



E-safety Policy Statement

This policy should be read alongside the **STAR Multi Academy Trust's** policies and procedures on child protection and safeguarding.

The Purpose of this policy statement

The STAR Multi Academy Trust and its schools, works with children and families to provide educational provision and support.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
- ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in the STAR Multi Academy Trust's provision.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. It is based on the NSPCC's Online Safety Policy Statement.

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

We recognise that:

- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however it can also present risks and challenges
- we have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using the STAR Multi Academy Trust's network and devices
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping

- young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe in our schools by:

- having a clear, progressive e-safety education programme, as part of the computing/life skills curriculum. This covers a range of skills and behaviours appropriate to their age and experience and children and young people will be fully aware of how they can report areas of concern whilst at school or outside of school
- appointing an online safety lead [this may or may not be the same person as the nominated Designated Safeguarding Lead-(DSL)
- appointing a Safeguarding Link Governor who will review the effectiveness of the policies and associated procedures, as part of their statutory duty
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our staff code of conduct, social media policy and ICT and e-technology acceptable use policy and agreement
- supporting and encouraging children and young people to use the internet, social media, mobile phones and technology in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- providing an acceptable use agreement for all stakeholders
- ensuring clear and robust procedures are in place to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child or young person
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that usernames, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively and follow best practices where possible, including enabling 2FA when/where applicable
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety
- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.
- ensure our schools and LGBs review the DfE's [filtering and monitoring standards](#) and are supported in meeting these standards (paragraph 142) in line with KCSIE 2023. (An example of the filtering and monitoring systems used within schools to keep children safe are Smoothwall and Impero.)

Keeping children and young people safe during activities that take place in school, but outside published school hours

The expectation is that the Acceptable User Agreement is adhered to for all activities on the school or wider Trust premises outside of published school hours.

Keeping children and young people safe during activities that take place off the school or Trust Premises either during or beyond published school hours.

Mobile phones and social media can be very useful in the administration of after school activities and residential trips keeping parents/carers informed about the progress of a residential visit, about changes in arrangements such as travel times, or in the event of an emergency. They can also present some challenges and risks, which need to be appropriately managed.

Permission for students to use electronic devices will be confirmed on an activity/trip by activity/trip basis and recorded on EVOLVE. Where electronic devices are permitted, students will be reminded of the Acceptable User Agreement which all students must sign and clear and specific guidance for that activity will be published.

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)
- providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying or cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation through our safeguarding training programmes
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our schools and our Trust as a whole into account
- reviewing the procedures followed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

Related policies and procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside our policies and procedures, including:

- safeguarding and child protection policy
- procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing
- dealing with allegations of abuse made against a child or young person
- managing allegations against staff
- staff code of conduct
- anti-bullying policy and procedures
- social media policy
- remote learning policy
- workforce ICT and e-technology acceptable use policy and agreement
- student ICT and e-technology acceptable use policy and agreement
- data protection policy
- information security policy
- records management policy

Addendum-Please complete the details for your school

Contact details

Online safety coordinator:

Name:

Email:

Senior lead for safeguarding and child protection:

Name: Cayte Mulhern

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