



St Augustine's Federated Schools

Online Safety Policy

St Augustine's Federated Schools recognise that ICT and the internet are fantastic tools for learning and communication that can be used in school to enhance the curriculum, challenge students, and support creativity and independence. Using ICT to interact socially and share ideas can benefit everyone in our school community, but it is important that the use of the internet and ICT is seen as a responsibility and that students, staff and parents use it appropriately and practice good e-safety. It is important that all members of our school community are aware of the dangers of using the internet and how they should conduct themselves online. It is important that there is a balance between controlling access to the internet and technology and allowing freedom to explore and use these tools to their full potential. In this way we can support our whole community to enable them to flourish and be the best we can be.

Approved by:	The Governing Body	Date: June 2024
Last reviewed on:	10 January 2024	
Next review due by:	June 2026	

St Augustine's Federated Schools have consciously considered how this policy may affect people who share protected characteristics and have due regard for those whose identity is protected under the Equality Act 2010.

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1. Aims

Our Federation 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

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), and its advice for schools on:

- Teaching online safety in schools
- Preventing and tackling bullying and cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff
- Relationships and sex education
- Searching, screening and confiscation

It also refers to the DfE'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. The policy also takes into account the National Curriculum computing programmes of study.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The Governing Body

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the Head of Federation 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). The governor who oversees online safety is Ammar Ahmed.

All governors will:

- Ensure that they have read and understand this policy
- Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the Federation's ICT systems and the internet (Appendix 3)

3.2 The Head of Federation & Heads of School

The Head of Federation and Heads of School are responsible for ensuring that staff understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the Federation.

3.3 The designated safeguarding leads

Details of the Federation's DSLs are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policies as well as relevant job descriptions.



The DSLs take lead responsibility for online safety in our schools, in particular:

- Supporting the Head of Federation/Heads of School in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the Federation
 - Working with the Head of Federation, Heads of School, 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 Federation's behaviour policies
 - Updating and delivering staff training on online safety (appendix 4 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 Head of Federation, Heads of School and/or Governing Body
- This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.4 The ICT Manager

The ICT manager is 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 Federation'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 Federation'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 and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the Federation behaviour policies.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.5 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 Federation's ICT systems and the internet (appendix 3), and ensuring that pupils follow the Federation's terms on acceptable use (appendix 2)
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the Federation's behaviour policies.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.



3.5 Parents

Parents are expected to:

- Notify a member of staff or the Head of Federation/Heads of School of any concerns or queries regarding this policy
- Ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of the Federation's ICT systems and internet (appendices 1 and 2)

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

- What are the issues? - [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- Hot topics - [Childnet International](#)
- Parent factsheet - [Childnet International](#)
- Healthy relationships – [Disrespect Nobody](#)

3.6 Visitors and members of the community

Visitors and members of the community who use the Federation'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 3).

4 Educating pupils about online safety

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

The introduction of the new relationships and sex education (RSE) curriculum is compulsory from September 2021

Under the new requirement, **all** schools will have to teach:

- [Relationships and sex education and health education](#) in secondary schools

This new requirement includes aspects about online safety.

In **Key Stage 3**, pupils will be taught to:

Understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting their online identity and privacy

Recognise inappropriate content, contact and conduct, and know how to report concerns

Pupils in **Key Stage 4** will be taught:

- To understand how changes in technology affect safety, including new ways to protect their online privacy and identity
- How to report a range of concerns

By the **end of secondary school**, pupils will know:

- Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online
- About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online
- Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them

- What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online
- The impact of viewing harmful content
- That specifically sexually explicit material (e.g., pornography) presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners
- That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail
- How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online
- How to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours

The safe use of social media and the internet will also be covered in other subjects where relevant.

5 Educating parents about online safety

The Federation will raise parents' awareness of internet safety in letters or other communications home, and in information via our website. 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 Head of Federation/Heads of School and/or the DSL.

Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the Head of Federation/Heads of School.

6 Cyber-bullying

6.5 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 Federation behaviour policies.)

6.6 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 and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim.

The Federation will actively discuss cyber-bullying with pupils, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. Form tutors will discuss cyber-bullying with their tutor groups. This will also be explicitly taught through PSHCE lessons.

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 (PSHCE) 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 Federation also sends information/leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents so that they are aware of the signs, how to report it and how who may be affected. they can support children



In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, the Federation will follow the processes set out in the Federation behaviour policies. Where illegal, inappropriate or harmful material has been spread among pupils, the Federation 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.

6.7 Examining electronic devices

Federation 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:

- 6.7.1 Cause harm, and/or
- 6.7.2 Disrupt teaching, and/or
- 6.7.3 Break any of the Federation 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:

- 6.7.4 Delete that material, or
- 6.7.5 Retain it as evidence (of a criminal offence or a breach of Federation discipline), and/or
- 6.7.6 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](#) and the Federation's COVID-19 risk assessment.

Any complaints about searching for or deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices will be dealt with through the Federation complaints procedure.

7 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 Federation's ICT systems and the internet (appendices 1-3). Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the Federation's terms on acceptable use if relevant.

Use of the Federation'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, 2 and 3.

Pupils using mobile devices in school

Staff are allowed to bring their personal phones to school for their own use, but will limit such use to non-contact time when pupils are not present.

Staff will not take pictures or recordings of pupils on their personal phones or cameras.

We will follow the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 when taking and storing photos and recordings for use in school.



Further details regarding this can be found on our Data Protection Policy

Students are allowed to bring mobile phones and/or cameras into school but they must be switched off at all times and are not allowed to be used anywhere on the school site. If phones are seen, they should be confiscated by staff members and logged in the school office for a parent/carer to collect.

The exception to this is for 6th form students. They are allowed to use their phones for educational purposes in the 6th form area. 6th form teachers can use professional judgement in lessons to allow students to use their phone if it supports the learning. This should not be the norm.

This includes:

- Lessons
- Tutor group time
- Clubs before or after school, or any other activities organised by the Federation

Any use of mobile devices in school by pupils must be in line with the acceptable use agreement (see appendices 1 and 2).

Any breach of the acceptable use agreement by a pupil may trigger disciplinary action in line with the Federation's behaviour policies, which may result in the confiscation of their device which then needs to be collected by parents.

8 Staff using work devices outside school

All staff should read our Digital Safety/Social Media and Acceptable Use of Property Policy for St. Augustine's Federated Schools and should refer to this in conjunction with the information below.

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Keeping the device password-protected – strong passwords are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters (e.g., asterisk or currency symbol)
- Ensuring their hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device
- Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time
- Not sharing the device among family or friends
- Installing anti-virus and anti-spyware software
- Keeping operating systems up to date – always install the latest updates

Staff members must not use the device in any way which would violate the Federation's terms of acceptable use, as set out in appendix 3.

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from the ICT manager.

9 How the Federation will respond to issues of misuse

Where a pupil misuses the Federation's ICT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in our policies on Behaviour for Learning 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 Federation'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/staff code of conduct alongside our Digital Safety/social media and Acceptable Use of Property Policy. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident.

The Federation will consider whether incidents which involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the police.

10 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 safeguarding deputies 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.

11 Monitoring arrangements

The DSL and deputies log behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety.

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Designated Safeguarding Lead. At every review, the policy will be shared with the Governing Body.

12 Other policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Behaviour for Learning policy
- Staff disciplinary procedures
- Data protection policy and privacy notices
- Complaint's procedure
- Digital Safety/social media and Acceptable Use of Property Policy
- ICT User Agreements/Policy

Appendix 2: KS3 and KS4 acceptable use agreement (pupils and parents/carers)

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE FEDERATION'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Name of pupil:

I will read and follow the rules in the acceptable use agreement policy

When I use the Federation's ICT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in school I will:

- Always use the Federation's ICT systems and the internet responsibly and for educational purposes only
- Only use them when a teacher is present, or with a teacher's permission
- Keep my username and passwords safe and not share these with others
- Keep my private information safe at all times and not give my name, address or telephone number to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer
- Tell a teacher (or sensible adult) immediately if I find any material which might upset, distress or harm me or others
- Always log off or shut down a computer when I'm finished working on it

I will not:

- Access any inappropriate websites including: social networking sites, chat rooms and gaming sites unless my teacher has expressly allowed this as part of a learning activity
- Open any attachments in emails, or follow any links in emails, without first checking with a teacher
- Use any inappropriate language when communicating online, including in emails
- Log in to the Federation's network using someone else's details
- Arrange to meet anyone offline without first consulting my parent/carer, or without adult supervision

If I bring a personal mobile phone or other personal electronic device into school:

- I will not use it during lessons, tutor group time, clubs or other activities organised by the Federation, without a teacher's permission
- I will use it responsibly, and will not access any inappropriate websites or other inappropriate material or use inappropriate language when communicating online

I agree that the Federation will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don't follow the rules.

Signed (pupil):

Date:

Parent/Guardian/carer's agreement: I agree that my child can use the Federation's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for pupils using the Federation's ICT systems and internet, and for using personal electronic devices in school, and will make sure my child understands these.

Signed (parent/carer):

Date:



Appendix 3: acceptable use agreement (staff, governors, volunteers and visitors)

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE FEDERATION'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR STAFF, GOVERNORS, VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS	
Name of staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor:	
When using the Federation's ICT systems and accessing the internet in school, or outside school on a work device (if applicable), I will not: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal or pornographic nature (or create, share, link to or send such material)• Use them in any way which could harm the Federation'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, or connect unauthorised hardware or devices to the Federation's network• Share my password with others or log in to the Federation's network using someone else's details• Take photographs of pupils without checking with teachers first• Share confidential information about the Federation, its pupils or staff, or other members of the community• Access, modify or share data I'm not authorised to access, modify or share• Promote private businesses, unless that business is directly related to the Federation	
<p>I will only use the Federation'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.</p> <p>I agree that the Federation will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the Federation's ICT facilities and systems.</p> <p>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 Federation's data protection policy.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I will always use the Federation's ICT systems and internet responsibly, and ensure that pupils in my care do so too.</p>	
Signed (staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor):	Date:

Appendix 4: online safety training needs – self audit for staff

ONLINE SAFETY TRAINING NEEDS AUDIT	
Name of staff member/volunteer:	Date:
Question	Yes/No (add comments if necessary)
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 Federation's acceptable use agreement for staff, volunteers, governors and visitors?	
Are you familiar with the Federation's acceptable use? agreement for pupils and parents?	
Do you regularly change your password for accessing? the Federation's ICT systems?	
Are you familiar with the Federation's approach to tackling cyber-bullying?	
Are there any areas of online safety in which you would like training/further training?	