to help parents understand these issues through

- parents' evenings
- newsletters
- letters & emails
- website (including links)
- information about national / local online-safety campaigns / literature

Use of digital and video images

The development of digital imaging technologies has created significant benefits to learning, allowing staff and pupils instant use of images that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet. However, staff and pupils 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 school will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement policies to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm:

- When using digital images, staff should inform and educate pupils, through assemblies and other curriculum opportunities, about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images. In particular, they should recognise the risks attached to publishing their own images on the internet eg on social networking sites.
- Staff are allowed to take digital / video images to support educational aims, but must follow school policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images. Those images should only be taken on school equipment; the personal equipment of staff should **not** be used for such purposes.
- Care should be taken when taking digital / video images that pupils are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.
- Pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.
- Photographs published on the website, or elsewhere that include pupils will be selected carefully and will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images.
- Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on a website or blog, particularly in association with photographs.
- Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of pupils are published on the school website. This is requested as part of the school contact form.
- When searching for images, video or sound clips, pupils will be taught about copyright and acknowledging ownership.
- Photos must be saved in the relevant folders in the StaffShare/Photos folder on StaffShare. This allows photos to be deleted once a child leaves the school – this complies with GDPR.
- All photos stored locally on iPads or other devices must be deleted when they are no longer needed. It is recommended to delete them at the end of an academic year and must be deleted when the child has left the school.

Managing ICT systems and access

- The school will be responsible for ensuring that access to the ICT systems is as safe and secure as reasonably possible.
- All access to school ICT systems should be based upon a 'least privilege' approach.
- Servers and other key hardware or infrastructure will be located securely with only appropriate staff permitted access.
- Servers, workstations and other hardware and software will be kept updated as appropriate.
- Virus protection is installed on all appropriate hardware, and will be kept active and up to date.
- The school will agree which users should and should not have internet access and the appropriate level of access and supervision they should receive. Pupils will have their own user account. They will ensure they log out after each session.
- Members of staff will access the system using an individual ID and password, which they will keep secure. They will ensure that they log out after each session and not allow pupils to access the internet through their ID and password. They will abide by the school AUP at all times.

Filtering internet access

Not all content that is available on the internet is suitable for schools, so provision has to be made to ensure that a suitable, fit-for-purpose internet filtering solution is deployed. As with any aspect of education, decisions and guidance from OFSTED very much influence what schools need and want. The OFSTED report, 'Safe use of new technologies' (February 2010) had, as one of its key findings,

'Pupils in the schools that had 'managed' systems had better knowledge and understanding of how to stay safe than those in schools with 'locked down' systems. Pupils were more vulnerable overall when schools used locked down systems because they were not given enough opportunities to learn how to assess and manage risk for themselves.'

- Dobcroft Junior School uses a filtered internet service. The filtering system is installed in-house and is managed by our IT engineer (BlueBox representative).
- The filtering system is provided by Smoothwall.
- Filtering has 3 different levels – Pupil level filtering, Staff level filtering and Office level filtering. School's internet provision includes filtering appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils.
- Smoothwall is kept up to date in line with all major updates that are released.
- School will always be proactive regarding the nature of content which can be viewed through the school's internet provision.
- School will have a clearly defined procedure for reporting breaches of filtering, see appendix . All staff and pupils will be aware of this procedure by reading and signing the Acceptable Use Policy and by attending the appropriate awareness training.
- If users discover a website with inappropriate content, this should be reported to BlueBox to block.
- If users discover a website with potentially illegal content, this should be reported immediately to the Online Safeguarding Lead. The school will report such incidents to appropriate agencies including the filtering provider, the local authority, [Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre](#) or the [Internet Watch Foundation](#).
- The school will regularly review the filtering product for its effectiveness.
- Any amendments to the school filtering policy or block-and-allow lists will be checked and assessed prior to being released or blocked.
- Pupils will be taught to assess content as their internet usage skills develop.
- Pupils will use age-appropriate tools to research internet content – open searches will only occur when this is a required part of the learning objective.
- The evaluation of online content materials is a part of teaching and learning in every subject and will be viewed as a whole-school requirement across the curriculum.
- The online safeguarding lead monitors the internet use and will deal with any concerns on a case-by-case basis, feeding back to individual members of staff or the whole school community as appropriate (see appendix 6)

Passwords

Password management is covered by the Information Management and Security Manual, under User Responsibilities. Each child has their own username and password.

Management of assets

School has both software and hardware assets for both teaching and learning and administrative purposes. Equipment and software comes at a cost to the school and should therefore be controlled and documented appropriately.

All ICT-related assets should be recorded in an inventory, including any software licenses held by the setting as this will give an audit trail. Licences are managed by an Assistant Headteacher, in consultation with the Finance officer. It is important that there are no breaches to the licensing terms and conditions of the software used as this could result in prosecution.

Old hardware such as laptops, PCs, servers and removable media (memory sticks) needs to be formatted prior to disposal to ensure no sensitive or personal data remains on old hardware.

- The school has a Microsoft EES agreement to ensure all PCs are licenced with windows and office at all times.
- Details of all school-owned hardware will be recorded in a hardware inventory (EKTE inventory).
- Details of all school-owned software will be recorded in a software inventory.
- All redundant ICT equipment will be disposed of through an authorised agency. This will include a written receipt for the item including an acceptance of responsibility for the destruction of any personal data.
- All redundant ICT equipment that may have held personal data will have the storage media overwritten multiple times to ensure the data is irretrievably destroyed. Alternatively, if the storage media has failed, it will be physically destroyed. The school will only use authorised companies who will supply a written guarantee that this will happen.
- Disposal of any ICT equipment will conform to The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006 and/or The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations 2007. Further information can be found on the Environment Agency website.

Data Protection

Personal Data

This section should be read in-conjunction with the Information Management and Security Manual.

The school may have access to a wide range of personal information and data, held in digital format or on paper records. Being transparent and providing accessible information to individuals about how we will use personal data is a key element of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR).

Personal data is defined as any combination of data items that identifies an individual and provides specific information about them, their families or circumstances. This will include:

- Personal information about children / young people, members of staff / volunteers / and mothers and fathers / carers e.g. names, addresses, contact details, legal guardianship / contact details, health records, disciplinary records/attendance
- Professional records e.g. employment history, taxation and national insurance records, appraisal records and references
- Any other information that might be disclosed by mothers and fathers / carers or by other agencies working with families

Settings that work with children and young people are likely to be under greater scrutiny in their care and use of personal data, following high profile incidents. The GDPR 2018 allows for a maximum fine of £20 million for breaches of information security for both public and private sector organisations.

All schools must understand the implications of not securing the information assets they hold and must to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO Toby Jones).

Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO)

The Senior Information Risk Owner should be a member of the senior leadership team (at Dobcroft Junior school this is the Headteacher) who is familiar with information risks and the organisation's response. They have the following responsibilities

- They own the information risk policy and risk assessment
- They appoint the information asset owners (IAOs)
- They act as an advocate for information risk management

The Office of Public Sector Information has produced a publication 'Managing Information Risk' to support SIROs in their role.

Information Asset Owner (IAO) – At Dobcroft Junior School this is the DPO

Organisations should also identify an IAO for each asset or group of assets within school. For example, the school's management information system should be identified as an asset and should have an IAO. The role of an IAO is to understand

- What information is held, and for what purposes
- How information will be amended or added to over time
- Who has access to the data and why
- How information is retained and disposed of

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the GDPR 2018 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 – see list in storage area
- Processed in accordance with the data subject's rights
- Secure

- Only transferred to others with adequate protection.

School must:

- 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 or their computer is locked when left unattended.
- Transfer data using encryption and secure password protected devices.
 - When personal data is stored on any portable computer system, USB stick or any other removable media:
 - the data must be encrypted and/or password protected
 - the device must 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 school policy once it has been transferred or its use is complete.
 - The school has established an information-handling procedure and assessed the risks involved with handling and controlling access to all levels of information within school.
 - The school has deployed appropriate technical controls to minimise the risk of data loss or breaches.
 - All access to personal or sensitive information owned by the school will be controlled appropriately through technical and non-technical access controls.
 - Users should be vigilant when accessing sensitive or personal information on screen to ensure that no one else, who may be unauthorised, can read the information.
 - All access to information systems should be controlled via a suitably complex password.
 - Any access to personal and sensitive information should be assessed and granted by the SIRO and the applicable IAO.
 - All access to the school information management system will be on a need-to-know or least privilege basis. All access should be granted through the SIRO or IAO.
 - All information on school servers shall be accessed through a controlled mechanism, with file permissions allocated and assessed on a need to know/ least privilege basis. All access should be granted through the SIRO or IAO.
 - Staff and pupils will not leave personal and sensitive printed documents on printers within public areas of the school.
 - All physical information will be stored in controlled access areas.
 - All communications involving personal or sensitive information (email, fax or post) should be appropriately secured.
 - All devices taken off site, e.g. laptops, tablets, removable media or phones, will be secured in accordance with the school's information-handling procedures and, for example, not left in cars or insecure locations.

Secure Transfer Process

Email

It is advisable not to use public email accounts for sending and receiving sensitive or personal data.

DO NOT include personal or sensitive information within the email itself, names of children must not be used – initials at the most. Personal or sensitive information sent should be by a secure method. This can be done by creating a document (e.g. Word document) and then encrypted by password-protecting the document and sending it as an attachment with the email. The password itself must be sent in a separate email.

Encryption makes a file non-readable to anyone who does not have the password to open it, therefore, it reduces the risk of unauthorised people having access to the information and protects staff from breaching the law.

Communication Technologies

A wide range of rapidly developing communications technologies has the potential to enhance learning. These statements relate to in school activities:

Staff

	Allowed	Allowed for certain staff with Headteacher	Not allowed
--	---------	---	-------------

		permission	
Mobile phones may be brought to school	√		
Use of mobile phones in lessons		√ Allowed in lessons for medical reasons	√
Use of smart phone in social time	√		
Taking photos on mobile phones			√
Taking photos on school camera	√		
Use of school hand held devices e.g. iPad	√		
Use of personal email addresses in school, or on school network			√
Use of school email for personal emails			√
Use of chat rooms / facilities			√
Use of instant messaging			√
Use of social networking sites			√
Use of blogs	√		
Use of Twitter/X for school purposes	√		

Pupils

	Allowed	Allowed at certain times	Allowed with staff permission and supervision	Not allowed
Communication Technologies				
Mobile phones may be brought to school				√ Leave in office – with prior permission from Headteacher
Use of mobile phones in lessons				√
Use of smart phone in social time				√
Taking photos on mobile phones				√
Taking photos on school camera			√	
Use of school hand held devices e.g. iPad			√	
Use of personal email addresses in school, or on school network				√
Use of school email for personal emails				√
Use of chat rooms / facilities				√
Use of instant messaging				√
Use of social networking sites				√
Use of blogs		√		
Use of Twitter/X for school purposes				√

When using communication technologies the school considers the following as good practice:

- The official school email service may be regarded as safe and secure and is monitored. Staff and should therefore use only the school email service to communicate with others when in school, or on school systems (eg by remote access).
- Users need to be aware that email communications may be monitored.
- Users must immediately report, to the nominated person, in accordance with the school policy, 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 pupils or parents / carers (email, chat, VLE etc) must be professional in tone and content.

Unsuitable / inappropriate activities

Some internet activity (eg accessing child abuse images or distributing racist material) is illegal and would obviously be banned from school and all other ICT systems. Other activities (eg Cyber-bullying) would be banned and could lead to criminal prosecution. There are however a range of activities which may, generally, be legal but would be inappropriate in a school context, either because of the age of the users or the nature of those activities.

The school believes that the activities referred to in the following section would be inappropriate in a school context and that users, as defined below, should not engage in these activities in school or outside school when using school equipment or systems.

'Users' refers to all using the school's network and systems: including, but not limited to, employed staff, volunteers, pupils, visitors and parents.

The school policy restricts certain internet usage as follows:

User Actions		Acceptable	Acceptable at certain times	Acceptable for certain users	Unacceptable	Unacceptable and illegal
Users shall not visit Internet sites, make, post, download, upload, data transfer, communicate or pass on, material, remarks, proposals or comments that contain or relate to:	child sexual abuse images					✓
	promotion or conduct of illegal acts, eg under the child protection, obscenity, computer misuse and fraud legislation					✓
	adult material that potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act in the UK					✓
	criminally racist material in UK					✓
	pornography				✓	
	promotion of any kind of discrimination				✓	
	promotion of racial or religious hatred					✓
	threatening behaviour, including promotion of physical violence or mental harm					✓
	any other information which may be offensive to colleagues or breaches the integrity of the ethos of the school or brings the school into disrepute				✓	
Using school systems to run a private business					✓	

Use systems, applications, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering or other safeguards employed by Smoothwall				√	
Uploading, downloading or transmitting commercial software or any copyrighted materials belonging to third parties, without the necessary licensing permissions				√	
Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (eg financial / personal information, databases, computer / network access codes and passwords)				√	
Creating or propagating computer viruses or other harmful files				√	
Carrying out sustained or instantaneous high volume network traffic (downloading / uploading files) that causes network congestion and hinders others in their use of the internet				√	
On-line gaming (educational)		√			
On-line gaming (non educational)				√	
On-line gambling				√	
On-line shopping / commerce		√			
File sharing				√	
Use of social networking sites				√	
Use of video broadcasting (eg Youtube) for educational purposes	√				

Responding to incidents of misuse

It is hoped that all members of the school 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 or irresponsible or, very rarely, through deliberate misuse. Listed below are the responses that will be made to any apparent or actual incidents of misuse:

If any apparent or actual misuse appears to involve illegal activity e.g.

- child sexual abuse images
- adult material which potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act
- criminally racist material
- other criminal conduct, activity or materials

The SSCB flow chart should be consulted and actions followed in line with the flow chart.

If members of staff suspect that misuse might have taken place, but that the misuse is not illegal it is essential that correct procedures are used to investigate, preserve evidence and protect those carrying out the investigation

It is more likely that the school will need to deal with incidents that involve inappropriate rather than illegal misuse. It is important that any incidents are dealt with as soon as possible in a proportionate manner, and that members of the school community are aware that incidents have been dealt with. It is intended that incidents of misuse will be dealt with through normal behaviour / disciplinary procedures as follows:

Pupils

Incidents:	Refer to class teacher / tutor	Refer to Headteacher/ Online Safeguarding Lead	Refer to technical support staff for action re filtering / security etc	Inform parents / carers	Further sanction in line with school behaviour policy and anti-bullying policy
Deliberately accessing or trying to access material that could be considered illegal (see list in earlier section on unsuitable / inappropriate activities).		✓	✓	✓	✓
Unauthorised use of non-educational sites during lessons	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Unauthorised use of mobile phone / digital camera / other handheld device	✓	✓		✓	✓
Unauthorised use of social networking / instant messaging / personal email	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Unauthorised downloading or uploading of files	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Allowing others to access school network by sharing username and passwords	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Attempting to access or accessing the school network, using another student's / pupil's account	✓	✓		✓	✓
Attempting to access or accessing the school network, using the account of a member of staff	✓	✓		✓	✓
Corrupting or destroying the data of other users	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sending an email, text or instant message that is regarded as offensive, harassment or of a bullying nature	✓	✓		✓	✓
Continued infringements of the above, following previous warnings or sanctions	✓	✓		✓	✓
Actions which could bring the school into disrepute or breach the integrity of the ethos of the school	✓	✓		✓	✓
Using proxy sites or other means to subvert the school's filtering system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Accidentally accessing offensive or pornographic material and failing to report the incident	✓		✓	✓	✓
Deliberately accessing or trying to access offensive or pornographic material	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Receipt or transmission of material that infringes the copyright of another person or infringes the Data Protection Act	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

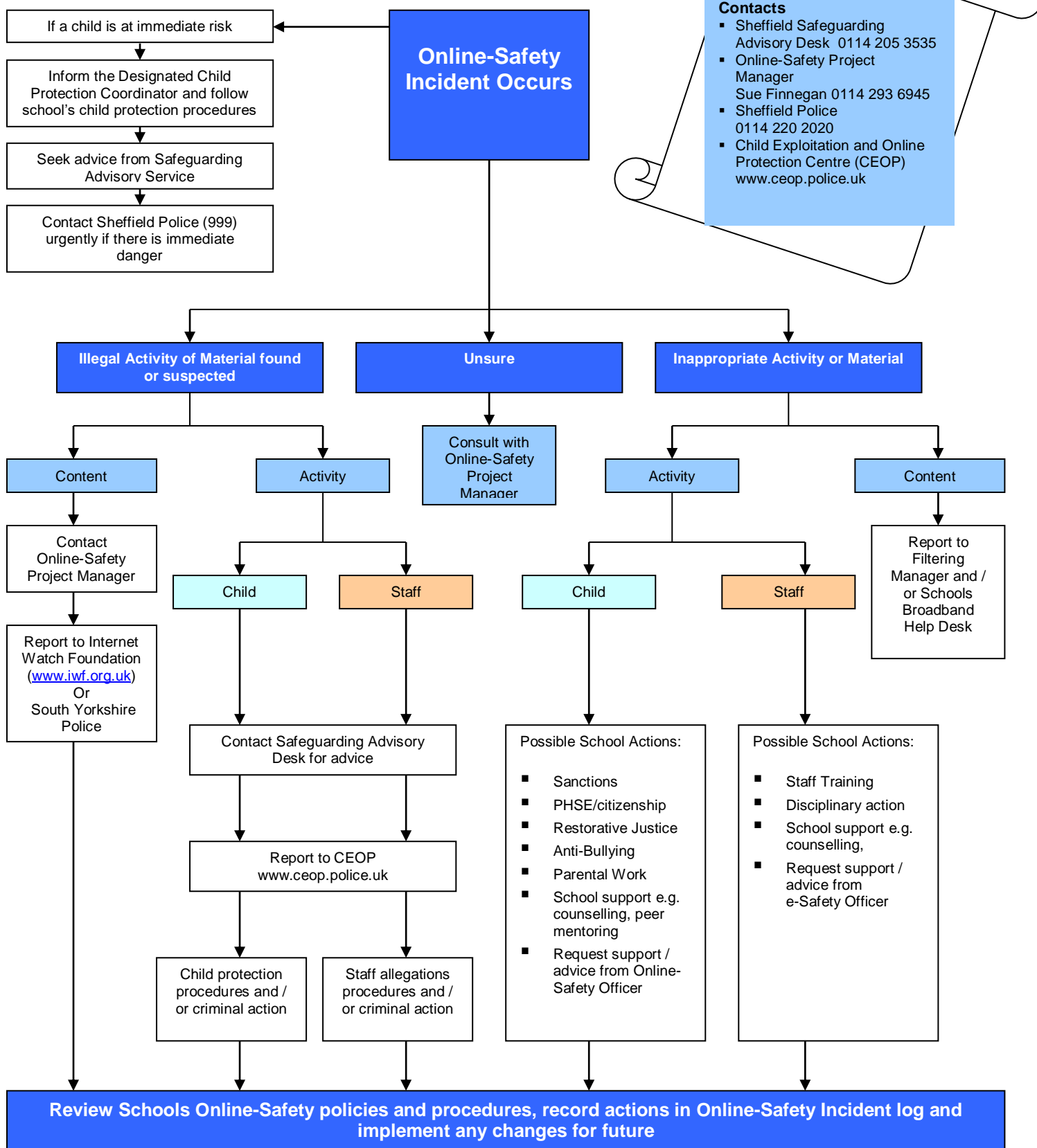
Staff

Incidents:	Refer to Headteacher/ Online Safeguarding Lead	Refer to Police and/or the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Refer to Technical Support Staff for action re filtering etc	Refer to Staff Code of Conduct Policy and Disciplinary Policy and (where necessary) the Data Protection Policy
Deliberately accessing or trying to access material that could be considered illegal (see list in earlier section on unsuitable / inappropriate activities).	✓	✓		✓
Excessive or inappropriate personal use of the internet / social networking sites / instant messaging / personal email	✓			✓
Unauthorised downloading or uploading of files	✓		✓	✓
Allowing others to access school network by sharing username and passwords or attempting to access or accessing the school network, using another person's account	✓		✓	✓
Careless use of personal data eg holding or transferring data in an insecure manner	✓			✓
Deliberate actions to breach data protection or network security rules	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corrupting or destroying the data of other users or causing deliberate damage to hardware or software	✓		✓	✓
Sending an email, text or instant message that is regarded as offensive, harassment or of a bullying nature	✓			✓
Using personal email / social networking / instant messaging / text messaging to carrying out digital communications with pupils	✓	✓		✓
Actions which could compromise the staff member's professional standing	✓			✓
Actions which could bring the school into disrepute or breach the integrity of the ethos of the school	✓			✓
Using proxy sites or other means to subvert the school's filtering system (non-educational use)	✓		✓	✓
Accidentally accessing offensive or pornographic material and failing to report the incident	✓		✓	✓
Deliberately accessing or trying to access offensive or pornographic material	✓	✓	✓	✓
Breaching copyright or licensing regulations	✓			✓
Continued infringements of the above, following previous warnings or sanctions	✓			✓

Appendices

- Appendix 1- Response to an incident of concern
- Appendix 2- Staff and Volunteers Acceptable Usage Agreement
- Appendix 3- Pupil Acceptable Usage Agreement
- Appendix 4- Parent and Carer Acceptable Usage Agreement
- Appendix 5- Questions for Schools to consider, Links to other organisations, documents and resources, legislation
- Appendix 6: Flow chart on dealing with online-safety incidents

Response to an Incident of Concern



Contact Details

Schools Designated Child Protection Officer: Nicola Sexton

School Online-Safety Coordinator: Paul Harrison

Safeguarding Children Board Online-Safety Manager: Sue Finnegan

Dobcroft Junior School Staff ICT Acceptable Use Policy

As a professional organisation with responsibility for children's safeguarding, it is important that all staff take all possible and necessary measures to protect data and information systems from infection, unauthorised access, damage, loss, abuse and theft. All members of staff have a responsibility to use the school's computer system in a professional, lawful, and ethical manner. To ensure that members of staff are fully aware of their professional responsibilities when using Information Communication Technology and the school systems, they are asked to read and sign this Acceptable Use Policy.

This is not an exhaustive list and all members of staff are reminded that ICT use should be consistent with the school ethos, other appropriate policies and the Law.

- I understand that Information Systems and ICT include networks, data and data storage, online and offline communication technologies and access devices. Examples include mobile phones, PDAs, digital cameras, email and social media sites.
- School owned information systems must be used appropriately. I understand that the Computer Misuse Act 1990 makes the following criminal offences: to gain unauthorised access to computer material; to gain unauthorised access to computer material with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences or to modify computer material without authorisation.
- I understand that any hardware and software provided by my workplace for staff use can only be used by members of staff and only for educational use. To prevent unauthorised access to systems or personal data, I will not leave any information system unattended without first logging out or **locking** my login as appropriate (this will be checked around school at regular intervals).
- I will respect system security and I will not disclose any password or security information. I will use a 'strong' password (A strong password has numbers, letters and symbols, with 8 or more characters, does not contain a dictionary word and is only used on one system).
- I will not attempt to install any purchased or downloaded software, including browser toolbars, or hardware without permission from the system manager.
- I will ensure that any personal data of pupils, staff or parents/carers is kept in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1988. This means that all personal data will be obtained and processed fairly and lawfully, only kept for specific purposes, held no longer than necessary and will be kept private and secure with appropriate security measures in place, whether used in the workplace, hosted online (only within countries or sites with suitable data protection controls) or accessed remotely. Any data which is being removed from the school site (such as via email or on memory sticks or CDs) will be encrypted by a method approved by the school. Any images or videos of pupils will only be used taking into account parental consent.
- I will not keep professional documents which contain school-related sensitive or personal information (including images, files, videos etc.) on any personal devices (such as laptops, digital cameras, mobile phones), unless they are secured and encrypted. Where possible I will use the School Network to upload any work documents and files in a password protected environment. I will protect the devices in my care from unapproved access or theft.
- I will not store any personal information on the school computer system that is unrelated to school activities, such as personal photographs, files or financial information.
- I will respect copyright and intellectual property rights.
- I have read and understood the school Online-Safety policy and the **Social Media Policy** for teaching and support staff, which cover the requirements for safe ICT use, including using appropriate devices, safe use of personal social media websites and the supervision of pupils within the classroom and other working spaces.

- I will report all incidents of concern regarding children's online safety to the Designated Child Protection Coordinator (Nicola Sexton) and/or the online-Safety Coordinator (Paul Harrison) as soon as possible. I will report any accidental access, receipt of inappropriate materials, filtering breaches or unsuitable websites to the designated lead for filtering as soon as possible.
- I will not attempt to bypass any filtering and/or security systems put in place by the school, unless for specific educational reasons. If I suspect a computer or system has been damaged or affected by a virus or other malware or if I have lost any school related documents or files, then I will report this to the ICT Support Provider/Team as soon as possible. Reporting can be in person, by phone or via the IT Helpdesk icon on the staff PC desktop.
- My electronic communications with pupils, parents/carers and other professionals will only take place via work approved communication channels e.g. via a school provided email address or telephone number. Any pre-existing relationships which may compromise this will be discussed with the Senior Leadership team.
- My use of ICT and information systems will always be compatible with my professional role, whether using school or personal systems. This includes the use of email, text, social media / social networking (including ClassDojo messaging), gaming, web publications and any other devices or websites. My use of ICT will not interfere with my work duties and will be in accordance with the school AUP and the Law.
- I will not create, transmit, display, publish or forward any material that is likely to harass, inconvenience, cause offence or needless anxiety to any other person, or anything which could bring my professional role, the school, or the City Council, into disrepute. Reference can be made to the Social Media Policy, which is part of the Staff Code of Conduct.
- I will promote Online-Safety with the pupils in my care and will help them to develop a responsible attitude to safety online, system use and to the content they access or create.
- If I have any queries or questions regarding safe and professional practise online either in school or off site, then I will raise them with the online-Safety Coordinators (Paul Harrison) or the Head Teacher (Nicola Sexton).
- I understand that my use of the information systems, Internet and email may be monitored and recorded to ensure policy compliance.

In order to acknowledge your agreement to this Acceptable Usage Policy, please sign the staff inset register (the relevant signature column).

Acceptable Usage Agreement for Children

This Acceptable Use Agreement is part of our Online Safeguarding Policy and is intended to ensure that we all stay safe online and look after school equipment.

- I understand that adults in school will monitor my online activity and use of computers.
- I will not use my mobile phone whilst on school grounds and I will only use my own electronic data, such as USB devices, if I have permission from an adult.
- I will immediately report any damage or faults to equipment, however this may have happened.
- I will not install or store programmes of any type, nor will I try to alter computer or iPad settings.

- I will not share my usernames and passwords with anyone or try to use anyone else's username and password.
- I will talk to a parent / carer before I communicate online with someone who I don't know and I will not meet up with people who I have only known online unless my parent / carer has agreed to this.
- I will not share personal information online, such as my address or my telephone number.
- I understand how old I have to be to use social media. If I am going to use social media, I will always speak to my parent / carer about this first.

- I will respect the work and property belonging to other people and I will not access, copy, remove or change any of their work, without their permission.
- I will be polite and responsible when I communicate with others online and I will not use inappropriate or unkind language even when people have very different opinions to me.
- I will not take or share images of anyone without their permission.
- I will not access or share any materials which may cause harm or distress to others.
- I understand that my behaviour, both in and out of school, is included in this agreement and that my school may investigate any inappropriate behaviour.

- I will immediately report anything online that makes me feel uncomfortable or upset (including messages and images) to an adult in school or to my parent / carer.
- I understand that the school computer systems are for educational use and I will not use them for anything else unless I have permission to do so.
- I will not open any attachments to emails, unless I know and trust the person who sent the email.

*Together, we
embrace
difference*

*Together,
we are
kind*

*Together, we
are
problem
solvers*

*Together,
we are
safe*

*Together,
we do our
best*

Parent / Carer Acceptable Use Agreement and Code of Conduct



Technology has become integral to the lives of children and young people, both within school and in their lives outside of school. The internet and other communication technologies are incredibly powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. We passionately believe that our children have an entitlement to safe internet access at all times and together, as a partnership, we seek to provide an environment and curriculum which allows for technology to be used as a safe and vital learning tool. By being part of the Dobcroft Junior School's community, you are agreeing to support the principles which we are implementing as a school. You are also giving your consent for your child's use of the internet and technology provided by school.

A copy of the Children's Acceptable Use Agreement is attached to this form, so that you will be aware of our expectations of the children. The school will try to ensure that pupils have good access to ICT to enhance their learning and will, in return, expect the pupils to agree to be responsible users.

Your child's Acceptable Use Agreement ensures:

- That they will be a responsible user and stay safe while using the internet and other communication technologies for educational, personal and recreational use.
- That school ICT systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk.
- That parents and carers are aware of the importance of online safeguarding and are involved in the education and guidance of children with regard to their online behaviour.

As a parent within our school community, it is vital that you have knowledge of the following points:

- As the parent / carer of the pupils stated, I understand that my child will have access to the internet and to ICT systems at school.
- I know that my child has been introduced to the school's Acceptable Use Agreement and will receive, Online Safeguarding education to help them to understand the importance of safe use of ICT – both in and out of school.
- I understand that the school will take every reasonable precaution, including monitoring and filtering systems, to ensure that young people will be safe when they use the internet and ICT systems. I also understand that the school cannot ultimately be held responsible for the nature and content of materials accessed on the internet and using mobile technologies.
- I understand that my child's activity on the ICT systems will be monitored and that the school will contact me if they have concerns about any possible breaches of the Acceptable Use Agreement.
- I will encourage my child to adopt safe use of the internet and digital technologies at home and will promote positive, safe and responsible behaviour on the internet.
- I will inform the school if I have concerns over my child's online safety.
- I agree not to use my mobile phone on school grounds for any reason.

E-safety and Social Media Code of Conduct for Parents

Dobcroft Junior School understands and appreciates the benefits of social media; however, there may also be some significant negative impacts, such as cyber bullying, which the school does not tolerate.

For us to set the best example possible to pupils at the school, we would ask parents to also lead by example. The school urges parents to review and sign our 'code of conduct', which outlines how to act when using social media.

The school expects parents to behave in a civilised nature on any online platform or website and will not tolerate any of the following online behaviour:

- Posting defamatory statuses about parents, pupils, the school or its employees
- Complaining about the school's values and methods on social media or other websites
- Posting statuses containing confidential information, e.g. regarding a complaint outcome

- Contacting school employees through social media, including requesting to 'follow' them or sending them private messages
- Creating or joining private groups or chats that victimise or harass a member of staff or the school in general
- If parents wish to raise a complaint, the school has a Complaints Procedures Policy in place.
- Breaches of this code of conduct will be taken seriously by the school and, in the event of illegal, defamatory, or discriminatory content, breaches could lead to prosecution.
- Parents will not attempt to 'friend' or 'follow' any member of staff on social media.
- Parents are instructed not to post anonymously or under an alias to evade the guidance given in this code of conduct.
- The school retains the right to request any damaging material is removed from social media websites
- Parents' social media usage will be in accordance with the school's Social Media Policy.
- Pupils and parents will not attempt to "friend" or otherwise contact members of staff through their personal social media accounts. Pupils and parents are only permitted to be affiliates of school social media accounts.
- Pupils and parents will not post anonymously or under an alias to evade the guidance given in this policy.
- Pupils and parents will not post any content online which is damaging to the school or any of its staff or pupils.

ClassDojo – Overall Parent Expectations

- I understand that my child may be photographed for ClassDojo / celebratory purposes and that this may be posted in the secure 'class' area of the app. My child will also post work to the 'portfolio' section of their account, which may include photos and videos of themselves.
- I understand that ClassDojo is being used as a secure site and will not repost or share content (including photographs) from ClassDojo.
- As above, in the Parent Code of Conduct Section, parents are expected to refrain from negative, public comments and instead, speak with the school directly if they have concerns.

Online messaging, including ClassDojo Messaging

The school expects that parents may use messaging apps, such as WhatsApp, for purposes beneficial to themselves and the school, and will not accept any of the following behaviour:

- Sending abusive messages to fellow parents
- Sending abusive messages about members of staff, parents or the school
- Sending abusive and/or frequent messages to members of staff
- **When using ClassDojo Messaging, parents will remember that this is a messaging system for convenience of 'quick questions and answers' e.g. *Please can you remind me of the PE day?* Communication which is more complex and related to either your child's academics or social and emotional wellbeing should go through the appropriate channels (phone call, meeting or email to teachers@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk)**

The school appreciates the simplicity and ease of instant messaging; keeping in contact outside of school can benefit the school community by keeping it closer. Should any problems arise from contact over messaging apps, the school will act quickly by contacting parents directly, to stop any issues continuing.

The school can request a meeting with parents if any misconduct, such as sending abusive messages or posting defamatory statuses, occurs online.

The school's complaints procedure will be followed as normal if any members of the parent teacher association or governing board cause any issues through their conduct whilst using online messaging.

The headteacher can, with the permission of the parent, view messages sent between members of the parental body to deal with problems quickly and effectively.

The headteacher can request that 'group chats' are closed down should any problems continue between parents or parental bodies.

Legislation

Schools should be aware of the legislative framework under which this Online-Safety Policy template and guidance has been produced. It is important to note that in general terms an action that is illegal if committed offline is also illegal if committed online.

It is recommended that legal advice is sought in the advent of an e safety issue or situation.

Computer Misuse Act 1990

This Act makes it an offence to:

- Erase or amend data or programs without authority;
- Obtain unauthorised access to a computer;
- "Eavesdrop" on a computer;
- Make unauthorised use of computer time or facilities;
- Maliciously corrupt or erase data or programs;
- Deny access to authorised users.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018

This protects the rights and privacy of individual's data. To comply with the law, information about individuals must be collected and used fairly, stored safely and securely and not disclosed to any third party unlawfully. The Act states that person data must be:

- Fairly and lawfully processed.
- Processed for limited purposes.
- Adequate, relevant and not excessive.
- Accurate.
- Not kept longer than necessary.
- Processed in accordance with the data subject's rights.
- Secure.
- Not transferred to other countries without adequate protection.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Freedom of Information Act gives individuals the right to request information held by public authorities. All public authorities and companies wholly owned by public authorities have obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. When responding to requests, they have to follow a number of set procedures.

Communications Act 2003

Sending by means of the Internet a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character; or sending a false message by means of or persistently making use of the Internet for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety is guilty of an offence liable, on conviction, to imprisonment. This wording is important because an offence is complete as soon as the message has been sent: there is no need to prove any intent or purpose.

Malicious Communications Act 1988

It is an offence to send an indecent, offensive, or threatening letter, electronic communication or other article to another person.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

It is an offence for any person to intentionally and without lawful authority intercept any communication. Monitoring or keeping a record of any form of electronic communications is permitted, in order to:

- Establish the facts;
- Ascertain compliance with regulatory or self-regulatory practices or procedures;
- Demonstrate standards, which are or ought to be achieved by persons using the system;
- Investigate or detect unauthorised use of the communications system;
- Prevent or detect crime or in the interests of national security;
- Ensure the effective operation of the system.

- Monitoring but not recording is also permissible in order to:
- Ascertain whether the communication is business or personal;
- Protect or support help line staff.
- The school reserves the right to monitor its systems and communications in line with its rights under this act.

Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988

It is an offence to copy all, or a substantial part of a copyright work. There are, however, certain limited user permissions, such as fair dealing, which means under certain circumstances permission is not needed to copy small amounts for non-commercial research or private study. The Act also provides for Moral Rights, whereby authors can sue if their name is not included in a work they wrote, or if the work has been amended in such a way as to impugn their reputation. Copyright covers materials in print and electronic form, and includes words, images, and sounds, moving images, TV broadcasts and other media (e.g. youtube).

Telecommunications Act 1984

It is an offence to send a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character. It is also an offence to send a message that is intended to cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety to another that the sender knows to be false.

Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994

This defines a criminal offence of intentional harassment, which covers all forms of harassment, including sexual. A person is guilty of an offence if, with intent to cause a person harassment, alarm or distress, they: -

- Use threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, or disorderly behaviour; or
- Display any writing, sign or other visible representation, which is threatening, abusive or insulting, thereby causing that or another person harassment, alarm or distress.

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006

This Act makes it a criminal offence to threaten people because of their faith, or to stir up religious hatred by displaying, publishing or distributing written material which is threatening. Other laws already protect people from threats based on their race, nationality or ethnic background.

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

A person must not pursue a course of conduct, which amounts to harassment of another, and which he knows or ought to know amounts to harassment of the other. A person whose course of conduct causes another to fear, on at least two occasions, that violence will be used against him is guilty of an offence if he knows or ought to know that his course of conduct will cause the other so to fear on each of those occasions.

Protection of Children Act 1978

It is an offence to take, permit to be taken, make, possess, show, distribute or advertise indecent images of children in the United Kingdom. A child for these purposes is anyone under the age of 18. Viewing an indecent image of a child on your computer means that you have made a digital image. An image of a child also covers pseudo-photographs (digitally collated or otherwise). A person convicted of such an offence may face up to 10 years in prison

Sexual Offences Act 2003

The new grooming offence is committed if you are over 18 and have communicated with a child under 16 at least twice (including by phone or using the Internet) it is an offence to meet them or travel to meet them anywhere in the world with the intention of committing a sexual offence. Causing a child under 16 to watch a sexual act is illegal, including looking at images such as videos, photos or webcams, for your own gratification. It is also an offence for a person in a position of trust to engage in sexual activity with any person under 18, with whom they are in a position of trust. (Typically, teachers, social workers, health professionals, connections staff fall in this category of trust). Any sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 13 commits the offence of rape.

Public Order Act 1986

This Act makes it a criminal offence to stir up racial hatred by displaying, publishing or distributing written material which is threatening. Like the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 it also makes the possession of inflammatory material with a view of releasing it a criminal offence. Children, Families and Education Directorate page 38 April 2007.

Obscene Publications Act 1959 and 1964

Publishing an "obscene" article is a criminal offence. Publishing includes electronic transmission.

Human Rights Act 1998

This does not deal with any particular issue specifically or any discrete subject area within the law. It is a type of "higher law", affecting all other laws. In the school context, human rights to be aware of include:

- The right to a fair trial
- The right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence
- Freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of assembly
- Prohibition of discrimination
- The right to education

These rights are not absolute. The school is obliged to respect these rights and freedoms, balancing them against those rights, duties and obligations, which arise from other relevant legislation.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006

Empowers Headteachers, to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site and empowers members of staff to impose disciplinary penalties for inappropriate behaviour.

SSCB would like to acknowledge YHGfL, SWGfL and Kent County Council for the use of their documentation.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information included in this document is accurate, as at the date of publication in October 2012. However, SSCB cannot guarantee its accuracy, nor can it accept liability in respect of the use of the material.

© SSCB 2012

Appendix 6

