



E-Safety Policy

Document Control	
Title	E-Safety Policy
Policy Number	MHS050
Date	15th February 2023
Supersedes	New Policy
Purpose of the policy	<p>The purpose of this policy is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safeguard and protect all members of the school's community online• Identify approaches to educate and raise awareness of online safety throughout the community• Enable all staff to work safely and responsibly, to model positive behaviour online and to manage professional standards and practice when using technology• Identify clear procedures to use when responding to online safety concerns.
Related policies/guidance	<p>This policy links with a number of other policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information Security and Data Protection Policy• Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy• Staff Code of Conduct• Acceptable Use Agreements (AUAs) for staff and pupils• Behaviour Policy• Anti-Bullying Policy
Review	February 2025
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Under the Public Sector Equality Duty, Manchester Hospital School has due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010; to advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it and to foster good relations across all protected characteristics. Manchester Hospital School will take into account equality considerations when policies are being developed, adopted and implemented.

Manchester Hospital School serves the needs of a very large and diverse range of children, young people and their families at times when they are extremely vulnerable. Our core purpose as a school is to uphold the child's right to Education and our policies and procedures are necessary to keep staff and children safe . We acknowledge that our students are often living with a range of very complex medical conditions including mental ill health and therefore we keep the needs of the student at the heart of all decisions. We will , therefore, work within the parameters of all statutory policies whilst seeking to understand and support the child's long term education and health needs.

1. Policy Introduction and Aims

The internet and associated devices, such as computers, tablets, mobile phones and games consoles, are an important part of everyday life. However, these modern technologies have created a landscape of challenges and dangers that is still constantly changing. In order to ensure that the school provides a safe environment for learning, we adhere to the following principles:

Online safety is an essential part of safeguarding and the school has a duty to ensure that all pupils and staff are protected from potential harm online

Online safety education is an important preparation for life. Pupils should be empowered to build resilience and to develop strategies to prevent, manage and respond to risk online.

The purpose of the online safety policy is to:

Safeguard and protect all members of the school's community online

Identify approaches to educate and raise awareness of online safety throughout the community



Enable all staff to work safely and responsibly, to model positive behaviour online and to manage professional standards and practice when using technology
Identify clear procedures to use when responding to online safety concerns.

The issues classified within online safety are considerable, but can be broadly categorised into four areas of risk:

Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; for example pornography, racist or radical and extremist views, and in some respects fake news

Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example children can be contacted by bullies or people who groom or seek to abuse them

Commercial exploitation: for example young people can be unaware of hidden costs and advertising in apps, games and website

Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example making, sending and receiving explicit images, or online bullying

2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all staff including teachers, support staff, external contractors, visitors, volunteers and other individuals who work for, or provide services on behalf of the school (collectively referred to as 'staff' in this policy) as well as pupils and parents/carers. It applies to the whole school including the Early Years Foundation Stage. It applies to access to school systems, the internet and the use of technology, using devices provided by the school or personal devices.

The policy also applies to online safety behaviour such as cyber-bullying, which may take place outside the school, but is linked to membership of the school. The school will deal with such behaviour within this policy and associated behaviour and discipline policies, and will, where known, inform parents/carers of incidents of inappropriate online behaviour that take place out of school.

2. Links with other policies and practices

This policy links with a number of other policies, including:



Data Protection Policy
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
Staff Code of Conduct
Acceptable Use Agreements (AUAs) for staff and pupils
Behaviour Policy
Anti-Bullying Policy

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Janet Doherty is the Whole School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) responsible for online safety. All school sites have a DSL who take responsibility for child protection and safeguarding at their site. E safety is a key element of keeping children safe.
All members of the community have important roles and responsibilities to play with regard to online safety:

3.1 The Head:

Has overall responsibility for online safety provision
Ensures that online safety is viewed as a safeguarding issue and that practice is in line with national recommendations and requirements
Ensures the school follows policies and practices regarding online safety (including the Acceptable Use Agreements), information security and data protection
Ensures that online safety is embedded within the whole school curriculum, which enables all pupils to develop an age-appropriate understanding of online safety
Supports the site DSLs by ensuring they have sufficient training, time, support and resources to fulfil their responsibilities
Ensures that all staff receive regular, up to date and appropriate online safety training
Is aware of what to do in the event of a serious online safety incident, and will ensure that there are robust reporting channels for online safety concerns, including internal, local and national support
Receives regular reports from the site DSLs on online safety
Ensures that online safety practice is audited and evaluated regularly in order to identify strengths and areas for improvement.



3.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) role at our school is organised in the following ways:

Whole school DSL responsible for whole school policies, training and processes

Site lead DSLs responsible for day to day implementation of the policies

The two roles and their combined responsibilities are listed in the table below.

Whole School DSL	<p>Promotes an awareness of and commitment to online safety throughout the school community</p> <p>Acts as the named point of contact for the school on all whole school online safety issues, and liaises with other members of staff or other agencies, as appropriate</p> <p>Keeps the online safety component of the curriculum under review, in order to ensure that it remains up to date and relevant to pupils</p> <p>Facilitates training and advice for all staff, keeping colleagues informed of current research, legislation and trends regarding online safety and communicating this to the school community, as appropriate</p> <p>Ensures that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident</p> <p>Monitors pupil internet usage, taking action where required</p> <p>Maintains the online safety incident log for the whole school and record of actions taken, and reviews the log periodically to identify gaps and trends</p> <p>Reports regularly to the Governors and SLT on the incident log, internet monitoring, current issues, developments in legislation etc.</p>
Site DSL	<p>Takes day to day responsibility for online safety at their site</p> <p>Acts as the named point of contact on all online safety issues at their site, and liaises with other members of staff or other agencies, as appropriate</p> <p>Facilitates training and advice for all staff, keeping colleagues informed of current research, legislation and trends regarding online</p>



	<p>safety and communicating this to the school community, as appropriate</p> <p>Ensures that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident at their site</p> <p>Monitors pupil internet usage at their site , taking action where required</p> <p>Maintains the online safety incident log for their site and record of actions taken, and reviews the log periodically to identify gaps and trends</p> <p>Reports regularly to the Head and SLT on the incident log, internet monitoring, current issues, developments in legislation etc.</p>
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3.3 Staff managing the technical environment:

Apply appropriate technical and procedural controls to ensure that the school's IT infrastructure/system is secure and not open to misuse or malicious attack, whilst allowing learning opportunities to be maximised

Keep up to date with the school's online safety policy and technical information in order to carry out their online safety role effectively and to inform and update others as relevant

Provide technical support to the DSL and leadership team in the implementation of online safety procedures

Ensure that the school's filtering policy is applied and updated on a regular basis, and oversees the school's monitoring system.



Report any filtering breaches or other online safety issues to the DSL, Head, and other bodies, as appropriate

Ensure that any safeguarding concerns are reported to the DSL, in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures.

3.4 All school staff:

Read, adhere to and help promote the online safety policy, Acceptable Use Agreements and other relevant school policies and guidance

Take responsibility for the security of school systems and the data they use, or have access to
Model safe, responsible and professional behaviours in their own use of technology

Embed online safety in their teaching and other school activities

Supervise, guide and monitor pupils carefully when engaged in activities involving online technology

Have an up to date awareness of a range of online safety issues and how they may be experienced by the children in their care

Identify online safety concerns and take appropriate action by reporting to the DSL

Know when and how to escalate online safety issues

Take personal responsibility for professional development in this area.

3.5 Pupils (at a level that is appropriate to their individual age, ability and vulnerabilities):

Engage in age appropriate online safety education opportunities

Read and adhere to the school Acceptable Use Agreements

Respect the feelings and rights of others both on and offline, in and out of school

Take responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe online

Report to a trusted adult, if there is a concern online.

3.6 Parents and carers are encouraged to:

Read the school Acceptable Use Agreements and encourage their children to adhere to them

Support the school in online safety approaches by discussing online safety issues with their children and reinforcing appropriate, safe online behaviours at home



Model safe and appropriate use of technology and social media, including seeking permission before taking and sharing digital images of pupils other than their own children
Identify changes in behaviour that could indicate that their child is at risk of harm online
Seek help and support from the school, or other appropriate agencies, if they or their child encounter risk or concerns online
Use school systems and resources, safely and appropriately
Take responsibility for their own awareness in relation to the risks and opportunities posed by new and emerging technologies.

4. Education and Engagement

4.1 Education and engagement with pupils

The school curriculum includes age-appropriate lessons and activities on online safety for all pupils, intended to raise awareness, build resilience and promote safe and responsible internet use by:

Ensuring education regarding safe and responsible use precedes internet access
Including online safety across the curriculum, including the Personal Social and Health Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Computing programmes of study, covering use both at school and home
Reinforcing online safety messages whenever technology or the internet is in use
Ensuring that the needs of our pupils who are all considered to be more vulnerable online, are met appropriately
Educating pupils in the effective use of the internet to research; including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation
Teaching pupils to be critically aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy
Teaching pupils to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet
Supporting students in building resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making



The school will support pupils to read and understand the Acceptable Use Agreement in a way which suits their age and ability by:

Discussing the ICT Acceptable Use Agreement and the implications

Reinforcing the principles via display, classroom discussion etc.

Informing pupils that network and internet use will be monitored for safety and security purposes and in accordance with legislation

Recognising positive use of technology by pupils.

4.2 Training and engagement with staff

The school will:

Provide and discuss the Online Safety Policy and staff Acceptable Use Agreement with all members of staff as part of induction

Provide up-to-date and appropriate online safety training for all staff on a regular basis, with at least annual updates

Make staff aware that school systems are monitored and activity can be traced to individual users; staff will be reminded to behave professionally and in accordance with school's policies when accessing school systems and devices

Make staff aware that their online conduct out of school, including personal use of social media, could have an impact on their professional role and reputation within school

Highlight useful educational resources and tools which staff should use, according to the age and ability of the pupils

Ensure all members of staff are aware of the procedures to follow regarding online safety concerns affecting pupils, colleagues or other members of the school community.

4.3 Awareness and engagement with parents and carers

Parents and carers have an essential role to play in enabling children to become safe and responsible users of the internet and associated technologies. The school will build a partnership approach to online safety with parents and carers by:

Providing information and guidance on online safety in a variety of formats. This will include offering specific online safety awareness training and highlighting online safety at other events such as parent evenings



Drawing parents' attention to the school online safety policy and expectations in newsletters and on the website

Requiring parents to read the pupil Acceptable Use Agreement and discuss its implications with their children.

5. Reducing Online Risks

The internet is a constantly changing environment with new apps, devices, websites and material emerging at a rapid pace. The school will:

Regularly review the methods used to identify, assess and minimise online risks

Examine emerging technologies for educational benefit and undertake appropriate risk assessments before use in school is permitted

Ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring is in place and take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users can only access appropriate material

Ensure, through online safety education and the school AUAs, that pupils know that the school's expectations regarding safe and appropriate behaviour online apply whether the school's networks are used or not

6. Safer Use of Technology

6.1 Classroom Use

The school uses a wide range of technology. This includes access to:

Computers, laptops and other digital devices

Internet which may include search engines and educational websites

Learning platforms

Cloud services and storage

Email and messaging

Games consoles and other games based technologies

Digital cameras, web cams and video cameras

Supervision of pupils will be appropriate to their age and ability

All devices should be used in accordance with the school's AUAs and with appropriate safety and security measures in place.

Members of staff should always check websites thoroughly, and tools and apps for suitability before use in the classroom or recommending for use at home



Staff and pupils should consider copyright law before using internet-derived materials by staff (and pupils should, where appropriate, comply with license terms and/or acknowledge the source of information).

6.2 Filtering and Monitoring

At Leo Kelly, all incoming data is screened by an application that provides real-time filtering and protects both networks and users from internet threats. It prevents a wide range of unwelcome material and malware from being available in schools while at the same time allowing access to material of educational value. The policy determining filtering is managed centrally, with different levels being applied depending on adults or pupils.

The system logs all internet access on MHS devices, and these logs can be accessed by the whole school DSL for monitoring purposes. Flagged terms will also trigger alerts which the DSL may investigate. Concerns identified will be managed according to the nature of the issue.

Email traffic between pupils and staff is not scanned as a matter of course, but if concerns about contacts between pupils are raised, then a record of messages may be retrieved.

All members of staff are however aware that they cannot rely on filtering and monitoring to safeguard pupils: effective classroom management and regular education about safe and responsible use is essential.

All users are informed that use of school systems is monitored and that all monitoring is in line with data protection, human rights and privacy legislation.

Dealing with Filtering breaches

The school has a clear procedure for reporting filtering breaches:

If pupils discover unsuitable sites, they will be required to alert a member of staff immediately. The member of staff will report the concern (including the URL of the site if possible) to the site DSL.

The breach will be recorded and escalated as appropriate.

Any material that the school believes is illegal will be reported immediately to the appropriate agencies, such as Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), the Police or Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP).

6.3 Managing Personal Data Online



Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available online in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. Full information can be found in the school's Data Protection Policy.

7. Social Media

7.1 Expectations

The term social media includes (but is not limited to): blogs; wikis; social networking sites; forums; bulletin boards; online gaming; apps; video/photo sharing sites; chatrooms and instant messenger

All members of the school community are expected to engage in social media in a positive, safe and responsible manner, at all times

7.2 Staff Use of Social Media

The safe and responsible use of social networking, social media and personal publishing sites is discussed with all members of staff as part of staff induction and is revisited and communicated via regular staff training opportunities

Safe and professional behaviour is outlined for all members of staff as part of the staff Code of Conduct, Staff Acceptable Use Agreement.

7.3 Pupils' Personal Use of Social Media

Safe and appropriate use of social media will be taught to pupils as part of online safety education, via age-appropriate sites and resources

The school is aware that many popular social media sites state that they are not for children under the age of 13. The school will not create accounts specifically for children under this age

The school will control pupil access to social media whilst using school-provided devices and systems on site:

This does not include explicit permission given by staff during appropriate activities and or lessons.

Inappropriate or excessive use of social media during school hours or whilst using school devices may result in disciplinary or legal action and/or removal of internet facilities



Any concerns regarding pupils' use of social media, both at home and at school, will be dealt with in accordance with existing school policies. Concerns will also be raised with parents/carers as appropriate, particularly when concerning underage use of social media sites or tools.

8 Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones

The school recognises that personal communication through mobile technologies is an accepted part of everyday life for pupils, staff and parents/carers, but technologies need to be used safely and appropriately within school.

8.1 Expectations

All use of personal devices and mobile phones will take place in accordance with the law and other appropriate school policies, including, but not limited to: Anti-Bullying, Behaviour and Discipline, and Safeguarding and Child Protection.

Electronic devices of any kind that are brought onto site are the responsibility of the user at all times. The school accepts no responsibilities for the loss, theft, damage or breach of security of such items on school premises

The sending of abusive or inappropriate messages/content via mobile phones or personal devices is forbidden by any member of the community; any breaches will be dealt according to the behaviour policy.

All members of the community are advised to ensure that their mobile phones and personal devices do not contain any content which may be considered to be offensive, derogatory or would otherwise contravene the school behaviour or Safeguarding and Child Protection policies.

8.2 Staff Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones

Members of staff will ensure that the use of personal phones and devices takes place in accordance with the law, as well as relevant school policy and procedures, such as: Confidentiality, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Data Security and Acceptable Use Agreements.

Images of pupils must not be stored on personal devices.

8.3 Pupils' Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones



Pupils will be educated regarding the safe and appropriate use of personal devices and mobile phones and will be made aware of boundaries and consequences

Parents are advised to contact their child via the school reception during school hours

Mobile phones should not be used by pupils during lessons unless as part of an approved and directed curriculum based activity with consent from a member of staff.

Mobile phones and personal devices (such as smart watches) must not be taken into examinations. Pupils found in possession of a mobile phone or personal device during an exam will be reported to the appropriate examining body. This may result in the pupil's grade in that examination or all examinations being nullified.

8.4 Visitors' Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones

Parents, carers and visitors (including volunteers and contractors) must use their mobile phones and personal devices in accordance with the school's Acceptable use Agreement and other associated policies, such as Anti-Bullying and Safeguarding and Child Protection policies

The school will ensure appropriate and information is provided to inform parents, carers and visitors of expectations of use

Members of staff are expected to challenge visitors if they have concerns and will always inform the site DSL of any breaches of school policy.

9. Responding to Online Safety Incidents and Concerns

All members of the school community will be made aware of the reporting procedure for online safety concerns, including: breaches of filtering, youth produced sexual imagery (sexting), sexual abuse as a result of online grooming, cyberbullying and illegal content

All members of the community must respect confidentiality and the need to follow the official school procedures for reporting concerns.

Incidents will be managed depending on their nature and severity, according to the relevant school policies

After any investigations are completed, the school will debrief, identify lessons learnt and implement any changes in policy or practice as required

If the school is unsure how to proceed with an incident or concern, the site DSL will seek advice.

Where there is suspicion that illegal activity has taken place, the school will contact the Police using 101, or 999 if there is immediate danger or risk of harm.



If an incident or concern needs to be passed beyond the school community (for example if other local schools are involved or the public may be at risk), the school will speak with the Police and/or the Local Authority first, to ensure that potential investigations are not compromised.

9.1 Concerns about Pupils' Welfare

The site DSL must be informed immediately of any online safety incident that could be considered a safeguarding or child protection concern

The site DSL will ensure that online safeguarding concerns are escalated and reported to relevant agencies

The school will inform parents and carers of any incidents or concerns involving their child, as and when required.

10 Misuse

Complaints about IT misuse by pupils will be dealt with by the site lead under the relevant policies and procedures and according to the nature of the complaint

Any complaint about staff misuse must be referred to the Head

Pupils and parents are informed of the school's complaints procedure.

10.1 Monitoring and Review

The school will monitor internet use and evaluate online safety mechanisms to ensure that this policy is consistently applied in practice

The policy framework will be reviewed at least annually, and in response to any new national guidance or legislation, significant developments in the use of technology, emerging threats or incidents that have taken place

Useful links and sources of advice

11.1 Guidance and resources



Sexting in Schools and Colleges (UKCCIS)

Indecent images of children: guidance for young people

Cyberbullying: understand, prevent and respond (Childnet)

Cyberbullying: advice for headteachers and school staff (DfE)

Self-generated child sexual abuse (IWF)

11.2 National Organisations

Action Fraud: www.actionfraud.police.uk

CEOP:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.ceop.police.uk

Childnet: www.childnet.com

Get Safe Online: www.getsafeonline.org

Internet Matters: www.internetmatters.org

Internet Watch Foundation (IWF): www.iwf.org.uk

Lucy Faithfull Foundation: www.lucyfaithfull.org

NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

ChildLine: www.childline.org.uk

Net Aware: www.net-aware.org.uk

The Marie Collins Foundation: www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk

UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk

Professional Online Safety Helpline: www.saferinternet.org.uk/about/helpline

Telephone helpline: 0844 381 4772

360 Safe Self-Review tool for schools: www.360safe.org.uk

See Searching, screening and confiscation: Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies DfE January 2018

