



**St. Mary's Catholic Primary School,  
Wednesbury**

# **ONLINE SAFETY POLICY**

**Spring 2019**

# Contents

Development / Monitoring / Review of this Policy .....	3
Schedule for Development / Monitoring / Review .....	3
Scope of the Policy .....	4
Roles and Responsibilities .....	4
Governors: .....	4
Headteacher and Senior Leaders:.....	5
Online Safety Co-ordinator:.....	5
Network Manager / Technical staff: .....	6
Teaching and Support Staff.....	6
Designated Safeguarding Lead .....	7
Online Safety Group.....	7
Pupils .....	8
Parents / Carers .....	8
All Users .....	8
Policy Statements .....	9
Education – Pupils .....	9
Education – Parents / Carers .....	10
Education – The Wider Community.....	10
Education & Training – Staff / Volunteers.....	11
Training – Governors .....	11
Technical – infrastructure / equipment, filtering and monitoring.....	11
Mobile Technologies .....	12
Use of digital and video images.....	13
Data Protection .....	14
Communications .....	15
Social Media - Protecting Professional Identity.....	16
Unsuitable / inappropriate activities.....	17
Responding to incidents of misuse.....	19
Illegal Incidents .....	20
Other Incidents.....	21
Appendix.....	23

Acknowledgements ..... 23

## Development / Monitoring / Review of this Policy

This Online Safety policy has been developed by a working group made up of:

- Headteacher / Senior Leaders
- Online Safety Co-ordinator
- Staff – including Teachers, Support Staff, Technical staff
- Governors / Board
- Parents and Carers
- Community users

Consultation with the whole school community has taken place through a range of formal and informal meetings.

## Schedule for Development / Monitoring / Review

This Online Safety policy was approved by the Governing Body / Governors on:	<b>9<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b>
The implementation of this Online Safety policy will be monitored by the:	<b>Online Safety Co-ordinator</b> (James Southall) <b>Online Safety Group</b>
Monitoring will take place at regular intervals:	<b>Annually – March</b>
The Governing body will receive a report on the implementation of the Online Safety Policy from the Online Safety Co-ordinator:	<b>Annually – March</b>
Reports of incidents regarding Online Safety will be shared by the Headteacher to the Governing body at regular intervals:	<b>Termly</b>
The Online Safety Policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly in the light of any significant new developments in the use of the technologies, new threats to online safety or incidents that have taken place. The next anticipated review date will be:	<b>March 2019</b>
Should serious online safety incidents take place, the following external persons / agencies should be informed:	<b>Gary Linford (DSL), Sandwell Educational Authority, CEOP, Police and the chair of governors if appropriate.</b>

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- Logs of reported incidents
- Monitoring logs of internet activity (including sites visited) / filtering
- Internal monitoring data for network activity

## 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 ICT 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. 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 Governor 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** within their role as the 'Child Protection Safeguarding Governor'. The role of the Online Safety Governor will include:

- meetings with the Online Safety Co-ordinator
- attendance at Online Safety Group meetings
- regular monitoring of online safety incident logs
- regular monitoring of filtering / change control 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 Co-ordinator.
- 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. (see flow chart on dealing with online safety incidents – Page 21 – “Responding to incidents of misuse”).
- The Headteacher and Senior Leaders are responsible for ensuring that the Online Safety Co-ordinator 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/ Senior Leaders will ensure that there is a system in place to allow for monitoring and support of those in school who carry out the internal online safety monitoring role. This is to provide a safety net and also support to those colleagues who take on important monitoring roles.
- The Senior Leadership Team will receive regular monitoring reports from the Online Safety Co-ordinator.

## Online Safety Co-ordinator:

- leads the Online Safety 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 when needed
- liaises with school technical staff
- receives reports of online safety incidents and creates a log of incidents to inform future online safety developments
- meets regularly with Online Safety Governor to discuss current issues, review incident logs and filtering
- reports regularly to Senior Leadership Team

## Network Manager / Technical staff:

The Network Manager / Technical Staff 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 filtering 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 / Learning Platform / remote access / email is regularly monitored in order that any misuse / attempted misuse can be reported to the Headteacher; Online Safety Co-ordinator for investigation / action / sanction
- that monitoring software / systems are implemented and updated as agreed in school policies

## 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 and Volunteer Acceptable Use Policy Agreement**.
- they report any suspected misuse or problem to the Headteacher; Online Safety Co-ordinator 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 Policy and acceptable use policies
- pupils have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations.
- 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 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

## Online Safety Group

The Online Safety Group provides a consultative group that has wide representation from the school community, with responsibility for issues regarding online safety and the monitoring the Online Safety Policy including the impact of initiatives.

Members of the Online Safety Group will assist the Online Safety Co-ordinator with:

- the production / review / monitoring of the school Online Safety Policy / documents.
- the production / review / monitoring of the school filtering policy and requests for filtering changes.
- mapping and reviewing the online safety curricular provision – ensuring relevance, breadth and progression.
- monitoring network / internet / incident logs.
- consulting stakeholders – including parents / carers and the pupils about the online safety provision.
- monitoring improvement actions identified through use of the 360 degree safe self-review tool.



## Pupils:

- are responsible for using the school digital technology systems in accordance with the 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 mobile devices and digital cameras. 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 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 / Learning Platform and on-line pupil records
- their children's personal devices in the school (where this is allowed)

## All Users

All Users who access school systems as part of the wider school provision will be expected to sign a **Staff and Volunteer Acceptable Use Policy Agreement** before being provided with access to school systems.

This includes all staff and any volunteers.

# 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 / other lessons and should be regularly revisited.
- Key online safety messages should be reinforced as part of a planned programme of assemblies and class activities (**SMART Rules**).
- Pupils should be taught in all lessons to be critically aware of the materials / content they access on-line 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 supported 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.
- Pupils should be helped to understand the need for the 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, 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 (eg racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request that the Online Safety Co-ordinator 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. !

### **Create form**

## 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 on-line 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, Dojo, Twitter
- Parents / Carers evenings / sessions
- High profile events / campaigns e.g. Safer Internet Day
- Reference to the relevant web sites / publications e.g. [swgfl.org.uk](http://www.swgfl.org.uk)  
[www.saferinternet.org.uk/](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/) <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>  
<http://www.stmaryswednesbury.co.uk/online-safety/>

## Education – The Wider Community

The school will provide opportunities for local community groups / members of the community to gain from the school's online safety knowledge and experience. This may be offered through the following:

- Providing family learning courses in use of new digital technologies, digital literacy and online safety.
- Online safety messages targeted towards grandparents and other relatives as well as parents.
- The school website will provide online safety information for the wider community.

## 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.
- 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. Online Safety Co-ordinator is tasked with getting staff and volunteers to sign.
- The Online Safety Co-ordinator will receive regular updates through attendance at external training events 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 Co-ordinator 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 the Online Safety group involved in technology / online safety / health and safety / safeguarding.

## 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:

- 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 (at KS2 and above) will be provided with a username and secure password by (Technician/Online Safety Co-ordinator) 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 “master / administrator” passwords for the school ICT system, used by the Network Manager must also be available to the Headteacher / and kept in a secure place.
- Internet access is filtered for all users. Illegal content (child sexual abuse images) is filtered by the broadband or filtering provider 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**
- Internet filtering should ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet.
- 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 agreed policy is in place for the provision of temporary access of “guests” (eg trainee teachers, supply teachers, visitors) onto the school systems.
- Our **Staff and Volunteer Acceptable Use Policy Agreement** describes the use of removable media (eg 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. (see School **Privacy Notice: School Workforce** in the appendix for further detail)

## Mobile Technologies

Mobile technology devices may be school owned/provided or personally owned and might include: smartphone, smartwatch, tablet, notebook / laptop or other technology that usually has the capability of utilising the school’s wireless network. The device then has access to the wider internet which may include the school’s learning platform and other cloud-based services such as email and data storage.

All users should understand that the primary purpose of the use mobile / personal devices in a school context is educational. The mobile technologies policy should be consistent with and inter-related to other relevant school policies including but not limited to the Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Policy, Bullying Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, and policies

around theft or malicious damage. Teaching about the safe and appropriate use of mobile technologies should be an integral part of the school's Online Safety education programme.

- The school **Acceptable Use Agreements for staff, pupils and parents/carers** will give consideration to the use of mobile technologies
- The school allows:

	School Devices			Personal Devices		
	School owned for single user	School owned for multiple users	Authorised device	Pupil owned	Staff owned	Visitor owned
Allowed in school	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes
Full network access	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

\* Year 6 with the expressed permission of their parent / carer can bring a mobile into school. The mobile must be switched off when on site and handed over to their teacher first thing in the morning. The mobile is then locked securely and only returned at the end of the day. Said pupils are made aware of the expectations and potential consequences of this agreement.

## 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, parents / carers and 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 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 e.g. on social networking sites.
- Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of pupils are published on the school website / social media / local press.
- 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 GDPR 2018). 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 pupils in the digital / video images.

- 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.

## Data Protection

Below is an extract from the school's **Privacy Notice** which all staff are expected to read and sign a declaration:

### Who processes your information?

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School is the data controller of the personal information you provide to us. This means we determine the purposes for which, and the manner in which, any personal data relating to staff is to be processed. The person responsible for this is Gary Linford, Head Teacher, who can be contacted on [headteacher@st-marys.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-marys.sandwell.sch.uk) or 0121 505 3595.

SIPS Education is the Data Protection Officer. Their role is to oversee and monitor the school's data processing practices. This individual can be contacted on 0121 296 3000 or [enquiries@sipseducation.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sipseducation.co.uk)

Where necessary, third parties may be responsible for processing staff members' personal information. Where this is required, the school places data protection requirements on third party processors to ensure data is processed in line with staff members' privacy rights.

## Communications

A wide range of rapidly developing communications technologies has 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:

Communication Technologies	Staff & other adults				Pupils			
	Allowed	Allowed at certain times	Allowed for selected staff	Not allowed	Allowed	Allowed at certain times	Allowed with staff permission	Not allowed
Mobile phones may be brought to the school		x					x	
Use of mobile phones in lessons				x				x
Use of mobile phones in social time		x						x
Taking photos on mobile phones / cameras			x					x
Use of other mobile devices e.g. tablets, gaming devices		x						x
Use of personal email addresses in school, or on school network				x				x
Use of school email for personal emails				x				x
Use of messaging apps		x						x
Use of social media		x						x
Use of blogs		x					x	

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.
- 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. (Online Safety BOOST includes an anonymous reporting app Whisper – <https://boost.swgfl.org.uk/>)

- Any digital communication between staff and pupils or parents / carers (email, social media, chat, blogs, VLE etc) must be professional in tone and content.

## 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 group 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:

- Ensuring that personal information is not published
- Training is provided including: acceptable use; social media risks; checking of settings; data protection; reporting issues. Online Safety BOOST includes unlimited webinar training on this subject: <https://boost.swgfl.org.uk/>
- Clear reporting guidance, including responsibilities, procedures and sanctions
- Risk assessment, including legal risk

School staff should ensure that:

- No reference should be made in social media to 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

When official school social media accounts are established there should be:

- A process for approval by senior leaders: through checking with any member of the management team before posting.
- Clear processes for the administration and monitoring of these accounts – involving at least two members of staff: SMT regularly monitor all accounts.
- A code of behavior for users of the accounts, including
- Systems for reporting and dealing with abuse and misuse
- Understanding of how incidents may be dealt with under school disciplinary procedures

## Personal Use:

- Personal communications are those made via personal social media accounts. In all cases, where a personal account is used which associates itself with the school or impacts on the school, it must be made clear that the member of staff is not communicating on behalf of the school with an appropriate disclaimer. Such personal communications are within the scope of this policy.
- Personal communications which do not refer to or impact upon the school are outside the scope of this policy.
- Where excessive personal use of social media in school is suspected, and considered to be interfering with relevant duties, disciplinary action may be taken.

## Monitoring of Public Social Media

- As part of active social media engagement, it is considered good practice to proactively monitor the Internet for public postings about the school.
- The school should effectively respond to social media comments made by others according to a defined policy or process.

The school's use of social media for professional purposes will be checked regularly by the Online Safety Co-ordinator and Online Safety Group to ensure compliance with the school policies. **Online Safety BOOST includes Reputation Alerts that highlight any reference to the school in online media (newspaper or social media for example) <https://boost.swgfl.org.uk/>**

## Unsuitable / inappropriate activities

Some internet activity e.g. accessing child abuse images or distributing racist material is illegal and would obviously be banned from school and all other technical systems. Other activities e.g. 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 / or outside the school when using school equipment or systems. The school policy restricts usage as follows:

## User Actions

	Acceptable	Acceptable at certain times	Acceptable for nominated 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 –The making, production or distribution of indecent images of children. Contrary to The Protection of Children Act 1978				X
	Grooming, incitement, arrangement or facilitation of sexual acts against children Contrary to the Sexual Offences Act 2003.				X
	Possession of an extreme pornographic image (grossly offensive, disgusting or otherwise of an obscene character) Contrary to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008				X
	Criminally racist material in UK – to stir up religious hatred (or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation) - contrary to the Public Order Act 1986				X
	Pornography			X	
	Promotion of any kind of discrimination			X	
	threatening behaviour, including promotion of physical violence or mental harm			X	
	Promotion of extremism or terrorism			X	
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			X		
Using school systems to run a private business			X		
Using systems, applications, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering or other safeguards employed by the school			X		
Infringing copyright			X		
Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (eg financial / personal information, databases, computer / network access codes and passwords)			X		
Creating or propagating computer viruses or other harmful files			X		
Unfair usage (downloading / uploading large files that hinders others in their use of the internet)			X		
On-line gaming (educational)		X			

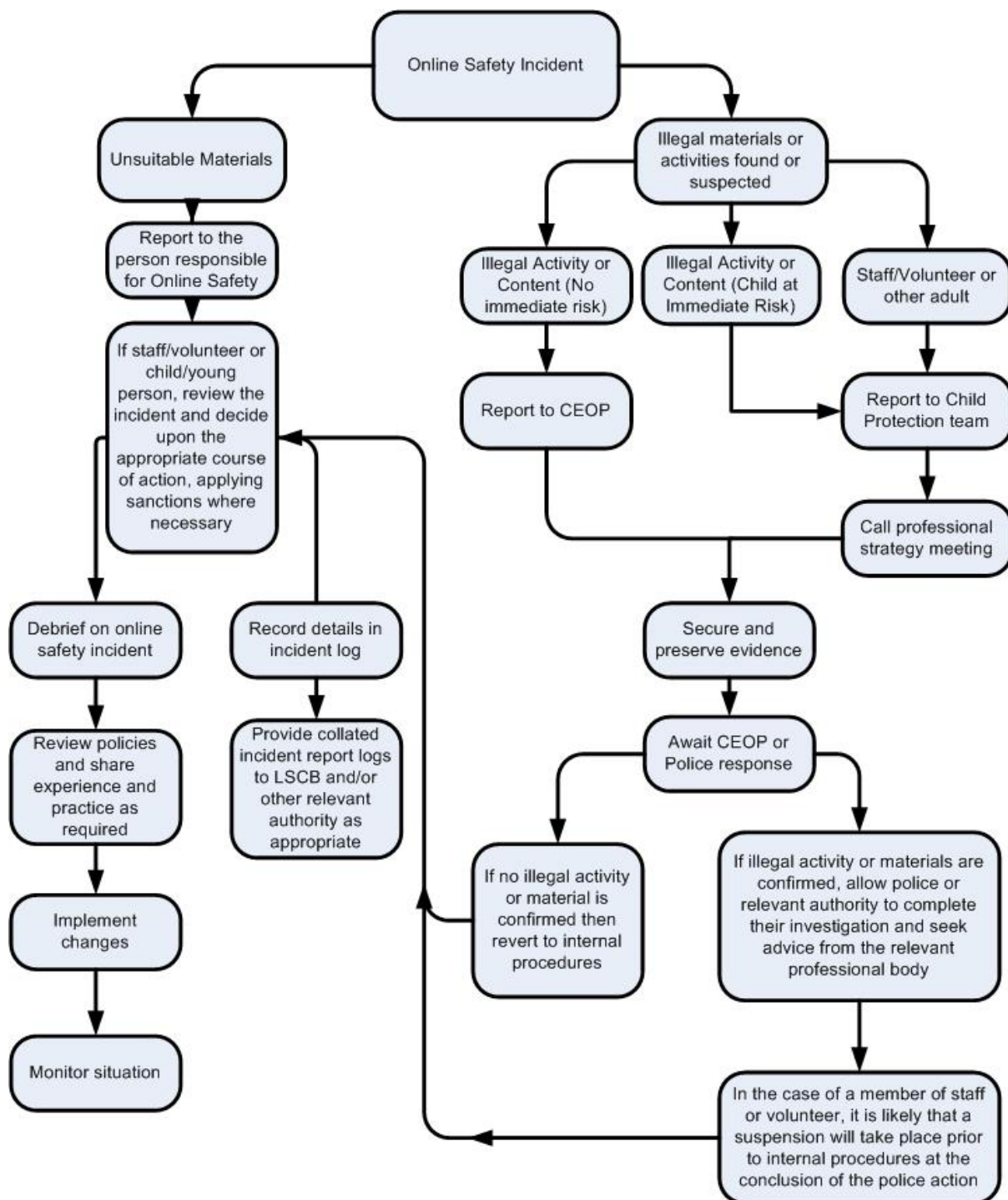
On-line gaming (non-educational)				X	
On-line gambling				X	
On-line shopping / commerce			X		
File sharing				X	
Use of social media				X	
Use of messaging apps				X	
Use of video broadcasting e.g. Youtube			X		

## Responding to incidents of misuse

This guidance (flow chart) is intended for use when staff need to manage incidents that involve the use of online services. It encourages a safe and secure approach to the management of the incident. Incidents might involve illegal or inappropriate activities (see “User Actions” above).

# Illegal Incidents

If there is any suspicion that the web site(s) concerned may contain child abuse images, or if there is any other suspected illegal activity, refer to the right hand side of the Flowchart (below and appendix) for responding to online safety incidents and report immediately to the police.



## Other Incidents

It is hoped that all members of the school community will be responsible users of digital technologies, who understand and follow school policy. However, there may be times when infringements of the policy could take place, through careless or irresponsible or, very rarely, through deliberate misuse.

### **In the event of suspicion, all steps in this procedure should be followed:**

- Have more than one senior member of staff / volunteer involved in this process. This is vital to protect individuals if accusations are subsequently reported.
- Conduct the procedure using a designated computer that will not be used by young people and if necessary can be taken off site by the police should the need arise. Use the same computer for the duration of the procedure.
- It is important to ensure that the relevant staff should have appropriate internet access to conduct the procedure, but also that the sites and content visited are closely monitored and recorded (to provide further protection).
- Record the URL of any site containing the alleged misuse and describe the nature of the content causing concern. It may also be necessary to record and store screenshots of the content on the machine being used for investigation. These may be printed, signed and attached to the form (except in the case of images of child sexual abuse – see below)
- Once this has been completed and fully investigated the group will need to judge whether this concern has substance or not. If it does then appropriate action will be required and could include the following:
  - Internal response or discipline procedures
  - Involvement by Local Authority or national / local organisation (as relevant).
  - Police involvement and/or action
- **If content being reviewed includes images of Child abuse then the monitoring should be halted and referred to the Police immediately. Other instances to report to the police would include:**
  - incidents of 'grooming' behaviour
  - the sending of obscene materials to a child
  - adult material which potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act
  - criminally racist material
  - promotion of terrorism or extremism
  - other criminal conduct, activity or materials
- **Isolate the computer in question as best you can. Any change to its state may hinder a later police investigation.**

It is important that all of the above steps are taken as they will provide an evidence trail for the school and possibly the police and demonstrate that visits to these sites were carried out

for safeguarding purposes. The completed form should be retained by the group for evidence and reference purposes.

# Appendix

Copies of the more detailed template policies and agreements, contained in the appendix, can be downloaded from:

<http://swgfl.org.uk/products-services/esafety/resources/creating-an-esafety-policy>

## Acknowledgements

SWGfL would like to acknowledge a range of individuals and organisations whose policies, documents, advice and guidance have contributed to the development of this School Online Safety Policy Template and of the 360 degree safe Online Safety Self Review Tool:

- Members of the SWGfL Online Safety Group
- Avon and Somerset Police
- Representatives of SW Local Authorities
- Plymouth University Online Safety
- NEN / Regional Broadband Grids

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