

**STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL**  
**ONLINE SAFETY POLICY**  
**(Reviewed by Governors 28.03.2023)**

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**STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL**  
**ONLINE SAFETY POLICY**

**1 Aims**

- 1.1 This is the online safety policy of Stockport Grammar School.
- 1.2 The aim of this policy is to promote and safeguard the welfare of all pupils through the implementation of an effective online safety strategy which:
  - 1.2.1 protects the whole School community from illegal, inappropriate and harmful content or contact;
  - 1.2.2 educates the whole School community about their access to and use of technology; and
  - 1.2.3 establishes effective mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate incidents where appropriate.

**2 Scope and application**

- 2.1 This policy applies to the whole School including the Early Years Foundation Stage (**EYFS**).
- 2.2 This policy applies to all members of the School community, including staff and volunteers, pupils, parents and visitors, who have access to the School's technology whether on or off School premises, or otherwise use technology in a way which affects the welfare of other pupils or any member of the School community or where the culture or reputation of the School is put at risk.

**3 Regulatory framework**

- 3.1 This policy has been prepared to meet the School's responsibilities under:
  - 3.1.1 Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014;
  - 3.1.2 EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers (January 2024);
  - 3.1.3 Education and Skills Act 2008;
  - 3.1.4 Children Act 2004;
  - 3.1.5 Childcare Act 2016;
  - 3.1.6 Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); and
  - 3.1.7 Equality Act 2021.
- 3.2 This policy has regard to the following guidance and advice:
  - 3.2.1 Sharing nudes and semi-nudes Advice for Education Settings working with children and young people. Responding to incidents and safeguarding children and young people (UK Council for Internet Safety March 2024);
  - 3.2.2 Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, September 2024);
  - 3.2.3 Preventing and tackling bullying (DfE, July 2017);
  - 3.2.4 The Prevent Duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation (Department for Education September 2023) and

3.2.5 Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools (DfE, July 2022).

3.3 The following School policies, procedures and resource materials are relevant to this policy:

3.3.1 Acceptable Use Policy for pupils;

3.3.2 Staff IT Acceptable Use Policy and Social Media Policy;

3.3.3 Safeguarding Policy and procedures;

3.3.4 Anti-Bullying Policy;

3.3.5 Risk Assessment Policy for Pupil Welfare;

3.3.6 Staff Code of Conduct (appended to the safeguarding policy) and Protected Disclosure (whistleblowing) policy;

3.3.7 Data Protection Policy for staff;

3.3.8 Information Security Policy (including remote working and bring your own device to work);

#### 4 **Publication and availability**

4.1 This policy is published on the School website and is available internally on the School's Policy Drive.

4.2 This policy is available in hard copy on request.

4.3 A copy of the policy is available for inspection from the Bursary during the School day.

4.4 This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required.

#### 5 **Definitions**

5.1 In considering the scope of the School's online safety strategy, the School will take a wide and purposive approach to considering what falls within the meaning of technology, networks and devices used for viewing or exchanging information (collectively referred to in this policy as **technology**).

#### 6 **Responsibility statement and allocation of tasks**

6.1 The Governors of the school have overall responsibility for all matters which are the subject of this policy.

6.2 The Governors are required to ensure that all those with leadership and management responsibilities at the School actively promote the well-being of pupils. The adoption of this policy is part of the Governors' response to this duty.

6.3 To ensure the efficient discharge of its responsibilities under this policy, the Governors have allocated the following tasks:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Allocated to</b>	<b>When / frequency of review</b>
Keeping the policy up to date and compliant with the law and best practice	The Bursar	As required, and at least bi-annually
Review of criteria to be used to determine an incident	The Bursar and Designated Safeguarding Leads	As required, and at least annually
Monitoring the implementation of the policy (including the record of incidents involving the use of technology and the logs of internet activity and sites visited), relevant risk assessments and any action taken in response and evaluating effectiveness	The Head of Digital Services	As required, and at least termly
Online safety	Designated Safeguarding Leads (Junior and Senior Schools)	
Maintaining up to date records of all information created in relation to the policy and its implementation as required by the GDPR	The Bursar	As required, and at least termly
Seeking input from interested groups (such as pupils, staff, Parents) to consider improvements to the School's processes under the policy	ICT Steering Committee	As required, and at least bi-annually
Formal annual review	The Governing Body	Bi-annually

## **7 Role of staff and parents**

### **7.1 Head(s) and Senior Leadership Team**

- 7.1.1 The Head(s) have overall executive responsibility for the safety and welfare of members of the School community.
- 7.1.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the senior member of staff from the School's leadership team with lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection, including online safety. The responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Lead includes managing safeguarding incidents involving the use of technology in the same way as other safeguarding matters, in accordance with the School's child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures.
- 7.1.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will work with the Head of Digital Services (see below) in monitoring technology uses and practices across the

School and assessing whether any improvements can be made to ensure the online safety and well-being of pupils.

- 7.1.4 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will work with the Head of Digital Services to review the web filter activity log as/when required. The school is currently migrating to a new platform that will directly alert the necessary safeguarding staff members when any digital activity, either online or offline, triggers a pre-configured warning threshold.
- 7.1.5 The Head of Digital Services is responsible for maintaining a central record of all serious incidents involving the use of technology. In the event of any matters of safeguarding concern, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will work with the Head of Digital Services to review the web filter activity log (see also section 7.1.4) and, if necessary, progress the matter in accordance with the School's child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures.

## 7.2 **Head of Digital Services**

- 7.2.1 The Head of Digital Services, together with the ICT team, is responsible for the effective operation of the School's filtering system so that pupils and staff are unable to access any material that poses a safeguarding risk, including terrorist and extremist material, while using the School's network.
- 7.2.2 The Head of Digital Services is responsible for ensuring that:
- (a) the School's technology infrastructure is secure and, so far as is possible, is not open to misuse or malicious attack;
  - (b) the user may only use the School's technology if they are properly authenticated and authorised;
  - (c) the School has an effective filtering policy in place and that it is applied and updated on a regular basis;
  - (d) the risks of pupils and staff circumventing the safeguards put in place by the School are minimised;
  - (e) the use of the School's technology is regularly monitored to ensure compliance with this policy and that any misuse or attempted misuse can be identified and reported to the appropriate person for investigation; and
  - (f) monitoring software and systems are kept up to date to allow the ICT team to monitor the use of email and the internet over the School's network and maintain logs of such usage.
- 7.2.3 All web access is filtered by Smoothwall. Different policies apply for staff (3 levels), Upper School, Middle School, Lower School and Junior pupils. The software also provides a Safeguarding portal to allow the designated Safeguarding lead to run specific safeguarding reports. The system can also be configured to create automated notifications.
- 7.2.4 The Head of Digital Services will report regularly to the Governors' ICT Steering Committee on the operation of the School's technology. If the Network Manager or Head of Digital Services have concerns about the functionality, effectiveness, suitability or use of technology within the School, including of the monitoring and filtering systems in place, they will escalate those concerns promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- 7.2.5 The Head of Digital Services is responsible for maintaining a central record of all serious incidents involving the use of technology and bringing any matters of safeguarding concern to the attention of the Designated

Safeguarding Lead in accordance with the School's child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures.

### 7.3 **All staff**

7.3.1 All staff have a responsibility to act as good role models in their use of technology and to share their knowledge of the School's policies and of safe practice with the pupils.

7.3.2 Staff are expected to adhere, so far as applicable, to each of the policies referenced in this policy.

7.3.3 Staff have a responsibility to report any concerns about a pupil's welfare and safety in accordance with this policy and the School's child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures.

### 7.4 **Parents**

7.4.1 The role of parents in ensuring that pupils understand how to stay safe when using technology is crucial. The School expects parents to promote safe practice when using technology and to:

- (a) support the School in the implementation of this policy and report any concerns in line with the School's policies and procedures;
- (b) talk to their child to understand the ways in which they are using the internet, social media and their mobile devices and promote responsible behaviour; and
- (c) encourage their child to speak to someone if they are being bullied or otherwise are concerned about their own safety or that of another pupil or need support.

7.4.2 If parents have any concerns or require any information about online safety, they should contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

## 8 **Access to the School's technology**

8.1 The School provides internet, intranet access and an email system to pupils and staff as well as other technology. Pupils and staff must comply with the respective acceptable use policy when using School technology. In the Junior School, access by children is monitored by an adult at all times. All such use is monitored by the ICT Helpdesk.

8.2 Pupils and staff require individual user names and passwords to access the School's internet, intranet (and social media sites where appropriate) and email system which must not be disclosed to any other person. Any pupil or member of staff who has a problem with their user names or passwords must report it to the ICT team immediately.

8.3 No laptop or other mobile electronic device may be connected to the School network without the consent of the Head, Bursar, Head of Digital Services or Network Manager. The use of any device connected to the School's network will be logged and monitored by the ICT team. See also 8.5 below and the School's information security policy (including remote working and bring your own device to work).

8.4 The School has a separate Wi-Fi connection available for use by visitors to the School. A password, which is changed on a regular basis, must be obtained from a member of staff in order to use the Wi-Fi. Use of this service will be logged and monitored by the ICT helpdesk.

## 8.5 Use of mobile electronic devices

- 8.5.1 The School has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place to protect pupils using the internet (including email text messaging and social media sites) when connected to the School's network. Mobile devices equipped with a mobile data subscription can, however, provide pupils with unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet. In certain circumstances, a pupil may be given permission to use their own mobile device to connect to the internet using the School's network. Permission to do so must be sought and given in advance.
- 8.5.2 The School rules about the use of mobile electronic devices, including access to open / non-School networks, are set out in the acceptable use policy for pupils.
- 8.5.3 Personal devices can connect to a 'guest' network within school – this provides no more access than connecting these devices from outside school. Currently staff and pupils can access all publically accessible websites (including isams, webmail) from any device. Other services require connection through secure means.
- 8.5.4 The School's policies apply to the use of technology by staff and pupils whether on or off School premises and appropriate action will be taken where such use affects the welfare of other pupils or any member of the School community or where the culture or reputation of the School is put at risk.

## 9 Procedures for dealing with incidents of misuse

- 9.1 Staff, pupils and parents are required to report incidents of misuse or suspected misuse to the School in accordance with this policy and the School's safeguarding and disciplinary policies and procedures.
- 9.2 **Misuse by pupils**
- 9.2.1 Anyone who has any concern about the misuse of technology by pupils should report it so that it can be dealt with in accordance with the School's behaviour and discipline policies, including the anti-bullying policy where there is an allegation of cyberbullying.
- 9.2.2 Anyone who has any concern about the welfare and safety of a pupil must report it immediately in accordance with the School's child protection procedures (see the School's Safeguarding Policy and procedures).
- 9.3 **Misuse by staff**
- 9.3.1 Anyone who has any concern about the misuse of technology by staff should report it in accordance with the School's Protected Disclosure (whistleblowing) Policy so that it can be dealt with in accordance with the staff disciplinary procedures.
- 9.3.2 If anyone has a safeguarding-related concern relating to staff misuse of technology, they should be report it immediately so that it can be dealt with in accordance with the procedures for reporting and dealing with allegations of abuse against staff set out in the School's Safeguarding Policy and procedures.
- 9.4 **Misuse by any user**
- 9.4.1 Anyone who has a concern about the misuse of technology by any other user should report it immediately to the Head of Digital Services, the Network Manager or the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

- 9.4.2 The School reserves the right to withdraw access to the School's network by any user at any time and to report suspected illegal activity to the police.
- 9.4.3 If the School considers that any person is vulnerable to radicalisation the school will refer this to the Channel programme. This focuses on support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Any person who has a concern relating to extremism may report it directly to the police.

## 10 Education

- 10.1 The safe use of technology is integral to the School's curriculum. Pupils are educated in an age-appropriate manner about the importance of safe and responsible use of technology, including the internet, social media and mobile electronic devices (see the School's Curriculum Policy).
- 10.2 Technology is included in the educational programmes followed in the EYFS in the following ways:
  - 10.2.1 children are guided to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment;
  - 10.2.2 children are enabled to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials and provided with opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology; and
  - 10.2.3 children are guided to recognise that a range of technology is used in places such as homes and schools and encouraged to select and use technology for particular purposes.
- 10.3 The safe use of technology is also a focus in all areas of the curriculum and key safety messages are reinforced as part of assemblies and tutorial / pastoral activities, teaching pupils:
  - 10.3.1 about the risks associated with using the technology and how to protect themselves and their peers from potential risks;
  - 10.3.2 to be critically aware of content they access online and guided to validate accuracy of information;
  - 10.3.3 how to recognise suspicious, bullying or extremist behaviour;
  - 10.3.4 the definition of cyberbullying, its effects on the victim and how to treat each other's online identities with respect;
  - 10.3.5 the consequences of negative online behaviour; and
  - 10.3.6 how to report cyberbullying and / or incidents that make pupils feel uncomfortable or under threat and how the School will deal with those who behave badly.
- 10.4 The safe use of technology aspects of the curriculum are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure their relevance.
- 10.5 The School's acceptable use policy for pupils sets out the School rules about the use technology including internet, email, social media and mobile electronic devices, helping pupils to protect themselves and others when using technology. Pupils are reminded of the importance of this policy or, for younger children, the principles of the policy, on a regular basis.



## 10.6 Useful online safety resources for pupils

- 10.6.1 <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- 10.6.2 <http://www.childnet.com/young-people>
- 10.6.3 <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people>
- 10.6.4 <https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/>
- 10.6.5 <http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/>

## 11 Training

### 11.1 Staff

- 11.1.1 The School provides training on the safe use of technology to staff so that they are aware of how to protect pupils and themselves from the risks of using technology and to deal appropriately with incidents involving the use of technology when they occur.
- 11.1.2 Induction training for new staff includes training on the School's Online Safety Strategy including this policy, the Staff Code of Conduct, Staff IT Acceptable Use Policy. Ongoing staff development training includes training on technology safety together with specific safeguarding issues including sending nudes and semi-nudes, cyberbullying and radicalisation.
- 11.1.3 Staff also receive data protection training on induction and at regular intervals afterwards.
- 11.1.4 The frequency, level and focus of all such training will depend on individual roles and requirements and will be provided as part of the School's overarching approach to safeguarding.

#### 11.1.5 Useful online safety resources for staff

- (a) <https://swgfl.org.uk>
- (b) <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/teachers-and-professionals>
- (c) <http://www.childnet.com/teachers-and-professionals>
- (d) <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- (e) <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers/>
- (f) <http://educateagainsthate.com/>
- (g) <https://www.commonsense.org/education/>
- (h) Cyberbullying: advice for head teachers and school staff (DfE, November 2014)
- (i) Advice on the use of social media for online radicalisation (DfE and Home Office, July 2015)
- (j) Sharing nudes and semi-nudes Advice for Education Settings working with children and young people. Responding to incidents and safeguarding children and young people (UK Council for Internet Safety March 2024);

- (k) Online safety in schools and colleges: questions from the governing board (UKCCIS, 2022)
- (l) Education for a connected world framework (UKCCIS)
- (m) Professionals online safety helpline: [helpline@saferinternet.org.uk](mailto:helpline@saferinternet.org.uk), 0344 381 4772.

11.1.6 The Stockport Safeguarding Children Board has recommended guidance for parents on radicalisation which is available here: <https://educateagainsthate.com/>

## 11.2 Parents

11.2.1 The School aims to inform, communicate with and educate parents in the safe use of technology through interactive engagement with regular and relevant online safety resources, information evenings and newsletter updates.

11.2.2 Parents are asked to read the acceptable use policy for pupils with their son / daughter to ensure that it is fully understood.

### 11.2.3 Useful online safety resources for parents

- (a) <http://stockportgrammar-safetycentre.co.uk/>
- (b) <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>
- (c) <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>
- (d) <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- (e) <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>
- (f) <http://parentinfo.org/>
- (g) <http://parentzone.org.uk/>
- (h) <https://www.net-aware.org.uk>
- (i) <https://www.internetmatters.org/>
- (j) <https://www.common sense media.org/>
- (k) Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying (DfE, November 2014).

## 12 Risk assessment

12.1 Where a concern about a pupil's welfare is identified, the risks to that pupil's welfare will be assessed and appropriate action will be taken to reduce the risks identified.

12.2 The format of risk assessment may vary and may be included as part of the School's overall response to a welfare issue, including the use of individual pupil welfare plans (such as behaviour, healthcare and education plans, as appropriate). Regardless of the form used, the School's approach to promoting pupil welfare will be systematic and pupil focused.

12.3 The Heads have overall responsibility for ensuring that matters which affect pupil welfare are adequately risk assessed and for ensuring that the relevant findings are implemented, monitored and evaluated.

### **13 Record keeping**

- 13.1 All records created in accordance with this policy are managed in accordance with the School's policies that apply to the retention and destruction of records.
- 13.2 All serious incidents involving the use of technology will be logged centrally in the technology incident log by the Head of Digital Services.
- 13.3 The records created in accordance with this policy may contain personal data. The School has a number of privacy notices which explain how the School will use personal data about pupils and parents. The privacy notices are published on the School's website. In addition, staff must ensure that they follow the School's data protection policies and procedures when handling personal data created in connection with this policy. This includes the School's Data Protection Policy and Information Security policies.

**STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL**  
**ONLINE SAFETY POLICY - APPENDIX**

**Online Safety Arrangements During Remote Learning**

**Context**

This is an appendix to the School's Online Safety Policy, IT Acceptable Use Policy for Staff, IT Acceptable Use Agreement for Pupils, Data Protection Policy and Information Security Policy. This appendix summarises key changes or additions during remote learning.

We will continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect pupils when they are online on our IT systems or recommended resources.

The person in charge of maintaining safe IT arrangements in the School is Mrs O'Brien and she can be contacted by email on [ictcoordinator@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:ictcoordinator@stockportgrammar.co.uk)

Should the School's IT staff become unavailable, we will publish contingency arrangements to ensure the safety and stability of our IT provision.

Pupils should continue to follow our normal policies and procedures whether working in school or remotely at home.

**1 Remote learning arrangements**

The same principles as set out in the School's Safeguarding Policy and Pupil Behaviour and Discipline Policy apply to all online interactions between staff and pupils.

Appendix 2 of the School's Safeguarding Policy (Staff Code of Conduct) already includes provision relating to staff/pupil relationships and communication using technology. This Code of Conduct also applies to remote learning.

Remote learning will be delivered via the following platforms/facilities which have been evaluated and agreed by the School's Senior Management Team:

- Frog
- Google Classroom
- Google Meet (live and recorded)
- Tapestry
- School email accounts

Staff, pupils and parents will be sent advice and guidance on remote learning as appropriate.

**2 Online safety arrangements for pupils in school during a school closure**

Pupils in school will work on the same tasks as pupils working remotely using the same platforms/facilities and will be supervised by a member of staff.

**3 Role of parents**

Parents have responsibility for ensuring appropriate supervision when their children are working online and that appropriate online parent controls are in place.

The following are suitable online safety resources for parents:

- [Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
- [Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parent Zone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- [Childnet toolkit](#) is a toolkit to support parents to start discussions about online behaviour
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has advice for parents to help keep children safe online
- [Internet matters](#) provides guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices
- [Net-aware](#) has guides for parents on social networks, apps and games
- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents to keep their children safe online
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents to keep children safe from online radicalisation

#### 4 Safeguarding arrangements

The School's arrangements for reporting safeguarding concerns are set out in the School's Safeguarding Policy.

Pupils and parents can also access help and support at:

- [UK Safer Internet Centre 'Report Harmful Content'](#) to report harmful content
- [CEOP \(National Crime Agency Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command\)](#) to report online abuse
- [Educate Against Hate](#) for government advice on safeguarding from radicalisation

#### 5 Staff training

Staff have been given training on the use of the online platforms/facilities that the school uses. Updates to this training are provided as necessary.

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