



# **BRADGATE**

## **Education Partnership**

### **Internet Safety Policy**

### **The Merton Primary School**



**The Merton Primary School**  
*To be the best we can be.*



## What we do

At The Merton Primary School we encourage pupils and staff to use technology to support teaching and learning, including access to the Internet. We also encourage and continue to explore ways of using technology to better streamline and improve our administration tasks. This policy for The Merton Primary School is designed to help to ensure safe and appropriate access and usage for all Digital Technologies across the school community.

For the purpose of this policy Digital Technologies are defined as electronic tools, systems, devices and resources that generate, store or process data which can include but not restricted to the following:

- Computers
- Laptops
- Websites
- Email
- Social Media
- Mobile Phones
- Tablets
- Blogs
- Podcasts
- Downloads
- Forums

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers Head teachers 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.

## Why do we have an Internet Safety Policy?

With the ever increasing manner in the way technology is being used in education it is paramount that as educators we have in place policies and strategies which help us to keep both staff and pupils safe. We have highly functional school based and personal devices which give us access to powerful digital tools wherever we go. The Internet has the capacity to instantly connect us to content and to each other, but due to its vast nature and relative immaturity as a medium, also presents unprecedented levels of risk to young people. Some of the dangers pupils may face include:

- Access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate content,
- Access to content that promotes extremism and / or radicalisation,
- Losing control over personal information/ images,
- The risk of being groomed by those with whom they make contact, exposing them to physical and sexual risk,
- Exposure to, or engagement in cyber-bullying,
- An over-reliance on unreliable sources of information and an inability to evaluate the quality,
- Accuracy and relevance of information on the Internet,
- Limit access to content/ screen time that is detrimental to good mental health and positive relationships

## Other School Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant school policies:

- Acceptable use for adults guidance in Staff Reference Documents
- Acceptable use for pupils
- Safeguarding policy
- Anti- Bullying policy
- PSHE policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- GDPR policy

## Legal Frameworks

It is the users' responsibility to ensure they are compliant and work within all UK and E.U. applicable legislation in regards to the safe and legal use of ICT in schools, this includes but is not limited to the following:

- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 & Trust E-Safety Policy
- The Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006
- The Computer Misuse Act 1990
- The Police and Justice Act 2006
- Communications Act 2003
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988
- Public Order Act 1986
- Protection of Children Act 1978
- Obscene Publications Act 1959 and 1964
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997.
- The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIP)
- The Telecommunications (Lawful Business Practice) (Interception of Communications) Regulations 2000
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011

## Governor Responsibilities

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 receiving regular information about online safety incidents and monitoring reports. The schools Online Safety Governor will monitor compliance with this policy by:

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

## School Leadership and Management Responsibilities

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 Officer. The Headteacher and another member of the Senior Leadership Team / Senior Management 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. They are responsible for ensuring that the

Online Safety Officer 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 Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Responsibilities**

Details of the school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

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

- Supporting the Headteacher in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school
- Working with the Headteacher, ICT manager and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- Updating and delivering staff training on online safety
- Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary
- Annual completion of monitoring and filtering risk assessment

## **Teaching and Support Staff Responsibilities**

All trust staff shall make themselves aware of the content of this policy and attend relevant safeguarding training. Staff shall be responsible for contributing to the positive re-enforcement of e-safe behaviours through their day-to-day interaction with pupils and technology. Staff should act as good role models in their use of ICT, the Internet and mobile devices,

Where personal devices are allowed all teaching staff shall ensure that pupils' use of these devices is for legitimate educational purposes and not for texting, accessing social networking sites or recording audio, video or still imagery without permission.

All members of staff are provided with a school email address. Electronic communications with students, parents/carers and other professionals will only take place via work approved communication channels e.g. via a school provided email address or telephone number. Staff are advised to ensure that business correspondence is received to and sent from the school email address. This is to protect staff's privacy and ensure that school business is kept separate from private correspondence.

As part of our safety culture we have completed a monitoring and filtering Risk Assessment  
Use of personal mobile phone is permitted to contact parents if necessary for example of school trips. This must be made as anonymous call by prefixing the number using 141

## **Parents and carers responsibilities**

Parents and carers may have a limited understanding of e-safety risks and issues, yet they play an essential role in the education of their children and in the monitoring/ regulation of their children's on-line experiences. Parents can often either underestimate or do not realise how often children and young people come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the Internet and can be unsure about what they should do about it.

At The Merton Primary School we will therefore seek to provide information and awareness to parents and carers through:

- Letters, newsletters, website, and other digital communications,
- Parents evenings, Let's Connect Coffee Mornings
- Family learning presentations, so that parents and children can together gain a better understanding of these issues.
- Signposting- twitter/X, community noticeboard

## System Management Responsibilities

The school, in conjunction with their ICT Support provider, will be responsible for ensuring that their infrastructure/network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible and that procedures set out within this policy are implemented: There will be regular reviews and audits of the safety and security of ICT systems, All users will have clearly defined access rights to the ICT systems of the school. This will be defined and accountable by the respective ICT lead /co-ordinator/s. Users will be made responsible for the security of their username and password, must not allow other users to access the systems using their log on details and must immediately report any suspicion or evidence that there has been a breach of security to the schools Data Protection Officer.

The administrator passwords for the ICT system must also be available to the Head of School/Headteacher/Executive Headteacher and kept in a secure, physical (e.g. fire safe) or electronic location software with encrypted storage. The School, in conjunction with the ICT Support provider, will use a sufficient Internet filtering system to restrict access to certain materials, adhering to current government guidelines and recommendations. However, the school is aware that children must be educated in how to deal with inappropriate material.

## Pupils Responsibilities

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. E-safety should be referenced in all areas of the curriculum and staff should reinforce e-safety messages whenever ICT is being used:

A planned e-safety programme will be provided as part of both ICT and PSHCE lessons and will be regularly revisited – this will cover the use of ICT both in and outside school and will include:

- The safe and responsible use of the Internet,
- The safe and responsible use of mobile devices,
- The safe and responsible use of social media,
- The management of digital identity.

Whenever the Internet is used for research, pupils should be taught to be critically aware of the content they access on-line and be guided to validate the accuracy of information. It is accepted that pupils may need to research topics (e.g. racism, drugs, and discrimination) that would normally result in Internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request a temporary removal of those sites from the filtered list, for the period of study. Any request to do so should be auditable, time-limited and with clear reasons given.

## Responding to incidents of abuse and misuse

At The Merton we understand the importance of acting to reported incidents of abuse and misuse of our ICT systems in school. The Incidents may involve illegal or inappropriate activities the school actively encourages a safe and secure approach to the management of the incidents.

Pupils are encouraged to report any incidents immediately to a member of staff. Staff will liaise with senior management and the Designated Safeguarding Lead, ICT Support as necessary to investigate the alleged incident and establish evidence of any breach or wrongdoing. Staff will:

- Work with any pupils involved to resolve issues and educate users as necessary,
- Inform parents/ carers of the incident and any outcomes,
- Where the alleged incident involves staff misuse, the Head teacher/Executive Head teacher should be informed,
- Outcomes of investigations will be reported to the Head teacher/Executive Head teacher and to external services where appropriate (e.g. Trust CEO, Social Services, Police Service, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Service). The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident.

## Useful Websites

Useful Websites

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

In the search box type at the top of the page type:

- Preventing and tackling bullying
- Searching, screening and confiscation at school
- The Prevent Duty

[www.leicestershire.gov.uk](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk)

In the search box type at the top of the page type:

- E-Safety

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Thinkuknow is the education programme from CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.

Explore one of the six Thinkuknow websites for advice about staying safe when you're on a phone, tablet or computer.

## Acceptable Use Agreement for Governors and Volunteers

ICT and related technologies such as email, the internet and mobile devices are an expected part of working life in school. This agreement is designed to ensure that Governors and Volunteers are aware of their professional responsibilities when using any form of ICT.

Before becoming school ICT users, you are always asked to sign this policy and adhere to its contents. Any concerns or clarification should be discussed with the head teacher, who is e-safety coordinator.

### General:

I have read the school E-safety Policy I will comply with the ICT system security and not disclose any passwords provided to me by the school or other related authorities.

- I will not install any hardware or software without the permission of E-Safety lead.
- I understand that it is a criminal offence to use a school ICT system for a purpose not permitted by its owner.
- I will only take images of pupils and/or staff for professional purposes in line with school policy.
- I will not distribute images outside the school network/learning platform without the permission of the Head teacher.
- I will report any incidents of concern regarding children's safety to the e-safety Coordinator, the Designated Child Protection Officer or Head teacher.

### Wi-Fi / Internet Use:

- I will only use the school's email / internet / intranet and any related technologies for professional purposes, or for uses deemed 'reasonable' by the Head or Governing Body.
- I will not browse, download, upload or distribute any material that could be considered offensive, illegal or discriminatory.
- I understand that all my use of the internet and other related technologies can be monitored and logged and can be made available, on request, to the Head teacher.
- I understand that I am responsible for all activity carried out under my username.
- I will ensure that personal data is kept secure and is used appropriately, whether in school, taken off the school premises or accessed remotely.
- I will not make copies or download any schools based information on my home devices
- Personal or none data can only be taken out of school or accessed remotely when authorised by the Head teacher or the Chair of Governing Body.

I agree to follow this code of conduct. I understand that the sanctions for disregarding any of the above will result in removal of access to ICT infrastructure and serious infringements may be referred to the police.

**Full Name**.....

..... **Date**.....

## Acceptable Use Agreement for Staff

To ensure that members of staff are fully aware of their professional responsibilities when using information systems and when communicating with parents, carers and other professionals, they are asked to sign this agreement. Members of staff should consult the e-safety policy for further clarification of their responsibilities.

- I understand that it is a criminal offence to use any school ICT resource for a purpose not permitted by its owner.
- I appreciate that ICT includes a wide range of systems, including mobile phones; PDAs, digital cameras email, and social networking and that ICT use may also include personal ICT devices when used for school business.
- I understand that school information systems may not be used for private purposes without specific permission from the head teacher.
- I understand that my use of school information systems, Internet and email may be monitored and recorded to ensure policy compliance.
- I will log off or lock the computer I have been using when leaving it unattended.
- I will respect system security and I will not disclose any password or security information to anyone other than an authorised ICT support person.
- I will not install any software or hardware without permission.
- I will ensure that personal data is stored securely and is used appropriately, whether in school, taken off site or accessed remotely.
- I will respect copyright and intellectual property rights.
- I will report any incidents of concern regarding children's safety to a Designated Child Protection Officer or a member of the senior leadership team.
- I will ensure that electronic communications with pupils including email and social networking are compatible with my professional role and that messages cannot be misunderstood or misinterpreted. I will only utilise the school email platform to communicate ant school matters.
- I will promote e-safety with pupils in my care and will help them to develop a responsible attitude to system use, communications and publishing.
- The school may exercise its right to monitor the use of information systems and Internet access, to intercept e-mail and to delete inappropriate materials where it believes unauthorised use of the academy's information system may be taking place, or the system may be being used for criminal purposes or for storing unauthorised or unlawful text, imagery or sound.

I agree to follow this code of conduct. I understand that the sanctions for disregarding any of the above will result in removal of access to ICT infrastructure and serious infringements may be referred to the police.

**Full Name** .....

**Signature** ..... **Date**.....



## Acceptable Use Agreement for Pupils

As pupils at The Merton Primary School we want you to enjoy using the computers within our school.

It is very important that you:



**Always** look after the equipment

Be **kind** to one another, **sharing** the equipment nicely and fairly



Make sure you use **kind language** when talking to others through the computer

Only use websites or play games which your teacher has **allowed** you to use



Tell your teacher if anything or anyone makes you **feel uncomfortable** or if there is a problem.

**Do not** bring to school any mobile phone or tablet from home unless it is handed into the office.



**Remember** not everything you read on the Internet may be true

Remember that sometimes attachments can contain **viruses or bugs** so only to open attachments from people you know.



### UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS IMPORTANT, SO I PROMISE TO:

- ✓ Only use the Internet and email when an adult is nearby
- ✓ Only click on icons and links when I know they are safe
- ✓ Only send friendly and polite messages
- ✓ Not to share my usernames and passwords
- ✓ Always tell an adult if I see something I don't like on a screen

**LOCKI SAYS  
KEEP SAFE**



Our Class Name: .....