



Watererton
Academy Trust

Online Safety Policy

2024-2025



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Aims

Waterton Academy Trust Aims to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors.
- Identify and support groups of pupils that are potentially at greater risk of harm online than others.
- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole trust community in its use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as 'mobile phones').
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate any incidents using all available external agencies to maximise outcomes, where appropriate.
- Bring awareness to pupils and adults as to the current online risks to their safety and emotional wellbeing and foster a culture of self-resilience, awareness and responsible use of digital technologies.

The 4 Key Categories of Risk

Our trust-wide approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE):

- Content - being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, radicalisation and extremism
- Contact - being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as peer-to-peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes
- Conduct - personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, such as making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography), sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
- Commerce - risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams

Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory safeguarding guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education, and its advice for schools on:

- [Teaching online safety in schools](#)
- [Preventing and tackling bullying](#) and [cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff](#)
- [Relationships and sex education](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation](#)

It also refers to the DfE's guidance on [protecting children from radicalisation](#).

It reflects existing legislation, including but not limited to the [Education Act 1996](#) (as amended), the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#) and the [Equality Act 2010](#). In addition, it reflects the [Education Act 2011](#), which has given teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by, if necessary, searching for and deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

The policy also takes into account the National Curriculum computing programmes of study, and is supported by the advice from CEOP – Education from the National Crime Agency <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

Roles and Responsibilities

Trustees and the Academy Standards Committee

Members of each Academy Standards Committee (ASC) have devolved responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The ASC will:

- make sure all staff undergo online safety training as part of child protection and safeguarding training, and ensure staff understand their expectations, roles and responsibilities around filtering and monitoring.
- make sure all staff receive regular online safety updates (via email, e-bulletins and staff meetings), as required and at least annually, to ensure they are continually provided with the relevant skills and knowledge to effectively safeguard children.
- will co-ordinate regular meetings with appropriate staff to discuss online safety, requirements for training, and monitor online safety logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).
- ensure children are taught how to keep themselves and others safe, including keeping safe online.

The Trustees will:

- ensure that each academy has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place on academy devices and networks and will regularly review reports of their effectiveness.

The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) will:

- review the DfE filtering and monitoring standards, and discuss with IT staff and service providers what needs to be done to support each academy in meeting those standards, which include:
 - Identifying and assigning roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems;
 - Reviewing filtering and monitoring provisions at least annually;
 - Blocking harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning;

- Having effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs.

All governors and trustees will:

- Ensure they have read and understand this policy.
- Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the academy's ICT systems and the internet (See Acceptable Use Policy)
- Ensure that online safety is fully considered while devising and implementing any whole school or whole trust approach to safeguarding alongside any related policies and/or procedures.
- Ensure that, where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, is adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This is because of the importance of recognising that a 'one size fits all' approach may not be appropriate for all children in all situations, and a more personalised or contextualised approach may often be more suitable.

The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that staff understand this policy, and that it is implemented consistently throughout the academy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead

Details of the academy's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy, as well as within relevant job descriptions.

The DSL takes lead responsibility for online safety in the academy, in particular:

- Supporting the headteacher in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the academy.
- Working with the headteacher and the ASC to review this policy annually and ensure the procedures and implementation are updated accordingly.
- Taking the lead on understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place on academy devices and academy networks.
- Working with the IT Services manager to make sure the appropriate systems and processes are in place.
- Working with the headteacher, IT Services manager and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents.
- Managing all online safety issues and incidents in line with the academy's safeguarding and child protection policy.
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged on CPOMS and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy and the safeguarding and child protection policy.
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the academy behaviour policy.
- Updating and delivering staff training on online safety (appendix 3 contains a self-audit for staff on online safety training needs)
- Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary

- Providing regular reports on online safety in the academy to the headteacher and/or ASC.
- Undertaking annual risk assessments that consider and reflect the risks children face.
- Providing regular safeguarding and child protection updates, including online safety, to all staff, at least annually, in order to continue to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard effectively.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

IT Services Manager

The IT Services manager is responsible for:

- Putting in place an appropriate level of security protection procedures, such as filtering and monitoring systems on academy devices and networks, which are reviewed and updated at least annually to assess effectiveness, and ensure pupils are kept safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material.
- Ensuring that the trust / academy ICT systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware, and that such safety mechanisms are updated regularly.
- Conducting a full security check and monitoring the trust / academy ICT systems on a regular basis.
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files.
- When required, reviewing any online safety incidents or cyber-bullying incidents logged on CPOMs.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

All Staff and Volunteers

All staff, including contractors and agency staff, and volunteers are responsible for:

- Maintaining an understanding of this policy.
- Implementing this policy consistently.
- Agreeing and adhering to the terms on acceptable use of the academy's ICT systems and the internet (See Acceptable Use Policy) and ensuring that pupils follow the academy's terms on acceptable use (appendices 1 and 2)
- Knowing that the DSL is responsible for the filtering and monitoring systems and processes, and being aware of how to report any incidents of those systems or processes failing by informing the DSL.
- Following the correct procedures by contacting the DSL and the trust IT Services Manager if they need to bypass the filtering and monitoring systems for educational purposes.
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged on CPOMs and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy.

- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the academy behaviour policy.
- Responding appropriately to all reports and concerns about sexual violence and/or harassment, both online and offline, and maintaining an attitude of 'it could happen here'.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Notify a member of staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding this policy.
- Ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of the academy's ICT systems and internet (appendices 1 and 2)

Parents/carers can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online from the following organisations and websites:

- What are the issues? - [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- Hot topics - [Childnet International](#)
- Parent resource sheet - [Childnet International](#)

Visitors and Members of the Community

Visitors and members of the community who use the trust / academy ICT systems or internet will be made aware of this policy, when relevant, and expected to read and follow it. If appropriate, they will be expected to agree to the terms on acceptable use (See Acceptable Use Policy).

Educating Pupils About Online Safety

Pupils will be taught about online safety as part of the curriculum.

All academies have to teach:

- [Relationships education and health education](#) in primary schools

In Key Stage 1, pupils will be taught to:

- Use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private.
- Identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies.

Pupils in Key Stage 2 will be taught to:

- Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly.
- Recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.
- Identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact.

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not.
- That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online, including when we are anonymous.
- The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them.
- How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met.
- How information and data is shared and used online
- What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)
- How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know.

The safe use of social media and the internet will also be covered in other subjects where relevant.

Where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, will be adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with SEND.

Educating Parents/Carers About Online Safety

The academy will raise parents/carers' awareness of internet safety in letters or other communications home, and in information via our website. This policy will also be shared with parents/carers.

Online safety will also be covered during parents' evenings.

The academy will let parents/carers know:

- What systems the academy uses to filter and monitor online use
- What their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and who from the academy (if anyone) their child will be interacting with online

If parents/carers have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with the headteacher and/or the DSL.

Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the headteacher.

Cyber-Bullying

Definition

Cyber-bullying takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites. Like other forms of bullying, it is the repetitive, intentional harming of 1 person or group by another person or group, where the

relationship involves an imbalance of power. (See also the academy behaviour policy and anti-bullying policy.)

Preventing and Addressing Cyber-Bullying

To help prevent cyber-bullying, we will ensure that pupils understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure that pupils know how they can report any incidents and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim.

The academy will actively discuss cyber-bullying with pupils, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. Teachers will discuss cyber-bullying with their class.

Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the curriculum to cover cyber-bullying. This includes personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, and other subjects where appropriate.

All staff, governors and volunteers (where appropriate) receive training on cyber-bullying, its impact and ways to support pupils, as part of safeguarding training (see section 11 for more detail).

The academy also sends information/leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents/carers so they are aware of the signs, how to report it and how they can support children who may be affected.

In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, the academy will follow the processes set out in the academy behaviour policy. Where illegal, inappropriate or harmful material has been spread among pupils, the academy will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the incident is contained.

The DSL will report the incident and provide the relevant material to the police as soon as is reasonably practicable, if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that possessing that material is illegal. They will also work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

Examining Electronic Devices

The headteacher, and any member of staff authorised to do so by the headteacher, can carry out a search and confiscate any electronic device that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- Poses a risk to staff or pupils, and/or
- Is identified in the academy rules as a banned item for which a search can be carried out, and/or
- Is evidence in relation to an offence

Before a search, if the authorised staff member is satisfied that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting any of the above, they will also:

- Make an assessment of how urgent the search is, and consider the risk to other pupils and staff. If the search is not urgent, they will seek advice from the headteacher.
- Explain to the pupil why they are being searched, how the search will happen, and give them the opportunity to ask questions about it
- Seek the pupil's co-operation

Authorised staff members may examine, and in exceptional circumstances erase, any data or files on an electronic device that they have confiscated where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

When deciding whether there is a 'good reason' to examine data or files on an electronic device, the staff member should reasonably suspect that the device has, or could be used to:

- Cause harm, and/or
- Undermine the safe environment of the academy or disrupt teaching, and/or
- Commit an offence

If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the staff member in conjunction with the DSL and headteacher to decide on a suitable response. If there are images, data or files on the device that staff reasonably suspect are likely to put a person at risk, they will first consider the appropriate safeguarding response.

When deciding if there is a good reason to erase data or files from a device, staff members will consider if the material may constitute evidence relating to a suspected offence. In these instances, they will not delete the material, and the device will be handed to the police as soon as reasonably practicable. If the material is not suspected to be evidence in relation to an offence, staff members may delete it if:

- They reasonably suspect that its continued existence is likely to cause harm to any person, and/or
- The pupil and/or the parent/carer refuses to delete the material themselves

If a staff member suspects a device may contain an indecent image of a child (also known as a nude or semi-nude image), they will:

- Not view the image
- Confiscate the device and report the incident to the DSL (or equivalent) immediately, who will decide what to do next. The DSL will make the decision in line with the DfE's latest guidance on [screening, searching and confiscation](#) and the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

Any searching of pupils will be carried out in line with:

- The DfE's latest guidance on [searching, screening and confiscation](#)

- UKCIS guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

Any complaints about searching for or deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices will be dealt with through the academy complaints procedure.

Acceptable Use of the Internet

All pupils, parents/carers, staff, volunteers and governors are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the academy's ICT systems and the internet (appendices 1 to 2 and the Acceptable Use Policy). Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the academy's terms on acceptable use if relevant.

Use of the academy's internet must be for educational purposes only, or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of an individual's role.

We will monitor the websites visited by pupils, staff, volunteers, governors and visitors (where relevant) to ensure they comply with the above and restrict access through filtering systems where appropriate.

More information is set out in the acceptable use agreements in appendices 1 to 2 and the Acceptable Use Policy

Pupils Using Mobile Devices

Pupils should not bring mobile devices (or smart watches) into school, accept with prior agreement of the headteacher. Phones/smart watches will be kept in the school office during the school day.

How the Academy Will Respond to Issues of Misuse

Where a pupil misuses the academy's ICT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in our behaviour policy. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident, and will be proportionate.

Where a staff member misuses the academy's ICT systems or the internet, or misuses a personal device where the action constitutes misconduct, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the staff disciplinary procedures / staff code of conduct. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident.

The academy will consider whether incidents that involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the police.

Training

All new staff members will receive training, as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues, including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation. This is available through Flick Learning which all staff have access to.

All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year as part of safeguarding training, as well as relevant updates as required (for example through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings).

By way of this training, all staff will be made aware that:

- Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues, and that children are at risk of online abuse
- Children can abuse their peers online through:
 - Abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages
 - Non-consensual sharing of indecent nude and semi-nude images and/or videos, especially around chat groups
 - Sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who don't want to receive such content
- Physical abuse, sexual violence and initiation/hazing type violence can all contain an online element

Training will also help staff:

- Develop better awareness to assist in spotting the signs and symptoms of online abuse
- Develop the ability to ensure pupils can recognise dangers and risks in online activity and can weigh up the risks
- Develop the ability to influence pupils to make the healthiest long-term choices and keep them safe from harm in the short term

The DSL will undertake child protection and safeguarding training, which will include online safety, at least every 2 years. They will also update their knowledge and skills on the subject of online safety at regular intervals, and at least annually.

Governors will receive training on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues as part of their safeguarding training.

Volunteers will receive appropriate training and updates, if applicable.

More information about safeguarding training is set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

Monitoring Arrangements

The DSL logs behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety on CPOMs.

This policy will be reviewed every year by the trust. At every review, the policy will be shared with Trustees and with the Academy Standards Committee.

We work with a range of external agencies to provide support for pupils with SEND. These services include, but are not limited to:

- Speech and language therapists
- Specialist teachers or support services
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- General practitioners or paediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Education welfare officers
- Social services

Links With Other Policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- Safeguarding and child Protection policy
- Behaviour policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Data protection policy and privacy notices
- Complaints procedure
- Acceptable use policy

Appendix 1: EYFS and KS1 Acceptable Use Agreement (Pupils and Parents/Carers)

Acceptable Use of the Academy's ICT Systems and Internet: Agreement for Pupils and Parents/Carers	
Name of Pupil:	
<p>When I use the school's ICT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in school I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask a teacher or adult if I can do so before using them • Only use websites that a teacher or adult has told me or allowed me to use • Tell my teacher immediately if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I click on a website by mistake ○ I receive messages from people I don't know ○ I find anything that may upset or harm me or my friends • Use school computers for school work only • Be kind to others and not upset or be rude to them • Look after the school ICT equipment and tell a teacher straight away if something is broken or not working properly • Only use the username and password I have been given • Try my hardest to remember my username and password • Never share my password with anyone, including my friends • Never give my personal information (my name, address or telephone numbers) to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer • Save my work on the school network • Check with my teacher before I print anything • Log off or shut down a computer when I have finished using it <p>I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don't follow the rules.</p>	
Signed (Pupil)	Date:
Parent/Carer Agreement: I agree that my child can use the school's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for pupils using the school's ICT systems and internet, and for using personal electronic devices in school, and will make sure my child understands these.	
Signed (Parent/Carer)	Date:

Appendix 2: KS2 Acceptable Use Agreement (Pupils and Parents/Carers)

Acceptable Use of the Academy's ICT Systems and Internet: Agreement for Pupils and Parents/Carers	
Name of Pupil:	
<p>I will read and follow the rules in the acceptable use agreement policy.</p> <p>When I use the school's ICT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in school I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always use the school's ICT systems and the internet responsibly and for educational purposes only • Only use them when a teacher is present, or with a teacher's permission • Keep my usernames and passwords safe and not share these with others • Keep my private information safe at all times and not give my name, address or telephone number to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer • Tell a teacher (or sensible adult) immediately if I find any material which might upset, distress or harm me or others • Always log off or shut down a computer when I've finished working on it <p>I will not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access any inappropriate websites including: social networking sites, chat rooms and gaming sites unless my teacher has expressly allowed this as part of a learning activity • Open any attachments in emails, or follow any links in emails, without first checking with a teacher • Use any inappropriate language when communicating online, including in emails • Create, link to or post any material that is pornographic, offensive, obscene or otherwise inappropriate • Log in to the school's network using someone else's details • Arrange to meet anyone offline without first consulting my parent/carer, or without adult supervision <p>If I bring a personal mobile phone or other personal electronic device into school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will not use it during lessons, tutor group time, clubs or other activities organised by the school, without a teacher's permission • I will use it responsibly, and will not access any inappropriate websites or other inappropriate material or use inappropriate language when communicating online <p>I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don't follow the rules.</p>	
Signed (Pupil)	Date:
Parent/Carer Agreement: I agree that my child can use the school's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for pupils using the school's ICT systems and internet, and will make sure my child understands these.	
Signed (Parent/Carer)	Date:

Appendix 3: Online Safety Training Needs – Self-Audit for Staff

Online Safety Training Needs Audit	
Name of Staff Member/Volunteer:	Date:
Question	Yes/No (Add Comments if Necessary)
Do you know the name of the person who has lead responsibility for online safety in school?	
Are you aware of the ways pupils can abuse their peers online?	
Do you know what you must do if a pupil approaches you with a concern or issue?	
Are you familiar with the school's acceptable use agreement for staff, volunteers, governors and visitors?	
Are you familiar with the school's acceptable use agreement for pupils and parents/carers?	
Are you familiar with the filtering and monitoring systems on the school's devices and networks?	
Do you understand your role and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring?	
Do you regularly change your password for accessing the school's ICT systems?	
Are you familiar with the school's approach to tackling cyber-bullying?	
Are there any areas of online safety in which you would like training/further training?	

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