

E5. E-SAFETY POLICY

Our mission is to develop happy, confident and successful children who are well prepared for their future.

ISSR no.	7h
Policy Owner	Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
Reviewed by DSL	12.05.25
Reviewed by Headteacher	27.05.25
Renewal date (by)	31.07.26

INTRODUCTION

It is the duty of Westbrook Hay School to ensure that every pupil in its care is safe; and the same principles apply to the digital world as apply to the real world. IT and online communications provide unrivalled opportunities for enhanced learning in addition to traditional methods, but also pose greater and more subtle risks to young people. Our pupils are therefore taught how to stay safe in the online environment and how to mitigate risks, including but not limited to the risk of identity theft, bullying, harassment, grooming, stalking, abuse and radicalisation.

Mentioned in this policy are the following roles:

- Headmaster – Mark Brain
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- Deputy Head – Dickon Baird
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- Head of IT – Andy Lloyd
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- Bursar/School Privacy Officer – Kelly Freeman
(kelly_freeman@westbrookhay.co.uk)
- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Sam Taylor
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- IT Manager – Liam Goodman
(liam_goodman@westbrookhay.co.uk)

New technologies are continually enhancing communication, the sharing of information, learning, social interaction and leisure activities. Current and emerging technologies used in and outside of school include:

- Websites;
- Email and instant messaging;
- Blogs;
- Social networking sites;
- Chat rooms;
- Music / video downloads;
- Gaming sites;
- Text messaging and picture messaging;
- Video calls;
- Podcasting;

- Online communities via games consoles; and
- Mobile internet devices such as smartphones, tablets and wearables.
- Artificial Intelligence

This policy, for all staff, visitors and pupils, is implemented to protect the interests and safety of the whole school community. It aims to provide clear guidance on how to minimise risks and how to deal with any infringements.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- Bring Your Own Device Policy
- Taking, Using and Storing Images of Children Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Anti-Bullying
- GDPR Privacy Policies
- Parental Complaints Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- EYFS Policy

Whilst exciting and beneficial both in and out of the context of education, much IT, particularly online resources, are not consistently policed. All users need to be aware of the range of risks associated with the use of these internet technologies.

At Westbrook Hay School, we understand the responsibility to educate our pupils on e-safety issues; teaching them the appropriate behaviours and critical thinking skills necessary to enable them to remain both safe and within the law when using the internet and related technologies in and beyond the classroom. We also understand the importance of involving pupils in discussions about e-safety and listening to their fears and anxieties as well as their thoughts and ideas.

SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

This policy applies to all members of the school community including staff, pupils, parents and visitors, who have access to and are users of the school IT systems. In this policy 'staff' includes teaching and support staff; governors; volunteers; peripatetic and contract; temporary; supply and agency; student placement, including those undertaking initial teacher training and apprentices. 'parents' includes pupils' carers and guardians. 'visitors' includes anyone else who comes to the school, including occasional volunteers.

Both this policy and the ICT Acceptable Use Policy (for all staff, visitors and pupils) cover both fixed and mobile internet devices provided by the school (such as PCs, laptops, webcams, tablets, whiteboards, digital video equipment, etc.); as well as all devices owned by pupils, staff, or visitors and brought onto school premises (personal laptops, tablets, smart phones, etc). It also includes wearable technology, for example, smart watches.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governing Body

The governing body of the school is responsible for the approval of this policy and for reviewing its effectiveness. The governing body will review this policy at least annually.

Head Teacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and the Executive Group

The Head Teacher is responsible for the safety of the members of the school community and this includes responsibility for e-safety. The Head Teacher has delegated day-to-day technical and teaching responsibility to the Head of IT while the DSL maintains a safeguarding overview.

In particular, the role of the Head Teacher, DSL and the Executive Group is to ensure that:

- staff, in particular the Head of IT are adequately trained about e-safety; and
- staff are aware of the school procedures and policies that should be followed in the event of the abuse or suspected breach of e-safety in connection to the school.

Head of IT

The School's Head of IT is responsible to the Head Teacher for the day to day issues relating to e-safety and has responsibility for ensuring this policy is upheld by all members of the school community, and works with other IT staff to achieve this. They will liaise with the DSL to keep up to date on current e-safety issues and guidance issued by relevant organisations, including the Department for Education (including KCSIE), the ISI, the Local Authority, CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection), Childnet International and the Local Authority Safeguarding Children Board.

IT staff

The school's IT Department have a key role in maintaining a safe technical infrastructure at the school and in keeping abreast with the rapid succession of

technical developments. They are responsible for the security of the school's hardware system, its data and for assisting in training the school's teaching and administrative staff in the use of IT. They monitor the use of the internet and emails, maintain content filters, and will report inappropriate usage to the DSL or the Headteacher.

Teaching and support staff

All staff are required to read the ICT Acceptable Use Policy and sign a statement during induction, before accessing the school's systems. As with all issues of safety at this school, staff are encouraged to create a talking and listening culture in order to address any e-safety issues which may arise in classrooms on a daily basis.

Pupils

Pupils are responsible for using the school IT systems in accordance with the ICT Acceptable Use Policy, and for letting staff know if they see IT systems being misused.

Parents and carers

Westbrook Hay School believes that it is essential for parents to be fully involved with promoting e-safety both in and outside of school. The school will always contact parents if it has any concerns about pupils' behaviour in this area and likewise it hopes that parents will feel able to share any concerns with the school. Parents and carers are responsible for endorsing the school's ICT Acceptable Use Policy.

FILTERING AND MONITORING

Westbrook Hay School aims to provide a safe environment to learn and work, including when online. Filtering and monitoring are important parts of the school's safeguarding arrangements and it is vital that all staff understand the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring. It is also important to remember that no filtering system is 100% effective, and both Pupils and Staff should always be mindful of sites or content they are attempting to access.

Staff, pupils, parents and visitors should be aware that the school's filtering and monitoring systems apply to all users, all school owned devices and any device connected to the school's internet server. Deliberate access, or an attempt to access, prohibited or inappropriate content, or attempting to circumvent the filtering and monitoring systems will be dealt with under the Staff Behaviour Policy or the Behaviour Policy, as appropriate.

The School's IT Department will check once per term that the filtering and monitoring systems are operating effectively – these checks must be recorded along with any appropriate action. From time to time the DSL and Head of IT will review the filtering and monitoring system. Such a review should occur in line with the renewal of this policy, however such review should occur if:

- there is a major safeguarding incident;
- there is a change in working practices; or
- if any new technology is introduced

The school's filtering system blocks internet access to harmful sites and inappropriate content. The filtering system will block access to sites and content listed as inappropriate on both the Internet Watch Foundation and the Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit Blocklists. This includes, but is not limited to: child sexual abuse material, unlawful terrorist content, adult content, gambling, VPN access and any other site deemed inappropriate by either the school or our various filtering providers. If there is a good educational reason why a particular website, application, or form of content should not be blocked a pupil should contact the relevant member of teaching staff, who will then contact the Head of IT and DSL for their consideration.

The School will monitor the activity of all users across all of the school's devices or any device connected to the school's internet connections allowing individuals to be identified. If there is a safeguarding concern, this should be reported to the DSL immediately. Teaching staff should notify the IT department, Head of IT and the DSL if they are teaching material which might generate unusual internet traffic activity.

Staff

If any member of staff has any concern about the effectiveness of the filtering and monitoring system, they must report the matter to the DSL immediately in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy; particularly if they have received a disclosure of access to, or witnessed someone accessing, harmful or inappropriate content. If any member of staff accidentally accesses prohibited or otherwise inappropriate content, they should proactively report the matter to the Head.

While filtering and monitoring systems have been designed not to unreasonably impact on teaching and learning, no filtering and monitoring system can be 100% effective. Teaching staff should notify their Head of Section and the DSL if they believe that appropriate teaching materials are being blocked.

Pupils

Pupils must report any accidental access to materials of a violent or sexual nature or that are otherwise inappropriate to the DSL or an appropriate teacher they feel comfortable to disclose to. Deliberate access to any inappropriate materials by a pupil will be dealt with under the School's Behaviour Management Policy. Pupils should be aware that all internet usage via the school's systems and its Wi-Fi network are monitored.

Certain websites are automatically blocked by the school's filtering and monitoring systems. If this causes problems for school work/research purposes, pupils should contact a member of the IT Department or the Head of IT for assistance.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Staff: awareness and training

New staff receive information on Westbrook Hay School's e-Safety and ICT Acceptable Use policies as part of their induction.

All staff receive regular information and training on e-safety issues in the form of INSET training and internal meeting time, and are made aware of their individual responsibilities relating to the safeguarding of children within the context of e-safety. All supply staff and contractors receive information about e-Safety as part of their safeguarding briefing on arrival at school.

All staff working with children are responsible for demonstrating, promoting and supporting safe behaviours in their classrooms and following school e-Safety procedures. These behaviours are summarised in the ICT Acceptable Use Policy. When children use school computers, staff should make sure children are fully aware of the agreement they are making to follow the school's IT guidelines.

Teaching staff are encouraged to incorporate e-safety activities and awareness within their subject areas and through a culture of talking about issues as they arise. They should know what to do in the event of misuse of technology by any member of the school community.

A RecordMy entry must be completed by staff as soon as possible if any safeguarding incident relating to e-safety occurs.

Pupils: e-Safety in the curriculum

IT and online resources are used increasingly across the curriculum. We believe it is essential for e-Safety guidance to be given to pupils on a regular and meaningful basis. We continually look for new opportunities to promote e-Safety

and regularly monitor and assess our pupils' understanding of it.

The school provides opportunities to teach about e-Safety within a range of curriculum areas and IT lessons. Educating pupils on the dangers of technologies that may be encountered outside school will also be carried out via PSHE, by presentations in assemblies, as well as informally when opportunities arise.

Pupils are also taught about relevant laws applicable to using the internet; such as data protection and intellectual property. Pupils are taught about respecting other people's information and images (etc.) through discussion and classroom activities.

Pupils should be aware of the impact of cyber-bullying and know how to seek help if they are affected by these issues (see also the school's Anti-Bullying Policy, which describes the preventative measures and the procedures that will be followed when the school discovers cases of bullying). Pupils should approach the Designated Safeguard Lead/Safeguarding Team and/or the Head of IT as well as parents, peers and other school staff for advice or help if they experience problems when using the internet and related technologies.

Parents

The School seeks to work closely with parents and guardians in promoting a culture of e-Safety. The School will always contact parents if it has any concerns about pupils' behaviour in this area and likewise it hopes that parents will feel able to share any concerns with the school. The School recognises that not all parents and guardians may feel equipped to protect their child when they use electronic equipment at home.

POLICY STATEMENTS

USE OF SCHOOL AND PERSONAL DEVICES

Staff

School devices assigned to a member of staff as part of their role must have a password or device lock so that unauthorised people cannot access the content. Staff devices are for the sole use of the staff member they are issued to and are not to be loaned to pupils/visitors/other staff under any condition. Staff should only use the school device which is allocated to them for school work and under no circumstances use the device for personal use. When they are not using a device, staff should ensure that it is locked to prevent unauthorised access.

Staff are referred to the BYOD Policy in the Staff Handbook for further guidance on the use of non-school owned electronic devices for work purposes.

Staff at Westbrook Hay School are permitted to bring in personal devices for their own use. Staff may use such devices in school staff rooms or during non-contact break times when no children are present, or when emergency circumstances dictate (e.g. to call for medical assistance when on the sports field).

In line with EYFS (including Reception) regulations, personal mobile devices are not allowed in any EYFS setting, where this setting is defined as any area where EYFS pupils are present or are reasonably expected to be present. This is the case for visitors and staff. The use of mobile phones is permitted in the Pre-Prep staff room and the Pre-Prep School Office. Parents may take photographs of their own child, using their mobile phone, at public performances but should not post these photographs on social media if any other children are visible in the photo.

Personal telephone numbers, email addresses, or other contact details may not be shared with pupils or parents/carers and staff may not contact a pupil or parent/carer using a personal telephone number, email address, social media, or other messaging system.

Staff who are teaching outdoors (i.e. sports staff), or who are on a school trip are permitted to receive calls from the school on their personal device. Staff should explain to the children who is calling them and why they need to receive the call. The call should be ended as soon as possible and the phone placed back out of sight.

Pupils

If pupils bring in mobile devices, once express permission from the Head Teacher has been received (e.g. for use during the journey to and from school), they should be kept switched off, handed in to the school office at the start of the day and collected as they leave school. These requirements apply to phones and all devices that communicate over the internet, including smartwatches and other wearable technology.

The school recognises that mobile devices are sometimes used by pupils for medical purposes or as an adjustment to assist pupils who have disabilities or special educational needs. Where a pupil needs to use a mobile device for such purposes, the school SENCO will make appropriate arrangements.

USE OF INTERNET AND EMAIL

Staff

Staff must not access social networking sites, personal email, any website or personal email which is unconnected with school work or business from school devices or whilst teaching / in front of pupils. Such access may only be made from staff members' own devices whilst in staff-only areas of school. The exception is those members of staff who may be adding information to the school's owned and controlled social media sites.

Staff must use personal social networking sites with extreme caution, being aware of the nature of what is published online and its potential impact on their professional position and the reputation of the school. It is the School's expectation that personal social media accounts are set to private.

The School has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the school network is safe and secure. Staff should be aware that email communications through the school network and staff email addresses are monitored.

Staff must immediately report to the Headmaster/Head of Section and the IT Manager the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication. Staff must remain alert to the risk of fraudulent emails and should report emails they suspect to be fraudulent to the Head of IT and the IT Manager.

Any online communications must not either knowingly or recklessly:

- place a child or young person at risk of harm, or cause actual harm;
- bring Westbrook Hay School into disrepute;
- breach confidentiality;
- breach copyright.
- Breach data protection legislation or do anything that could be considered discriminatory against or bullying or harassment of any individual, for example by:
 - making offensive or derogatory comments relating to sex, gender reassignment, race (including nationality), disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief or age;
 - using social media to bully another individual; or

- posting links to or endorsing material which is discriminatory or offensive;
 - posting or endorsing material that is in breach of any other Westbrook Hay Policy.
- Under no circumstances should school pupils or current parents be added as social network 'friends' or contacted through social media.

Any digital communication between staff and pupils or parents / carers must be professional in tone and content. Staff should refer to the Westbrook Charter for further advice. Under no circumstances may staff contact a pupil or parent / carer using any personal email address. The School ensures that staff have access to their work email address when offsite, for use as necessary on school business.

Pupils

All pupils are issued with their own personal school email addresses for use on our network and offsite. Access is via a personal login, which is password protected. This official email service may be regarded as safe and secure, and must be used for all school work. Pupils should be aware that email communications through the school network and school email addresses can be monitored.

There is strong antivirus and firewall protection on our network. Spam emails and certain attachments will be blocked automatically by the email system, though it must be remembered that no system is 100% effective and pupils should always be careful when opening emails and attachments. If this causes problems for school work purposes, pupils should contact the Head of IT or the IT Manager for assistance.

Pupils must not respond to any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and should immediately report such a communication to the Head of IT or another member of staff.

The School expects pupils to think carefully before they post any information online, or repost or endorse content created by other people. Content posted should not be able to be deemed inappropriate or offensive, or likely to cause embarrassment to the individual or others.

USE OF AI ENABLED SOFTWARE

The use of AI-enabled software is permitted within the school, subject to the

following the schools AI policy

DATA STORAGE AND PROCESSING

The school takes its compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (updated 2020) seriously. Please refer to the ICT Acceptable Use Policy for further details.

Staff and pupils are expected to save all data relating to their work to their Chromebook or PC or to the school's central servers / Google Drive Account.

Staff devices should be encrypted if any data or passwords are stored on them. The school has banned all portable media for the transference of data.

Staff may only take information offsite when authorised to do so, and only when it is necessary and required in order to fulfil their role. Any data should be stored in the School owned and managed Google Drive and not downloaded to any device not owned and managed by the school.

Any security breaches or attempts, loss of equipment and any unauthorised use or suspected misuse of IT must be immediately reported to the Headteacher, the Bursar and the IT Manager.

PASSWORD SECURITY

Pupils and staff have individual school network logins, email addresses and storage folders on the server. Staff and pupils are regularly reminded of the need for password security.

Pupils and members of staff should:

- use a strong password (usually containing eight characters or more, and containing upper and lower case letters as well as numbers except KS1 and Lower KS2 pupils who will use a simpler format, which should be changed every term for staff and annually for pupils;
- not share passwords with other pupils or staff.

SAFE USE OF DIGITAL AND VIDEO IMAGES

The development of digital imaging technologies has created significant benefits to learning, allowing staff and pupils instant use of images that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet. However, staff, parents / carers and pupils need to be aware of the risks associated with publishing digital images on the internet. Such images may provide avenues for cyberbullying, stalking or grooming to take place. Digital images may remain available on the internet

forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term.

When using digital images, staff should inform and educate pupils about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images. In particular they should recognise the risks attached to publishing their own images on the internet (e.g. on social networking sites).

Parents / carers are welcome to take videos and digital images of their children at school events for their own personal use in line with the Taking, Storing and Using Pictures of Children Policy.

Staff and volunteers are allowed to take digital / video images to support educational aims, but must follow this policy, the ICT Acceptable Use Policy, Taking, using and Storing Images of Children and EYFS Policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images. Those images must only be taken on school equipment; personal equipment should never be used for such purposes.

Care should be taken when taking digital / video images that pupils are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.

Pupils must not share, publish or distribute images of others. Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of students / pupils are published on the school website (see Parent Contract / ICT Acceptable Use Policy for more information).

Photographs published on the school website, or displayed elsewhere, that include pupils, will be selected carefully and will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images. Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on a website or blog, particularly in association with photographs.

MISUSE

Westbrook Hay School will not tolerate illegal activities or activities that are inappropriate in a school context, and will report illegal activity to the police and/or the Local Authority Designated Office (LADO). If the school discovers that a child or young person is at risk as a consequence of online activity, it may seek assistance from the LADO.

Incidents of misuse or suspected misuse must be dealt with by staff in accordance with School's policies and procedures (in particular the Child Protection and

Safeguarding Policy).

The school will impose a range of sanctions on any pupil who misuses technology to bully, harass or abuse another pupil in line with our Anti-Bullying Policy.

PARENTAL OR PUPIL COMPLAINTS

All safety matters including e-safety at Westbrook Hay are taken seriously by the School and prompt action will be taken. Any complaints, including those relating to e-safety matters should be raised in the first instance with the pupil's Form Teacher, who in most cases will be able to resolve the matter. For further details regarding the complaints procedure please see the Parental Complaints Policy.

STAFF COMPLAINTS

Staff should report any complaints, incidents or issues regarding e-safety to their Head of Section/IT Manager, and Headteacher.

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Incidents of or concerns around safeguarding and e-safety will be recorded using RecordMy and reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), or, in their absence, a Deputy DSL in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.