



St Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School

Online Safety Policy

Our Vision and Values

At St Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School, our vision *Let Your Light Shine* underpins all that we do. We are committed to nurturing children who grow in **love, trust, hope, respect and thankfulness**, enabling them to flourish academically, spiritually, socially and morally.

In a digital world, this means supporting children to use technology safely, responsibly and wisely, so that their light may shine online as well as offline. Our Online Safety Policy reflects our Christian vision and values and sits firmly within our safeguarding responsibilities.

1. Aims and Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all members of our school community are protected and empowered when using digital technologies. We aim to:

- Keep children safe online as part of our wider safeguarding duty
- Teach pupils how to be responsible, respectful and kind digital citizens
- Promote positive online behaviour that reflects our values of love, respect and thankfulness
- Build trust through clear expectations, education and partnership with families
- Give children hope and confidence to use technology creatively and safely

This policy is not intended to be restrictive, but to provide a clear framework that supports safe, purposeful and ethical use of technology.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- All pupils
- All staff and governors
- Volunteers, visitors and contractors

It covers the use of:

- School devices and networks
- Personal devices when used for school-related purposes
- Online platforms, apps and digital content used both in school and remotely

This policy should be read alongside the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Behaviour Policy, Acceptable Use Policies, KCSIE (current version), Prevent Duty and Data Protection policies.

3. Teaching and Learning: Online Safety Education

Online safety is taught as a key part of our curriculum through Computing and PSHE, and is revisited regularly throughout the year.

Children are taught, in age-appropriate ways, about:

- Keeping personal information safe
- Online relationships and respectful communication
- Cyberbullying and how to seek help
- Social media, gaming and live streaming
- Misinformation, online content and digital literacy

This learning encourages children to:

- Act with **love** and kindness online
- Show **respect** for themselves and others
- Build **trust** by making safe, honest choices
- Have **hope** and confidence to speak out if something worries them
- Show **thankfulness** for the opportunities technology provides

Assemblies and themed days further reinforce key online safety messages.

4. Acceptable Use of Technology

All pupils and staff are required to sign an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), which clearly outlines expectations for safe and appropriate use.

Pupils are taught to:

- Use technology for learning purposes
- Tell a trusted adult immediately if they see or experience something that makes them feel uncomfortable
- Understand that not everything online is true or appropriate

Any misuse of technology will be managed in line with the Behaviour Policy and may involve restricted access, parental communication and further education.

5. Use of Email and Online Communication

- Staff must use professional school email accounts for all school-related communication
- Personal email accounts must not be used for contact with pupils or parents
- All electronic communication is expected to reflect professional standards and our school values

Pupils may use age-appropriate communication tools under adult supervision, once they have been taught safe use and agreed to the AUP. Pupils are not permitted to use school systems to arrange to meet people.

6. Social Media and Online Platforms

The school recognises that many children access social media, games and online communities outside school.

- Children are taught about age restrictions and online risks
- Parents retain responsibility for children's use of social media at home

- Open discussion is encouraged so concerns can be shared and addressed

Any concerns raised during lessons or in school will be followed up using safeguarding procedures.

7. Managing Online Safety Incidents

If an online safety concern arises:

- The incident will be logged and reported to the Online Safety / Safeguarding Lead
- Parents will be informed where appropriate
- Support will be provided for all involved
- Serious concerns will be dealt with under safeguarding procedures and, if necessary, external agencies will be involved

Our response will always be guided by our values, seeking restoration, learning and protection.

8. Network Security and Filtering

- Internet access is filtered and monitored through the FA1 Trust's approved provider
- Security software and updates are maintained
- Staff carefully supervise online activity and pre-select appropriate content

Despite these measures, we recognise that no system is foolproof and place strong emphasis on education and supervision.

9. Partnership with Parents and Carers

We believe that strong partnerships with families are essential.

Parents will:

- Be informed about online safety expectations
- Receive guidance and resources to support online safety at home
- Be invited to workshops or briefings when appropriate

Together, we aim to create a consistent message that helps children thrive safely online.

10. Monitoring and Review

The school reserves the right to monitor the use of its systems to ensure safety and compliance. This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if guidance or technology changes.

Reviewed: January 2026

Next review: January 2027