

## E Safety Policy

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At Court Lane Academies we believe that the Internet and other digital technologies are powerful resources which can enhance learning when used effectively and appropriately. The schools provide pupils with opportunities to use the Internet for research, remote learning and online communication, along with developing the skills necessary to access, analyse and evaluate them safely.

Safe access to the Internet is necessary for staff and pupils. The aim of our policy is to help ensure safe responsible use of ICT and the Internet and is built on the following core principles of Digital Citizenship.

**DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP** is built on three key principles:

**Digital Literacy – how we protect ourselves in the online world**

Children will learn online safety habits so they are better prepared to avoid risky situations, make better-informed decisions, and better understand how to maintain their privacy.

**Digital Civility – how we protect each other**

Internet users should demonstrate respect for others—behaving with civility and being protective of everyone’s rights (including their own). They should learn and apply the skills to behave ethically and within online social norms. Children will learn skills that include being thoughtful about what they say and do online as well as protecting others’ privacy by not sharing personal details of friends and family without their permission.

**Information Literacy – how we protect content**

Information literacy is the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively use information from the Internet to complete a task, answer a question, or research a topic. Children will learn how to correctly evaluate the validity of information on the Internet and how to protect the content they publish

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 Court Lane Academies School’s network and devices.
- All children have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Working in partnership with children, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people’s welfare and in helping them to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

We will seek to keep children safe by:

- providing clear and specific directions to staff on how to behave online through our code of conduct for adults
- supporting and encouraging our children and families to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
- supporting and encouraging our families to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- having an online learning agreement for use with our families
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child/young person
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that user names, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively and safely
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate, in line with the school's Data Protection Policy
- ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- providing supervision, support and training for staff about online safety
- examining and risk assessing any new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

There is a clear and robust safe-guarding procedure in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse). The school provides support and training for all staff on dealing with inappropriate use of technology.

### **Data Protection and Security**

Any personal data used by staff, including that gathered through digital sources will be dealt with in line with the Data Protection Policy.

### **Internet Safety Awareness**

At Court Lane Academies we believe that alongside having a written safety policy, it is essential to educate all users in the safe and effective use of the Internet and other forms of digital communication. We see education in appropriate, effective and safe use as important for staff and parents as it is for pupils.

### **Practical Steps for Remote Learning**

1. All remote learning and any other online communication will take place in line with current confidentiality expectations.
  - Staff are responsible for all e-mails they send and are expected to use the same professional levels of language and content as would be expected in any correspondence leaving the school.
  - All e-mails use BCC if communicating with multiple families.
  - Use of chat functions are monitored for inappropriate use, and any misuse is investigated.
  - All participants are made aware if a recording is being made.
2. Staff should avoid recording lessons or meetings using personal equipment.

3. Access to online platforms will be managed in line with current IT security expectations; for example; use of strong passwords, logging off or locking devices when not in use.

### Behaviour Expectations

When recording or sharing videos, participants are required to:

- wear appropriate clothing.
- ensure backgrounds of videos are appropriate for the audience
- ensure that personal information and/or unsuitable personal items are not visible, either on screen or in video backgrounds.
- language and content used in videos should be the same as would be expected in the classroom.
- all participants should be aware of other people in the background

### **Policy Breaches and Reporting Concerns**

Participants are encouraged to report any concerns during remote learning. These are all dealt with in line with the Data Protection Policy.

All data breaches are reported to our business manager and any other concerns are shared with the Head Teacher. Any safe-guarding concerns will be reported to the Designated Safe-guarding Lead, in line with our Child Protection Policy.

Inappropriate online behaviour will be responded to in line with existing policies. Sanctions for deliberate misuse may include restricting/removing use, contacting parents or police if a criminal offence has been committed.

## APPENDICES

### Online Safety

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/Teachers/> <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

With the current speed of on-line change, some parents and carers have only a limited understanding of online risks and issues. Parents may underestimate how often their children come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the internet and may be unsure about how to respond. Some of the risks could be:

- unwanted contact
- grooming
- online bullying including sexting
- digital footprint

The school will therefore seek to provide information and awareness to both pupils and their parents through:

- Acceptable use agreements for children, teachers, parents/carers and governors
- Curriculum activities involving raising awareness around staying safe online
- Information included in **emails, online platforms e.g. Seesaw**, letters, newsletters, web site
- Parents evenings / sessions
- High profile events / campaigns e.g. e-safety week
- Building awareness around information that is held on relevant web sites and or publications

### Social media

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/Teachers/Resources/> <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/search-results?keywords=social%20networking> <http://www.childnet.com/search-results/?keywords=social%20networking>

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- Building awareness around information that is held on relevant web sites and / or publications
- School social media policy

## Cyberbullying

Central to the School's anti-bullying policy should be the principle that '*bullying is always unacceptable*' and that '*all pupils have a right not to be bullied*'. The school should also recognise that it must take note of bullying perpetrated outside school which spills over into the school and so we will respond to any cyberbullying we become aware of carried out by pupils when they are away from the site. Cyber-bullying is defined as "an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself/herself."

By cyber-bullying, we mean bullying by electronic media:

- Bullying by texts or messages or calls on mobile phones
- The use of mobile phone cameras to cause distress, fear or humiliation
- Posting threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating material on websites, to include blogs, personal websites, social networking sites
- Using e-mail to message others
- Hijacking/cloning e-mail accounts
- Making threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating remarks in on-line forums

Cyber-bullying may be at a level where it is criminal in character.

It is unlawful to disseminate defamatory information in any media including internet sites.

Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 makes it an offence to send, by public means of a public electronic communications network, a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or one of an indecent, obscene or menacing character. The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 makes it an offence to knowingly pursue any course of conduct amounting to harassment.

If we become aware of any incidents of cyberbullying, we will need to consider each case individually as to any criminal act that may have been committed. The school will pass on information to the police if it feels that it is appropriate or are required to do so.

## Sexting

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/Teachers/Resources/>

'Sexting' often refers to the sharing of naked or 'nude' pictures or video through mobile phones and the internet. It also includes underwear shots, sexual poses and explicit text messaging. While sexting often takes place in a consensual relationship between two young people, the use of Sexted images in revenge following a relationship breakdown is becoming more commonplace. Sexting can also be used as a form of sexual exploitation and take place between strangers.

As the average age of first smartphone or camera enabled tablet is 6 years old, sexting is an issue that requires awareness raising across all ages.

The school will use age appropriate educational material to raise awareness, to promote safety and deal with pressure. Parents should be aware that they can come to the school for advice.

## Gaming

Online gaming is an activity that the majority of children and many adults get involved in. The school will raise awareness:

- By talking to parents and carers about the games their children play and help them identify whether they are appropriate.
- By support parents in identifying the most effective way of safeguarding their children by using parental controls and child safety mode.
- By talking to parents about setting boundaries and time limits when games are played.
- By highlighting relevant resources.

## Online reputation

<http://www.childnet.com/resources/online-reputation-checklist>

Online reputation is the opinion others get of a person when they encounter them online. It is formed by posts, photos that have been uploaded and comments made by others on people's profiles. It is important that children and staff are aware that anything that is posted could influence their future professional reputation. Some organizations and work establishments now check digital footprint before considering applications for positions or places on courses.

## Grooming

<http://www.childnet.com/search-results/?keywords=grooming>

<http://www.internetmatters.org/issues/online-grooming/>

Online grooming is the process by which one person with an inappropriate sexual interest in children will approach a child online, with the intention of developing a relationship with that child, to be able to meet them in person and intentionally cause harm.

The school will build awareness amongst children and parents about ensuring that the child:

- Only has friends online that they know in real life
- Is aware that if they communicate with somebody that they have met online, that relationship should stay online

That parents should:

- Recognise the signs of grooming

- Have regular conversations with their children about online activity and how to stay safe online

The school will raise awareness by:

- Running sessions for parents
- Include awareness around grooming as part of their curriculum
- Identifying with both parents and children how they can be safeguarded against grooming

## Health and Safety

Court Lane Academies maintain a safe working environment for pupils and teachers using ICT resources, both in classrooms and in the ICT suite, which was designed in accordance with health and safety guidelines. Pupils are supervised at all times when Interactive Whiteboards and digital projectors are being used.

### Digital and Video Images of Pupils

Parental permission is sought to cover the use of photographs of pupils on the school website, in the local press and for displays etc. within school. See the policy on the safe use of digital images.

## School Website

Our school website promotes and provides up to date information about the school, as well as giving pupils an opportunity to showcase their work and other aspects of school life. In order to minimize risks of any images pupils on the school website being used inappropriately, the following steps are taken:

- Group photos are used where possible, with general labels or captions.
- Full names are not used.
- The website does not include home addresses, telephone numbers, personal e-mails or any other personal information about pupils or staff.

## Social Media

Where possible, Chatrooms, blogs and other social networking sites are blocked on school computers by the Local Authority filters, so pupils do not have access to them in the school environment. However, we regard the education of pupils on the safe and responsible use of social software as vitally important and this is addressed through our Internet Safety Education for pupils. Instances of cyber-bullying of pupils or staff are regarded as very serious offences and dealt with according to the school's discipline policy and child protection procedures. Pupils are aware that any misuse of digital technology should be reported to a member of staff or trusted adult immediately.

### Use of social networking sites for staff

School staff are required to maintain a separation between their professional and their private lives. This can be difficult especially given the strong relationships with pupils and parents and for those living within the community served by the school. It is expected that many colleagues would also become friends and there are many circumstances in which a member of staff could come into contact with a member of the school community which are unrelated to the fact they work in the school, such relationships are not viewed as professional. However, where any aspect of the school

or school activities are mentioned or where information obtained through working at the school is discussed then professional expectations apply.

Ensure that you understand how any site you use operates and therefore the risks associated with using the site.

- Consider carefully who you accept as friends on a social networking site. Don't accept friendship requests from pupils or parents – you may be giving them access to personal information and allowing them to contact you inappropriately.
- Report to the Headteacher any incidents where a pupil has sought to become your friend through a social networking site.
- Take care when publishing information about yourself and images online- assume that anything you publish will end up in the public domain.
- Ask yourself whether you would feel comfortable about a current or prospective employer, colleague, pupil or parent viewing the content of your page.
- Do not post anything that names or involves the school, or may be interpreted as slanderous towards colleagues, pupils or parents
- Ensure you follow school procedures for contacting parents and/or pupils and only contact pupils and/or parents via school based computer systems. Do not use social networking sites to contact parents and/or pupils.
- Through your teaching, alert pupils to the risk of potential misuse of social networking sites.

**This policy is reviewed annually by the governing body in line with the policy review schedule.**