

Elworth CE Primary School



Online Safety Policy

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Mission Statement

At Elworth CE Primary school we believe in the Church of England's vision for education which is 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good.' Education should enable children to flourish and reach their full God-given potential. To do this fully we need to develop children's characters so that they not only succeed academically but flourish in life skills. This is the basis of Character education; a concept of lifelong learning where pupils live out the virtues they encounter and learn to take their place as active global citizens. Our hope is that every child will become courageous advocates for change. We aspire that all our children are a blessing beyond the school walls, beyond their families, beyond their local community, as global citizens. To achieve this the children and adults at Elworth embark on an exciting and adventurous journey together joining in with God's redemptive work in the world and learn to be advocates for change.

At Elworth we create a stimulating and caring environment, grounded in Christian belief and practice, so that all members of our school community can flourish. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of diversity within modern Britain. We maintain that learning should be a rewarding experience for everyone; it should be enjoyable. Through our teaching we equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their lives.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all members of the school (including staff, pupils, volunteers, parents / carers, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of school digital systems, both in and out of the 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 is pertinent to incidents of cyber-bullying, or other online safety incidents covered by this policy, which may take place outside of the school, but is linked to membership of the school. The 2011 Education Act increased these powers with regard to the searching for and of electronic devices and the deletion of data (see appendix for template policy). In the case of both acts, action can only be taken over issues covered by the published Behaviour Policy.

The school will deal with such incidents within this policy and associated behaviour and anti-bullying policies and will, where known, inform parents / carers of incidents of inappropriate online safety behaviour that take place out of school.

Roles and Responsibilities

The following section outlines the Online Safety roles and responsibilities of individuals and groups within the school:

Governors:

Governors are responsible for the approval of the online safety Policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy. This will be carried out by the Governors receiving regular information about online safety incidents and monitoring reports. A member of the Governing Body has taken on the role of online safety Governor. The role of the online safety Governor / Director will include:

- Regular meetings with the Online Safety Lead.
- Regular monitoring of online safety incident logs.
- Reporting to relevant Governors.

Headteacher and Senior Leaders:

- The Headteacher has a duty of care for ensuring the safety (including online safety) of members of the school community, though the day to day responsibility for online safety will be delegated to the Online Safety Lead.
- The Headteacher and (at least) another member of the Senior Leadership Team should be aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safety allegation being made against a member of staff.
- The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that the Online Safety Lead and other relevant staff receive suitable training to enable them to carry out their online safety roles and to train other colleagues, as relevant.
- The Headteacher will ensure that there is a system in place to allow for monitoring and well-being support of those in school who carry out the internal online safety monitoring role. This is to provide a safety net and also support those colleagues who take on important monitoring roles.
- The Senior Leadership Team will receive regular monitoring reports from the Online Safety Lead.

Online Safety Lead:

- Leads the online safety working group.
- Takes day to day responsibility for online safety issues and has a leading role in establishing and reviewing the school online safety policies / documents.
- Ensures that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident taking place.
- Provides training and advice for staff.
- Liaises with the Local Authority / relevant body.
- Liaises with school technical staff.
- Receives reports, via email, of online safety incidents and creates a log of incidents to inform future online safety developments.
- Meets regularly with the online safety *Governor* to discuss current issues, review incident logs and filtering / change control logs.
- Attends a relevant meeting of *Governors*.
- Reports regularly to the Senior Leadership Team.

MGL Technical Support staff:

MGL is responsible for ensuring:

- That the school's technical infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack.
- That the school meets required online safety technical requirements and any Local Authority/other relevant body online safety Policy/Guidance that may apply.
- That users may only access the networks and devices through a properly enforced password protection policy, in which passwords are regularly changed.
- The Technical Security Policy is applied and updated on a regular basis and that its implementation is not the sole responsibility of any single person.
- That they keep up to date with online safety technical information in order to effectively carry out their online safety role and to inform and update others as relevant.
- That the use of the network/internet/remote access/email is regularly monitored in order that any misuse/attempted misuse can be reported to the Headteacher & Online Safety Lead for investigation/action/sanction.

Teaching and Support Staff:

are responsible for ensuring that:

- They have an up to date awareness of online safety matters and of the current school Online Safety policy and practices.
- They have read, understood and signed the Staff Code of Conduct.
- They report any suspected misuse or problem to the Headteacher/Senior Leader ;Online Safety Lead for investigation/action/sanction.
- All digital communications with pupils/parents/carers should be on a professional level and only carried out using official school systems.
- Online safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other activities.
- Pupils understand and follow the Online Safety and Acceptable Use policies.
- Pupils have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations including new AI based websites such as Microsoft Copilot.
- They monitor the use of digital technologies, mobile devices, cameras etc in lessons and other school activities (where allowed) and implement current policies with regard to these devices.
- In lessons where internet use is pre-planned students/pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

should be trained in online safety issues and be aware of the potential for serious child protection/safeguarding issues to arise from:

- Sharing of personal data.
- Access to illegal/inappropriate materials.
- Inappropriate on-line contact with adults/strangers.
- Potential or actual incidents of grooming.
- Cyber-bullying.

Students/pupils:

- Are responsible for using the school digital technology systems in accordance with Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement.
- Have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations.
- Need to understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and know how to do so.
- Will be expected to know and understand policies on the use of digital devices. They should also know and understand policies on the taking/use of images and on cyber-bullying.
- Should 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.

Parents/Carers

Parents/Carers play a crucial role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use the internet/mobile devices, with access to the internet, in an appropriate way. The school will take every opportunity to help parents understand these issues through parents' evenings, newsletters, letters, website/learning platform and information about national/local online safety campaigns/literature. Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the school in promoting good online safety practice and to follow guidelines on the appropriate use of:

- Digital and video images taken at school events.
- Access to parents' sections of the website and on-line student/pupil records (Arbor Parent Portal).

Policy Statements

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.

Online safety should be a focus in all areas of the curriculum and staff should reinforce online safety messages across the curriculum. The online safety curriculum should be broad, relevant and provide progression, with opportunities for creative activities and will be provided in the following ways:

- A planned online safety curriculum should be provided as part of Computing/PHSE/other lessons and should be regularly revisited.
- Key online safety messages should be reinforced as part of a planned programme of assemblies and tutorial/pastoral activities.

- Pupils should be taught in all lessons to be critically aware of the materials/content they access online and be guided to validate the accuracy of information.
- Pupils should be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet.
- Pupils should be helped to understand the need for pupil Acceptable Use Agreement and encouraged to adopt safe and responsible use both within and outside school.
- Staff should act as good role models in their use of digital technologies, the internet and mobile devices.
- In lessons where internet use is pre-planned, it is best practice that pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches.
- Where pupils are allowed to freely search the internet with search engine filtering on, staff should be vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites the young people visit.
- It is accepted that from time to time, for good educational reasons, pupils may need to research topics (e.g. racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request that the Technical Staff (or other relevant designated person) can temporarily remove those sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Any request to do so, should be auditable, with clear reasons for the need.

Education – Parents/Carers

Many parents and carers have only a limited understanding of online safety risks and issues, yet they play an essential role in the education of their children and in the monitoring/regulation of the children's online behaviours. Parents may underestimate how often children and young people come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the internet and may be unsure about how to respond.

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

- Curriculum activities.
- Letters, newsletters, web site, VLE.
- Parents/Carers evenings/sessions.
- High profile events/campaigns eg Safer Internet Day.
- Reference to the relevant websites/publications.

Education & Training – Staff/Volunteers

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 programme of formal online safety training will be made available to staff. This will be regularly updated and reinforced. An audit of the online safety training needs of all staff will be carried out regularly. It is expected that some staff will identify online safety as a training need within the performance management process.
- All new staff should receive online safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the school Online Safety policy and Acceptable Use Agreements.

- The Online Safety Lead will receive regular updates through attendance at external training and by reviewing guidance documents released by relevant organisations.
- This Online Safety policy and its updates will be presented to and discussed by staff in staff/team meetings/INSET days.
- The Online Safety Lead will provide advice/guidance/training to individuals as required.

Training – Governors

Governors should take part in online safety training/awareness sessions, with particular importance for those who are members of any sub committee/group involved in technology/online safety/health and safety/child protection. This may be offered in a number of ways:

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

Technical – infrastructure/equipment, filtering and monitoring

The school will be responsible for ensuring that the school infrastructure/network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible, and that policies and procedures approved within this policy are implemented. It will also need to ensure that the relevant people named in the above sections will be effective in carrying out their online safety responsibilities. The responsibilities are as follows:

- School technical systems will be managed in ways that ensure that the school meets recommended technical requirements.
- There will be regular reviews and audits of the safety and security of school technical systems.
- Servers, wireless systems and cabling must be securely located and physical access restricted.
- All users will have clearly defined access rights to school technical systems and devices.
- All users will be provided with a username and secure password by MGL(Technical Support)/Computing Lead who will keep an up to date record of users and their usernames. Users are responsible for the security of their username and password.
- The “administrator” passwords for the school digital systems, used by the Network Manager, must also be available to the Headteacher or other nominated senior leader.
- The Business Manager & Computing Lead are responsible for ensuring that software licence logs are accurate and up to date, and that regular checks are made to reconcile the number of licences purchased against the number of software installations.
- Internet access is filtered for all users. Illegal content is filtered by the broadband/filtering provider (Exa Broadband) by actively employing the Internet Watch Foundation CAIC list. Content lists are regularly updated and internet use is logged and regularly monitored. There is a clear process in place to deal with requests for filtering changes.
- School technical staff regularly monitor and record the activity of users on the school technical systems and users are made aware of this in the Acceptable Use Agreement.
- An appropriate system is in place for users to report any actual/potential technical incident/security breach to the relevant person, as agreed.
- Appropriate security measures are in place to protect the servers, firewalls, routers, wireless systems, work stations, mobile devices etc from accidental or malicious attempts which might threaten the security of the school systems and data. These are

tested regularly. The school infrastructure and individual workstations are protected by up to date virus software.

- An agreed policy is in place for the provision of temporary access of “guests” (e.g. trainee teachers, supply teachers, visitors) onto the school systems.
- An agreed policy is in place regarding the extent of personal use that users (staff/students/pupils/community users) and their family members are allowed on school devices that may be used out of school.
- An agreed policy is in place regarding the use of removable media (e.g. memory sticks/CDs/DVDs) by users on school devices. Personal data cannot be sent over the internet or taken off the school site unless safely encrypted or otherwise secured.

Use of digital and video images

The development of digital imaging technologies has created significant benefits to learning, allowing staff and students/pupils instant use of images that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet. However, staff, parents/carers and students/pupils need to be aware of the risks associated with publishing digital images on the internet. Such images may provide avenues for cyberbullying to take place. Digital images may remain available on the internet forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term. It is common for employers to carry 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 students/pupils 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.
- In accordance with guidance from the Information Commissioner’s Office, parents/carers are welcome to take videos and digital images of their children at school events for their own personal use (as such use is not covered by the Data Protection Act). To respect everyone’s privacy and in some cases protection, these images should not be published/made publicly available on social networking sites, nor should parents/carers comment on any activities involving other students/pupils in the digital/video images.
- Staff and volunteers 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 students/pupils are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.
- Students/pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.
- Photographs published on the website, or elsewhere, that include students/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.
- Website permission from parents or carers will be checked before photographs of pupils are published on the school website or any other school digital platform e.g. X (formally known as twitter) and Instagram.

Data Protection

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

- Fairly and lawfully processed.
- Processed for limited purposes.
- Adequate, relevant and not excessive.
- Accurate.
- Kept no longer than is necessary.
- Processed in accordance with the data subject's rights.
- Secure.
- Only transferred to others with adequate protection.

The school must ensure that:

- It will hold the minimum personal data necessary to enable it to perform its function and it will not hold it for longer than necessary for the purposes it was collected for.
- Every effort will be made to ensure that data held is accurate, up to date and that inaccuracies are corrected without unnecessary delay.
- All personal data will be fairly obtained in accordance with the "Privacy Notice" and lawfully processed in accordance with the "Conditions for Processing".
- It has a Data Protection Policy.
- It is registered as a Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act (DPA)
- Responsible persons are appointed/identified - Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO) and Information Asset Owners (IAOs).
- Risk assessments are carried out.
- It has clear and understood arrangements for the security, storage and transfer of personal data.
- Data subjects have rights of access and there are clear procedures for this to be obtained.
- There are clear and understood policies and routines for the deletion and disposal of data.
- There is a policy for reporting, logging, managing and recovering from information risk incidents.
- There are clear Data Protection clauses in all contracts where personal data may be passed to third parties.
- There are clear policies about the use of cloud storage/cloud computing which ensure that such data storage meets the requirements laid down by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Staff must ensure that they:

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

When personal data is stored on any portable computer system, memory stick or any other removable media:

- The data must be encrypted and password protected.
- The device must be password protected where possible.
- The device must offer approved virus and malware checking software.
- The data must be securely deleted from the device, in line with school policy (below), once it has been transferred or its use is complete.

Communications

A wide range of rapidly developing communications technologies have the potential to enhance learning. The following table shows how the school currently considers the benefit of using these technologies for education outweighs their risks/disadvantages.

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. Users should be aware that email communications are monitored. Staff and pupils should therefore use only the school email service to communicate with others when in school, or on school systems (e.g. by remote access).
- Users must immediately report to the nominated person – in accordance with the school policy, the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication.
- Any digital communication between staff and pupils or parents / carers (e.g. email) must be professional in tone and content. These communications may only take place on official (monitored) school systems. Personal email addresses, text messaging or social media must not be used for these communications.
- Whilst all children are provided with a Google Workspace email address/account, they do not have access to any email platform e.g. Gmail, Office365.
- Pupils should be taught about online safety issues, such as the risks attached to the sharing of personal details. They should also be taught strategies to deal with inappropriate communications and be reminded of the need to communicate appropriately when using digital technologies.
- Personal information should not be posted on the school website and only official email addresses should be used to identify members of staff.

Social Media - Protecting Professional Identity

All schools, academies and local authorities have a duty of care to provide a safe learning environment for pupils and staff. Schools and local authorities could be held responsible, indirectly, for acts of their employees in the course of their employment. Staff members who harass, cyberbully, discriminate on the grounds of sex, race or disability or who defame a third party may render the school or local authority liable to the injured party. Reasonable steps to prevent predictable harm must be in place.

The school provides the following measures to ensure reasonable steps are in place to minimise risk of harm to pupils, staff and the school through limiting access to personal information:

- Training to include: acceptable use; social media risks; checking of settings; data protection; reporting issues.

- Clear reporting guidance, including responsibilities, procedures and sanctions.
- Risk assessment, including legal risk.

School staff should ensure that:

- No reference should be made on social media to students / pupils, parents / carers or school staff.
- They do not engage in online discussion on personal matters relating to members of the school community.
- Personal opinions should not be attributed to the school or local authority.
- Security settings on personal social media profiles are regularly checked to minimise risk of loss of personal information.