



E-Safety Policy: Parkgate Primary School 2024-2026

1. Introduction:

The resources used by pupils in Parkgate Primary School are carefully chosen by the teachers and determined by curriculum policies. Use of the Internet, by its nature, will provide access to information which has sometimes not been selected by the teacher.

Whilst pupils will often be directed to sites which provide reviewed and evaluated sources, at times they will be able to move beyond these to sites unfamiliar to the teacher. There is therefore the possibility that a pupil may access unsuitable material either accidentally or deliberately.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Establish the ground rules we have in school for using the internet;
- Describe how these fit into the wider context of our behaviour and PSHE policies;
- Demonstrate the methods used to protect the children from sites containing unsuitable material.

Parkgate Primary School believes that the benefits to pupils from access to the resources of the Internet far exceed the disadvantages. Ultimately the responsibility for setting and conveying the standards that children are expected to follow, when using media and information resources, is one that we share with parents and carers.

At Parkgate Primary School, we feel that the best recipe for success lies in a combination of site-filtering, of supervision and fostering a responsible attitude and informed approach to the internet in our pupils, in partnership with parents and carers.

2. Legislation and guidance:

This policy is based on the Department for Education's statutory safeguarding guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education, and its advice for schools on preventing and tackling bullying and searching, screening and confiscation. It also refers to the Department'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. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

Parkgate Primary School is an National Online Safety Certified School with a commitment to share updated training for the whole school community including School Leaders, All Staff, Parents, Carers and Governors, in line with DfE statutory requirements and the Ofsted framework.

3. Aims and objectives:

Our school aims to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors
- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate

4. Roles and responsibilities:

The governing body

The governing body has overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation. The governing body will co-ordinate regular meetings with appropriate staff to discuss online safety, and monitor online safety logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

All governors will:

- Ensure that they have read and understand this policy
- Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendix 2)

The headteacher

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

The designated safeguarding lead

Details of the school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and DDSL 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 (see appendix 4) 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 (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 school to the headteacher and/or governing board

The ICT specialist / The Futures Trust

Are responsible for:

- Putting in place appropriate filtering and monitoring systems, which are updated on a regular basis and keep pupils safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material
- Ensuring that the school's 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 school's ICT systems on a fortnightly basis
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 4) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

The school is supported by The Futures Trust.

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 school's ICT systems and the internet (appendix 2), and ensuring that pupils follow the school's terms on acceptable use (appendix 1)
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 4) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

Parents

Parents are expected to:

- Notify a member of staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding this policy
- Comply with the school's 'expected Code of Conduct Policy for Parents' when using the internet and social media
- Ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet (appendix 1).

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

- UK Safer Internet Centre: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/what-are-issues>
- Hot topics, Childnet International: <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics>
- Parent factsheet, Childnet International: <http://www.childnet.com/ufiles/parents-factsheet-09-17.pdf>

Visitors and members of the community

Visitors and members of the community who use the school's 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 (appendix 2).

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

The safe use of social media and the internet will also be covered in other subjects where relevant. The school will use assemblies to raise pupils' awareness of the dangers that can be encountered online and may also invite speakers to talk to pupils about this.

6. Educating parents about online safety

The school will raise parents' awareness of internet safety in letters or other communications home, and in information via our website, school app and twitter feed and school blogs as well as annual E-Safety workshops. This policy will also be shared with parents. Online safety will also be covered during parents' evenings. If parents 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.

7. 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 one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. (See also the school behaviour 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 (via the app 'Speak up and Speak out', these are then logged onto our school electronic reporting arrangements 'cpoms' under the category of E-Safety) and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim. The school 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, and the issue will be addressed in assemblies. 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 school also sends information/leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents so that 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 school will follow the processes set out in the school behaviour policy. Where illegal, inappropriate or harmful material has been spread among pupils, the school will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the incident is contained. The DSL will consider whether the incident should be reported to the police if it involves illegal material, and will work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

Examining electronic devices

School staff have the specific power under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (which has been increased by the Education Act 2011) to search for and, if necessary, delete inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices, including mobile phones, iPads and other tablet devices, where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so. When deciding whether there is a good reason to examine or erase data or files on an electronic device, staff must reasonably suspect that the data or file in question has been, or could be, used to:

- Cause harm, and/or
- Disrupt teaching, and/or
- Break any of the school rules

If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the staff member in conjunction with the DSL or other member of the senior leadership team to decide whether they should:

- Delete that material, or
- Retain it as evidence (of a criminal offence or a breach of school discipline), and/or Report it to the police

Any searching of pupils will be carried out in line with the DfE's latest guidance on [screening, searching and confiscation](#). Any complaints about searching for or deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices will be dealt with through the school complaints procedure.

8. Acceptable use of the internet in school

All pupils, parents, staff, volunteers and governors are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendices 1 and 2). When logging in to the school system, staff will also have to accept the electronic Acceptable Use policy in line with Trust expectations. Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use if relevant. Use of the school'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. More information is set out in the acceptable use agreements in appendices 1 and 2.

Published content and the school website/blogs/School app/Twitter feed

The school uses these as a useful tool for communicating our school ethos and practice to the wider community. It is also a valuable resource for parents, children, and staff for keeping up-to-date with school news and events, celebrating whole-school achievements and personal achievements, and promoting school projects. The website is in the public domain, and can be viewed by anybody online. Any information published on the website will be carefully considered in terms of safety for the school community, copyrights and privacy policies. No personal information on staff or children will be published, and details for contacting the school will be for the school office only. All comments made on blogs are monitored regularly by our IT Technician.

Policy and guidance of safe use of children's photographs and work

Under the Data Protection Act 1998 images of pupils and staff will not be displayed in public, either in print or online, without consent. On admission to the school parents/carers will be asked to sign a photography consent form.

9. Mobile devices in school

Pupils in Y5 and Y6 who walk to and from school on their own may bring mobile devices into school, but are not permitted to use them on site or during:

- Lessons
- Clubs before or after school, or any other activities organised by the school

They are stored in the school office for the duration of the school day. Any breach of the acceptable use agreement by a pupil may trigger disciplinary action in line with the school behaviour policy, which may result in the confiscation of their device.

Under no circumstances should staff use their own personal devices to contact pupils or parents either in or out of school time. Staff are not permitted to take photos or videos of pupils. If photos or videos are being taken as part of the school curriculum or for a professional capacity, the school equipment will be used for this. The school expects staff to lead by example. Personal mobile phones should be switched off or on 'silent' during school hours. Except when used during an evacuation of the building or in case of urgently needing emergency services. Any breach of school policy may result in disciplinary action against that member of staff. More information on this can be found in the child protection and safeguarding policy, or in the staff contract of employment.

10. Staff using work devices outside school

Staff members using a work device outside school must not install any unauthorised software on the device and must not use the device in any way which would violate the school's terms of acceptable use, as set out in appendix 2. Staff must ensure that their work device is secure and password-protected, and that they do not share their password with others. They must take all reasonable steps to ensure the security of their work device when using it outside school. Any USB devices containing data relating to the school must be encrypted. If staff has any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from the ICT support. Work devices must be used solely for work activities. Staff sign a compliance document when allocated a work device.

11. How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a pupil misuses the school's ICT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in the 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 school'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. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident. The school will consider whether incidents which involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the police.

12. Emails

The school uses email internally for staff and each class has an email account to use during class time. It is also used to enhance the curriculum. Staff and pupils should be aware that school email accounts should only be used for school-related matters, i.e. for staff to contact parents, students, other members of staff and other professionals for work purposes. This is important for confidentiality. The school has the right to monitor emails and their contents but will only do so if it feels there is reason to.

Emails sent from school accounts should be professionally and carefully written. Staff are representing the school at all times and should take this into account when entering into any email communications.

Staff must tell their manager or a member of the senior leadership team if they receive any offensive, threatening or unsuitable emails either from within the school or from an external account. They should not attempt to deal with this themselves.

The forwarding of chain messages is not permitted in school.

Pupils will be educated through the Computing curriculum to identify spam, phishing and virus emails and attachments that could cause harm to the school network or their personal account or wellbeing.

13. 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. 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). The DSL and DDSL 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.

Parkgate Primary School is a National Online Safety certified school. All governors and staff have access to an update service and to training resources and courses during their time of employment with the school. New staff are set up on the platform and are expected to complete the 'Online Safety Course for Staff and Governors'.

14. Managing emerging technologies

Technology is progressing rapidly and new technologies are emerging all the time. The school will risk-assess any new technologies before they are allowed in school, and will consider any educational benefits that they might have. The school keeps up-to-date with new technologies and is prepared to quickly develop appropriate strategies for dealing with new technological developments.

15. Protecting personal data

Parkgate Primary believes that protecting the privacy of our staff and pupils and regulating their safety through data management, control and evaluation is vital to whole-school and individual progress. The school collects personal data from pupils, parents, and staff and processes it in order to support teaching and learning, monitor and report on pupil and teacher progress, and strengthen our pastoral provision.

We take responsibility for ensuring that any data that we collect and process is used correctly and only as is necessary, and the school will keep parents fully informed of the how data is collected, what is collected, and how it is used. National curriculum results, attendance and registration records, special educational needs data, and any relevant medical information are examples of the type of data that the school needs. Through effective data management we can monitor a range of school provisions and evaluate the wellbeing and academic progression of our school body to ensure that we are doing all we can to support both staff and students.

In line with the Data Protection Act 1998, and following principles of good practice when processing data, the school will:

- ensure that data is fairly and lawfully processed
- process data only for limited purposes
- ensure that all data processed is adequate, relevant and not excessive
- ensure that data processed is accurate
- not keep data longer than is necessary

- process the data in accordance with the data subject's rights
- ensure that data is secure
- ensure that data is not transferred to other countries without adequate protection.

There may be circumstances where the school is required either by law or in the best interests of our students or staff to pass information onto external authorities; for example, our local authority, Ofsted, or the Department of Health. These authorities are up-to-date with data protection law and have their own policies relating to the protection of any data that they receive or collect. For more information on the school's safeguards relating to data protection read the school's data protection policy (available on school website)

16. Monitoring arrangements

The DSL logs behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety. An incident report log can be found in appendix 4.

This policy will be reviewed in 2021 by the School Business Manager / Senior Leadership Team. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

17. Links with other policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy
- Staff disciplinary procedures and Code of Conduct
- Data protection policy and privacy notices
- Complaints procedure
- Parents Code of Conduct

Date: September 2024

To be reviewed: 2026

Appendix 1: acceptable use agreement (pupils and parents/carers)

Our School E-Safety Rules KS1

All pupils use ICT including Internet access as an essential part of learning. Please read these with your child so that you understand and agree our e-safety rules.

E-Safety Rules at Parkgate Primary School

Think then click!

We can send and open emails together.

We can search the internet with an adult.

We always ask if we get lost on the internet.

We can write polite and friendly emails to people that we know.

We can click on the buttons and links when we know what they do.

Parents and children should also be aware that to keep children safe in school, the school has installed on its system '**Policy Central**' forensic software. This software monitors what is being accessed.

Pupil's Agreement

- I have read and I understand the school E-Safety Rules.
- I will use the computer, network, Internet access and other new technologies in a responsible way at all times.
- I know that network and Internet access may be monitored.
- I will use them only with a teacher's permission
- Only access appropriate websites
- I will not share my password with others or log in to the school's network using someone else's details
- I will not give my personal information (including my name, address or telephone number) to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit. I will immediately let a teacher or other member of staff know if I find any material which might upset, distress or harm me or others.

Signed:

Date:

Parent's Consent for Internet Access

I have read and understood the school E-Safety rules and give permission for my son / daughter to access the Internet. I understand that the school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that pupils cannot access inappropriate materials.

I understand that the school cannot be held responsible for the content of materials accessed through the Internet. I agree that the school is not liable for any damages arising from use of the Internet facilities.

Signed:

Print name:

Date:

Our School E-Safety Rules – KS2

All pupils use ICT including Internet access as an essential part of learning. Please read these with your child so that you understand and agree our e-safety rules.

E-Safety Rules at Parkgate Primary School

- We ask permission before using the Internet.
- We only use websites that an adult has chosen.
- We tell an adult if we see anything we are uncomfortable with.
- We immediately close any webpage we not sure about.
- We only e-mail people an adult has approved.
- We send e-mails that are polite and friendly.
- We never give out personal information or passwords.
- We never arrange to meet anyone we don't know.
- We do not open e-mails sent by anyone we don't know.
- We do not use Internet chat rooms.
- We do not bring to school downloaded information on flash drives for use in school.
- We do not access MSN or social network sites at school.

Parents and children should also be aware that under the City Councils Policy to keep children safe in school, that the school has installed on its system '**Policy Central**' forensic software. This software monitors what is being accessed.

Pupil's Agreement

- I have read and I understand the school E-Safety Rules.
- I will use the computer, network, Internet access and other new technologies in a responsible way at all times.
- I know that network and Internet access may be monitored.

Signed:

Date:

Parent's Consent for Internet Access

I have read and understood the school E-Safety rules and give permission for my son / daughter to access the Internet. I understand that the school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that pupils cannot access inappropriate materials.

I understand that the school cannot be held responsible for the content of materials accessed through the Internet. I agree that the school is not liable for any damages arising from use of the Internet facilities.

Signed:

Print name:

Date:

Appendix 2: acceptable use agreement (staff, governors, volunteers and visitors)

Acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet: agreement for staff, governors, volunteers and visitors

Name of staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor:

When using the school's ICT systems and accessing the internet in school, or outside school on a work device, I will not:

Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal or pornographic nature

Use them in any way which could harm the school's reputation

Access social networking sites or chat rooms

Use any improper language when communicating online, including in emails or other messaging services

Install any unauthorised software

Share my password with others or log in to the school's network using someone else's details

I will only use the school's ICT systems and access the internet in school, or outside school on a work device, for educational purposes or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of my role.

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit.

I will take all reasonable steps to ensure that work devices are secure and password-protected when using them outside school, and keep all data securely stored in accordance with this policy and the school's data protection policy.

I will let the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and ICT manager know if a pupil informs me they have found any material which might upset, distress or harm them or others, and will also do so if I encounter any such material.

I will always use the school's ICT systems and internet responsibly, and ensure that pupils in my care do so too.

Signed (staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor):

Date:

Appendix 3: online safety training needs – self-audit for staff

Online safety training needs audit	
Name of staff member/volunteer:	Date:
Do you know the name of the person who has lead responsibility for online safety in school?	
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?	
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? Please record them here.	

Appendix 4: online safety incident report log

Online safety incident report log

Date	Where the incident took place	Description of the incident	Action taken	Name and signature of staff member recording the incident



E-Safety Addendum: COVID-19

9. Mobile devices in school

They are stored in the school office for the duration of the school day. Any breach of the acceptable use agreement by a pupil may trigger disciplinary action in line with the school behaviour policy, which may result in the confiscation of their device.

Mobile phones are no longer stored in the school office. This is to reduce movement around school. Mobile phones are stored by each class teacher in their cupboard for safe keeping until the end of the school day.

Remote Learning

As a result of COVID-19, Parkgate will facilitate learning from home through a variety of means. The website will be the main 'go to' space for the uploading of learning for each year group. Added to this, we will be using 'Seesaw' and 'Tapestry' as a 'go between' of school and home. These pieces of software are moderated by teachers and allow for collaboration between school and home.