

Strike Lane Primary School



Online Safety Policy

Policy Review	Date	Personnel
Created	Nov 19	HT/ OSL
	Sep 21	HT
	Jan22	HT
	October 23	HT

Development / Monitoring / Review of this Policy

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

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

It has been formulated using an agreed template recommended by SWGFL

<https://swgfl.org.uk/online-safety/>

Schedule for Development / Monitoring / Review

This Online Safety policy was approved by the Governors Quality and Standards Committee on:	<i>Nov 2019</i>
The implementation of this Online Safety policy will be monitored by the:	<i>Head Teacher / School Business Manager / DSL/Dep DSL's</i>
Monitoring will take place at regular intervals:	<i>Annually</i>
The Governors Committee will receive a report on the implementation of the Online Safety Policy generated by the monitoring group (which will include anonymous details of online safety incidents) at regular intervals:	<i>Termly</i>
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:	<i>Autumn 2024</i>
Should serious online safety incidents take place, the following external persons / agencies should be informed:	<i>LA Safeguarding Officer, LADO, Police</i>

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 community (including staff, students / pupils, volunteers, parents / carers, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of digital technology 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 online-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

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 Governors Quality and Standards Committee 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. The role of the Online Safety Governor will include:

- regular meetings with the Online Safety Co-ordinator / Officer
- regular monitoring of online safety incident logs
- regular monitoring of filtering / change control logs
- reporting to relevant Governors meeting

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 Leads.
- The Headteacher and members of the Senior Leadership and Safeguarding Teams 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 – included in a later section – “Responding to incidents of misuse” and relevant *Local Authority / MAT / other relevant body* disciplinary procedures). [Online Safety BOOST includes an ‘Incident Response Tool’ that outlines the steps \(and forms to complete\) any staff facing an issue, disclosure or report, need to follow. More information is available at: <https://boost.swgfl.org.uk/>](#)
- The Headteacher / Senior Leaders are responsible for ensuring that the Online Safety Officer Leads and other relevant staff receive suitable training to enable them to carry out their online safety roles and to train other colleagues, as relevant. [Online Safety BOOST includes access to unlimited online webinar training – further details are at <https://boost.swgfl.org.uk/>](#)
- 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. Regular supervision will be provided via trained staff in school.
- The Senior Leadership Team will receive regular monitoring updates from the Online Safety Leads.

Online Safety Leads

- the Headteacher /School Business Manager and Family Learning Mentor lead the Online Safety Group
- take day to day responsibility for online safety issues and have a leading role in establishing and reviewing the school online safety policies and documents
- ensure that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident taking place
- provide training and advice for staff
- liaise with the Local Authority
- liaise with school technical staff
- receive reports of online safety incidents and create a log of incidents to inform future online safety developments. Incidents will be recorded on CPOMS under the category of Online Safety

- meet regularly with Online Safety Governor to discuss current issues, review incident logs and filtering
- attend relevant meetings of Governors
- report regularly to Senior Leadership Team

ICT Technician

The Network Manager/ICT Technician is provided by JTRS and 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 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
- 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 / email is regularly monitored in order that any misuse / attempted misuse can be reported to the Online Safety 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 Acceptable Use Policy
- they report any suspected misuse or problem to the Online Safety Leads for investigation / action / sanction
- all digital communications with students / 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 should any unsuitable material be found in internet searches this will be immediately closed down and reported to the Online Safety Leads

Designated / Deputy 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
- online-bullying

ICT Group

The ICT 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. The group will also be responsible for regular reporting to the Governing Body.

Members of the ICT Group will assist the Online Safety Leads with:

- the production / review / monitoring of the school Online Safety Policy / documents.
- mapping and reviewing the online safety / digital literacy curricular provision – ensuring relevance, breadth and progression
- consulting stakeholders – including parents / carers and the students / pupils about the online safety provision
- monitoring improvement actions identified through use of the 360 degree safe self-review tool

Students / Pupils:

- are responsible for using the school digital technology systems in accordance with the Student / 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 online-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 / Parent Mail 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 and on-line pupil records such as Class Dojo and Tapestry
- the use of school endorsed iPads both at home and school

Community Users

Community Users who access school systems / website as part of the wider school provision will be expected to follow the policy and procedures of the school. They must seek permission from Senior Leaders to take and use digital or video images.

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 / digital literacy 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 is provided as part of Computing / RHE / other lessons and is reviewed and adapted annually or as necessary
- Key online safety messages should be reinforced as part of a planned programme of assemblies and pastoral activities
- Pupils are 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 are 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 are 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 pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that should any unsuitable material be found in internet searches they are taught to immediately report this to an adult in the classroom.
- 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, students 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 Technical Staff (or other relevant designated person) 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.

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 online 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
- Parent Mail, Letters, newsletters, web site, social media
- Parents / Carers evenings / sessions
- High profile events / campaigns e.g. Safer Internet Day
- Reference to the relevant web sites / publications e.g. www.swgfl.org.uk www.saferinternet.org.uk/
<http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>)

Education – The Wider Community

The school will provide opportunities for local community groups / members of the community to gain from the school's / academy'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 and social media accounts will provide online safety information for the wider community
- Supporting community groups e.g. Early Years Settings, Childminders, youth / sports / voluntary groups to enhance their Online Safety provision

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 Agreement.
- It is expected that some staff will identify online safety as a training need within the performance management process.
- The Online Safety Leads will receive regular updates through attendance at external training events (eg from SWGfL / LA / other relevant organisations) 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 Leads will provide advice / guidance / training to individuals as required.

Training – Governors / Directors

Governors should take part in online safety training / awareness sessions, with particular importance for those who are members of any committee involved in technology / online safety / health and safety / safeguarding. This may be offered in a number of ways:

- Attendance at training provided by the Local Authority / National Governors Association / or other relevant organisation (e.g. SWGfL).
- Participation in school training / information sessions for staff or parents (this may include attendance at assemblies / lessons).

Technical – infrastructure / equipment, filtering and monitoring

It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the JTRS carries out all the online safety measures that would otherwise be the responsibility of the school, as below. The school will be responsible for ensuring that the school infrastructure / network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible and that procedures approved within this policy are implemented. It will also need to ensure that the relevant people referred to 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 will be provided with a username and secure password by the ICT Technician. Users are responsible for the security of their username and password.
- The “administrator” passwords for the school ICT systems, used by the Network Manager (or other person) must also be available to the *Headteacher / SBM / Bursar* or other nominated senior leader and kept in a secure place (eg school safe)
- The IT Technician and SBM are responsible for ensuring that software licence logs are accurate and up to date and that regular checks are made to reconcile the number of licences purchased against the number of software installations
- Internet access is filtered for all users. School Internet and filtering is managed by JTRS. The filtering system implemented is Securly Filtering, these monitors and blocks all illegal content. Illegal content (pornographic and child sexual abuse images along with gambling and radicalisation) is filtered by the Securly Filtering. The 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 / monitoring should ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet.
- The school has provided enhanced / differentiated user-level filtering (allowing different filtering levels for different groups of users – staff / pupils etc)

- Technical staff regularly monitor the activity of users on the school technical systems and users are made aware of this in the Acceptable Use Agreement.
- Any actual / potential technical incident / security breach will be reported to an Online Safety Lead immediately, who will liaise with the ICT Technician and/or the relevant authorities to deal with the situation appropriately.
- Appropriate security measures are in place to protect the servers, firewalls, routers, wireless systems, work stations, mobile devices etc from accidental or malicious attempts which might threaten the security of the school systems and data. These are tested regularly. The school infrastructure and individual workstations are protected by up to date virus software (Sophos Anti-Virus).
- Visitors and guests to the school have temporary access as STRIKELANE- GUEST" (eg trainee teachers, supply teachers, visitors) onto the school systems and can request a password from the school office.
- Staff members may use school devices at home for planning, preparation and assessment purposes. They may not hold personal information or images of children or families which are available on the desktop or password unprotected device.
- Staff are not permitted to download executable files and installing programmes on school devices without the direct permission from an Online Safety Lead.
- Removable media devices must not be used for the storage of any personal information of children or families. They may be used for general curriculum planning and documentation.

Mobile Technologies (including Bring Your Own Device)

Mobile technology devices may be school owned/provided or personally owned and might include: smartphone, 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 and should not be used for personal use whilst supervising or within the vicinity of children, unless in an emergency. Teaching about the safe and appropriate use of mobile technologies should be an integral part of the school's Online Safety education programme.

All staff will sign an Acceptable Use Policy at the beginning of each school year or as they are inducted into school. More information on the regulations of the use of mobile technologies can be found here.

Children who bring mobile devices to school for safety reasons (eg walking home alone) must hand their devices into the school office via the class teacher at the beginning of each day. These will be stored securely and returned by the end of the school day.

Personal devices:

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 students / 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 or verbal permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of students / 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 / academy events for their own personal use (as such use is not covered by the Data Protection Act). 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.
- Staff and volunteers are allowed to take digital / video images to support educational aims, but must follow school policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images. Those images should only be taken on school equipment, the personal equipment of staff should not be used for such purposes. If a personal device is used, images must be deleted once the images have been stored on school equipment or systems.
- Care should be taken when taking digital / video images that pupils are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.
- Pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission

- Pupils must not share consensual or non-consensual nude or semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- Photographs published on the website, social media 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

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the current data protection legislation.

The school must ensure that:

- It has a Data Protection Policy.
- It has paid the appropriate fee to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).
- The school Data Protection Officer (DPO) is the School Business Manager, Joanne Woodley .
- It will hold the minimum personal data necessary to enable it to perform its function and it will not hold it for longer than necessary for the purposes it was collected for.
- Data held must be accurate and up to date. Inaccuracies are corrected without unnecessary delay.
- The lawful basis for processing personal data (including, where relevant, consent) has been identified and documented and details provided in a Privacy Notice which can be found on the school website.
- Where special category data is processed, a lawful basis and a separate condition for processing have been identified.
- Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) are carried out.
- It has clear and understood arrangements for access to and the security, storage and transfer of personal data, including, where necessary, adequate contractual clauses or safeguards where personal data is passed to third parties e.g. cloud service providers.
- Procedures must be in place to deal with the individual rights of the data subject i.e. a Subject Access Requests to see all or a part of their personal data held by the data controller.
- There are clear and understood data retention policies and routines for the deletion and disposal of data.
- There is a procedure for reporting, logging, managing and recovering from an information risk incident which recognises the requirement to report relevant data breaches to the ICO within 72 hours of the breach, where feasible.
- Consideration has been given to the protection of personal data when accessed using any remote access solutions.
- The school has a Freedom of Information Policy which sets out how it will deal with FOI requests.

- All staff receive data handling awareness / data protection training and are made aware of their responsibilities.

Staff must ensure that they:

- At all times take care to ensure the safe keeping of personal data, minimising the risk of its loss or misuse.
- Use personal data only on secure password protected computers and other devices, ensuring that they are properly "logged-off" at the end of any session in which they are using personal data.
- Transfer data using encryption and secure password protected devices.
- Data must not be transferred or stored in any portable usb device.

When personal data is stored on any portable computer system :

- The data must be encrypted and password protected.
- The device must be password protected.
- The device must offer approved virus and malware checking software.
- The data must be securely deleted from the device once it has been transferred or its use is complete.

Communications

A wide range of rapidly developing communications technologies has the potential to enhance learning.

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. Staff and pupils should therefore use only the school email service to communicate with others when in school, or on school systems
- Users must immediately report, to the Online Safety Lead, 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.
- Any digital communication between staff and pupils or parents / carers (email, social media, chat, blogs, VLE etc) must be professional in tone and content. These communications may only take place on official (monitored) school / academy systems. Personal email addresses, text messaging or social media must not be used for these communications.
- Pupils will be taught about online safety issues, such as the risks attached to the sharing of personal details. They should also be taught strategies to deal with inappropriate

communications and be reminded of the need to communicate appropriately when using digital technologies.

- Personal information should not be posted on the school website and only official email addresses should be used to identify members of staff.

Social Media - Protecting Professional Identity

All schools 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, engage in online bullying, discriminate on the grounds of sex, race or disability or who defame a third party may render the school or local authority 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.
- 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 students / 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
- Clear processes for the administration and monitoring of these accounts – involving at least two members of staff
- 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 a 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*
- *The school permits reasonable and appropriate access to private social media sites*

Monitoring of Public Social Media

- As part of active social media engagement, it is considered good practice to pro-actively monitor the Internet for public postings about the school
- The school should effectively respond to social media comments made by others according to the Managing Behaviour of Adults (Zero Tolerance) Policy and where necessary through the LA Legal Services Team

The school's use of social media for professional purposes will be checked regularly by the Online Safety Leads to ensure compliance with the school policies.

Dealing with 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.

In addition to any illegal activities, the school believes that any activities referred to below would be inappropriate in a school and that users, as defined below, should not engage in these activities in / or outside the school when using school equipment or systems:

- Pornography
- Promotion of any kind of discrimination
- threatening behaviour, including promotion of physical violence or mental harm
- Promotion of extremism or terrorism
- 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
- Using school systems to run a private business

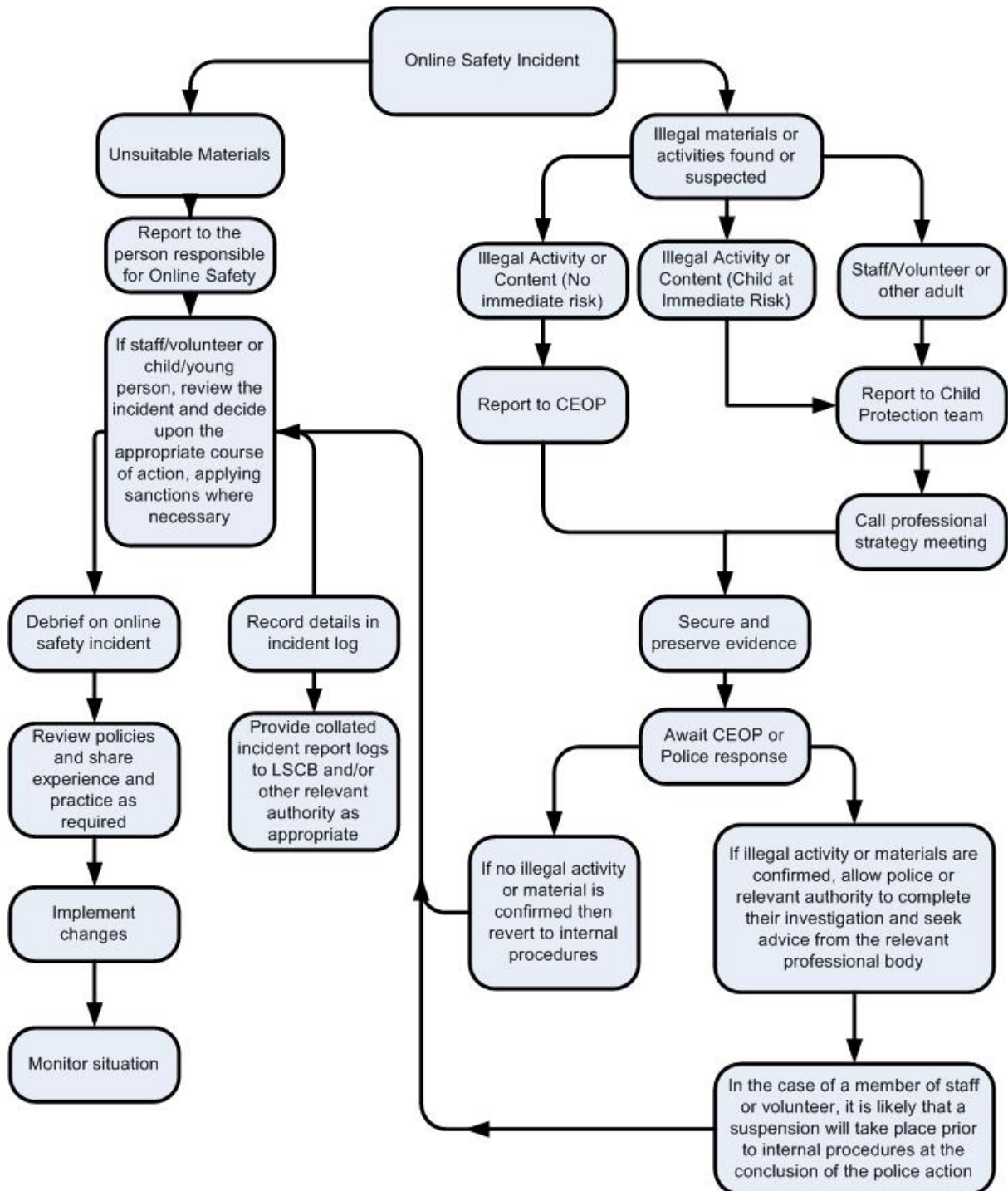
- Using systems, applications, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering or other safeguards employed by the school
- Infringing copyright
- Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (eg financial / personal information, databases, computer / network access codes and passwords)
- Creating or propagating computer viruses or other harmful files
- On-line gaming (educational/non-educational)
- On-line gambling

Responding to incidents of misuse

This guidance 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 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
 - 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.

