



# St Michael and All Angels Catholic Primary School Online Safety Policy

2025-26

<b>Chair of Governors</b>	Maureen McDaid
<b>Headteacher</b>	Jude Ryan
<b>Designated Safeguarding Lead</b>	Hayley Deyes
<b>Date adopted: September 2025</b>	<b>Review Date: September 2026</b>

## **Mission Statement**

***Believe-Achieve- Belong...together with Christ.***

*In the light of St Michael the Archangel, we strive to be Champions of all Christians and to the Church itself.*

### **Christ Centred Aim- Believe**

- *to live the Gospel Values and live life to the full with forgiveness, love, respect and kindness for all.*

### **Teaching and Learning Aim- Achieve**

- *to learn, grow and inspire as we act as role models, when we care for others, the world and the environment*

### **Community Aim- Belong**

- *to be messengers of Christ opening a door to the Church for the community to share its Gospel Values both locally and globally.*

## **1. Policy Statement**

St Michael and All Angels Catholic Primary School recognises that digital technology is an essential part of modern education and daily life. We are committed to ensuring that all members of our school community use technology safely, responsibly and respectfully.

Online safety is a fundamental aspect of safeguarding and child protection and is underpinned by our Catholic ethos. Guided by Catholic Social Teaching, we promote:

- the dignity of every human person
- respect, solidarity and responsible use of freedom
- care for the wellbeing of others in all online interactions

This policy is written in line with:

- *Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)*
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children*
- DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards
- Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (KSCP) guidance
- The Equality Act 2010

## **2. Aims**

This policy aims to:

- Protect children from harm when using digital technologies
- Promote safe, responsible and respectful online behaviour
- Prevent online abuse, bullying and discrimination, including behaviour linked to protected characteristics
- Ensure staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities in relation to online safety
- Establish clear procedures for reporting and responding to online safety concerns

### **3. Scope**

This policy applies to:

- All pupils
- All staff, including supply staff, volunteers and contractors
- Governors
- Parents and carers supporting children's online learning
- All use of digital technology on the school site and during remote learning

### **4. Equality, Inclusion & Protected Characteristics**

The school is committed to ensuring online safety for all members of the school community, regardless of protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, including:

- sex
- race
- disability
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy and maternity

Online bullying, harassment, hate speech or discriminatory behaviour linked to any protected characteristic will be treated as a safeguarding concern and addressed in line with the Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and Safeguarding procedures.

### **5. Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Governing Body**

The Governing Body will:

- Approve and review this policy annually
- Ensure appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place and effective
- Receive safeguarding updates relating to online safety

#### **Executive Headteacher**

The Executive Headteacher will:

- Ensure online safety is embedded within safeguarding practice
- Support the DSL in implementing this policy
- Ensure staff receive appropriate training

## **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

The DSL will:

- Oversee online safety as part of the school's safeguarding arrangements
- Understand and review the effectiveness of filtering and monitoring systems
- Respond to online safety concerns, including peer-on-peer abuse
- Make referrals to external agencies where required

## **Staff**

All staff must:

- Follow this policy and the Staff Acceptable Use Policy
- Be vigilant to online safety risks
- Report concerns immediately to the DSL
- Model safe, respectful and responsible online behaviour

## **Pupils**

Pupils are expected to:

- Follow the Pupils' Acceptable Use Policy
- Use technology in a way that reflects respect for others
- Tell a trusted adult if they feel unsafe or worried online

## **Parents and Carers**

Parents and carers are encouraged to:

- Support the school's online safety messages
- Monitor children's use of technology at home
- Report concerns to the school where appropriate

## **6. Education and Curriculum**

Online safety is taught in an age-appropriate and progressive way through:

- Computing and PSHE/RSHE
- Assemblies and themed events (e.g. Safer Internet Day)
- Ongoing pastoral and curriculum opportunities

Teaching includes:

- keeping personal information safe
- respectful online communication
- recognising bullying, harassment and discrimination
- understanding online relationships
- how to report concerns

## 7. Filtering and Monitoring

The school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place to:

- Protect pupils and staff from accessing harmful or inappropriate content
- Identify safeguarding concerns, including harmful or discriminatory behaviour
- Meet DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards

Systems are reviewed regularly by the local authority, senior leaders and the DSL.

## 8. Acceptable Use of Technology

All staff, pupils and parents are required to sign an **Acceptable Use Policy annually**, outlining expectations for:

- use of school devices and networks
- use of personal devices
- online conduct and communication
- social media use

## 9. Responding to Online Safety Incidents

Any online safety concern must be reported immediately to the DSL.

The school will:

- follow safeguarding and child protection procedures
- record concerns accurately and securely
- involve parents and carers where appropriate
- make referrals to MASH, the police or other agencies when required

Online bullying and discriminatory incidents are managed in line with the Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

## 10. Staff Training

- All staff receive regular safeguarding training which includes online safety
- Safeguarding updates include emerging online risks and local/national learning
- The DSL receives training appropriate to their role, including filtering and monitoring responsibilities

## 11. Remote Learning

Where remote learning is used, the school ensures:

- approved platforms are used
- expectations are clearly communicated
- safeguarding and online safety principles remain in place at all times

## **12. Monitoring and Review**

This policy is reviewed annually by the Governing Body or sooner if required due to changes in statutory guidance or school practice.

### **Key Contacts**

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Mrs H. Deyes
- **Deputy DSL:** Mrs J. Ryan
- **Safeguarding Governor:** Mr A. McGuinness

**Reviewed:** September 2025

**Approved by Governing Body:** September 2025

**Next Review:** September 2026

**Linked Policies:** Safeguarding & Child Protection, Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Staff Code of Conduct, Acceptable Use Policy, RSHE Policy, Equality Policy