Downlands Community School
E-safety Policy
September 2025

The purpose of this policy statement

Downlands Community Primary School works with children and families as part of its online activities. These include:

- Using technology to promote and support specific academic learning needs.
- Using technology to promote specific IT skills.
- Using ICT within the lesson when appropriate and to advance the understanding and learning for pupils.
- For children and teachers to contribute to an individual learning portfolio for each child.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure that the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices.
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety.
- ensure that, as an organization, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in Downlands Community Primary School activities.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England.

Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available on:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2025)
- Teaching Online Safety in School (2023)
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education

- Online abuse learning. nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse
- Bullying learning. nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying
- Child protection learning. nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system

We believe that:
- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
- children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

We recognise that:
- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however it can also present risks and challenges.
- we have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online.
- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using Downlands Community Primary School network and devices.
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:
- appointing an online safety coordinator: Helen House
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our code of conduct and IT acceptable use policy.
- supporting and encouraging the pupils in our school to use the internet both in and outside of school, social media and mobile phones, in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- continuing to develop an online safety agreement for use with pupils and their parents/carers (Internet code of conduct and iPad code of conduct).
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a pupil.
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly.
- ensuring that usernames, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively.
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate.
- ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given.
- providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety.

- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.
- ensuring the highest form of security protection and continue to review and check these security measures.

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:
- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse).
- providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation.
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation as a whole into account reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

Related policies and procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:
- Child protection procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing.
- Dealing with allegations of abuse made against a child or young person.
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers.
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures.
- IT acceptable use policy (adults).
- iPad and internet use agreements (children).

Contact details

The E-safety champion is Helen House
Phone/email: 01258 453348 office@downlandsschool.org

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Name: Christine Goodall
Phone/email: 01258 453348 christinegoodall@downlandsschool.org

NSPCC Helpline - 0808 800 5000
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/

Professional Online Safety Helpline (POSH) - 03443 814772 or helpline@saferinternet.org.uk
https://saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: **1st September 2025**