



Online Safety Policy

Rationale

In today's digital age, online technologies offer immense educational opportunities, allowing students to access a wealth of information, collaborate with peers, and develop critical digital literacy skills. However, the internet also presents risks, particularly for younger users, including exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, online predators, and the potential misuse of personal information.

At St. Alban's, we recognise our responsibility to safeguard our students, staff, and school community from these risks while promoting the positive use of technology. An effective online safety policy ensures that students can safely engage with digital resources in a manner that enhances their learning experience, fosters responsible online behaviour, and prepares them for a rapidly evolving digital world.

By implementing robust online safety **Protect students** from online dangers, ensuring a secure digital learning environment.

- **Empower students and staff** with the knowledge to make informed decisions and behave responsibly online.
- **Foster a culture of respect, inclusivity, and digital citizenship**, where both students and staff understand the importance of responsible technology use.
- **Support staff** in understanding their role in promoting safe online practices and their responsibility for modelling positive digital behaviours.
- **Engage parents and carers** in guiding their children's use of digital devices at home, complementing the school's efforts in ensuring safe internet practices.

Through this policy, we are committed to educating students about the safe and ethical use of the internet, promoting the wellbeing of our school community, and mitigating the potential threats posed by an increasingly connected world.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all members of the school community (including staff, pupils, volunteers, parents / carers, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of school ICT systems, both in and out of school.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers Headteachers, to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of students / pupils when they are off the school site and empowers members of staff to impose disciplinary penalties for inappropriate behaviour. This is pertinent to incidents of cyber-bullying, or other e-safety incidents covered by this policy, which may take place out of school, but is linked to membership of the school.

The school will deal with such incidents within this policy and associated behaviour and anti-bullying policies and will, where known, inform parents / carers of incidents of inappropriate e-safety behaviour that take place out of school.

DfE Statutory Guidance

In line with the Department for Education's Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) statutory guidance, St. Alban's prioritises online safety as a key component of our safeguarding responsibilities. All staff are required to undergo regular safeguarding training, which includes up-to-date guidance on identifying and responding to online risks such as cyberbullying, grooming, and inappropriate content.

The school has implemented effective filtering and monitoring systems to prevent access to harmful content and to detect inappropriate behaviour on school devices. These systems are regularly reviewed to ensure they are up-to-date and meet the needs of our students.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) oversees online safety protocols and is trained to respond to any online safety concerns. All online safety incidents are reported, monitored, and addressed swiftly, with procedures in place to support students at risk, particularly vulnerable groups.

We are committed to educating our students on responsible internet use and the risks they may encounter online. Online safety education is embedded within the curriculum, with dedicated lessons in Computing and PSHE. We also engage parents and carers through workshops and resources, helping them understand how to protect their children online.

E-Safety Roles & Responsibilities

Ensuring online safety is a shared responsibility across the entire school community. At St. Alban's, the following roles and responsibilities are in place to promote a safe and secure digital environment:

1. Headteacher

- Has overall responsibility for ensuring the implementation of this Online Safety Policy and that all safeguarding practices, including online safety, are embedded throughout the school.
- Works with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and governors to ensure online safety is a priority and that resources are allocated for training, tools, and monitoring systems.

2. Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

- Acts as the main point of contact for online safety concerns and ensures they are addressed in line with safeguarding procedures.
- Oversees the implementation of online safety strategies and ensures all staff receive appropriate training on e-safety and emerging online risks.
- Keeps up to date with the latest e-safety issues and technologies, liaising with external agencies as necessary.
- Leads on the investigation of online safety incidents, ensuring they are logged and reported appropriately.

3. Teachers and Support Staff

- Responsible for delivering the online safety curriculum and ensuring students understand how to stay safe online.
- Actively model positive, safe, and responsible use of digital technology.
- Report any online safety incidents or concerns to the DSL immediately.

4. IT Manager/Technician

- Ensures that robust filtering and monitoring systems are in place to protect students from accessing harmful content online.
- Regularly reviews and updates the school's technological defences to stay current with emerging online threats.
- Assists in investigating any technical aspects of online safety incidents, such as breaches of the school's IT systems.

5. Governors

- Ensure that online safety is embedded in the school's safeguarding and child protection policies.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the Online Safety Policy and ensure it is regularly reviewed in line with statutory guidance.

6. Parents and Carers

- Encourage safe and responsible use of technology at home, supporting the school's online safety teachings.
- Stay informed about the online risks their children may face and promote good online habits.

7. Students

- Follow the school's Acceptable Use Policy, using digital technologies responsibly and safely.
- Report any online concerns, including inappropriate content or cyberbullying, to a trusted adult or staff member.

. Use of Internet within the Curriculum

At St. Alban's, the Internet plays a key role in enhancing our curriculum and helping students develop essential digital skills. We use a variety of educational platforms and resources that are age-appropriate and closely monitored to ensure safe, productive learning.

- **Discovery Coding:** Students learn coding fundamentals and computational thinking through interactive activities. This platform helps develop problem-solving and creativity while introducing students to programming in a safe, structured environment.
- **Google:** Under teacher supervision, students use Google to research topics across subjects. They are taught how to conduct safe, responsible searches, evaluate information for accuracy and reliability, and practice proper digital citizenship.
- **Digimaps for Schools:** This tool enhances geography lessons, allowing students to explore digital maps, conduct spatial analysis, and engage with real-world geographical data, all within a secure online platform.

- **Reflex and Times Tables Rockstars:** These interactive platforms are used to support mathematics learning, focusing on fluency in basic operations and times tables through fun, game-based activities. Students access these tools both in school and at home to practice their skills.

Additionally, students may use other internet-based resources from time to time, depending on curriculum needs, all of which are carefully selected and supervised to ensure safe usage. All internet use is supervised, and students are regularly reminded of online safety protocols, ensuring that digital learning contributes positively to their academic and personal development.

Prevent Duty and Online Safety

In line with the Prevent Duty outlined in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, [School Name] is committed to safeguarding students from exposure to extremist content and online radicalisation. We understand our role in preventing individuals from being drawn into terrorism, and this forms a key part of our overall safeguarding responsibilities.

To support this, we have implemented robust filtering and monitoring systems that:

- **Block access to extremist and harmful content:** Our filters automatically prevent access to websites that promote terrorism, radicalisation, or extremist ideologies, as well as any content deemed inappropriate or unsafe for children.
- **Monitor student activity:** All online activity on the school network is monitored for signs of potential risks, including attempts to access inappropriate material or engage with harmful content. Alerts are generated when concerning behaviour is detected, allowing for timely intervention.

These measures ensure a secure online environment where students can learn safely, free from harmful influences or risks.

Handling Cyberbullying

At St. Alban's we take cyberbullying seriously and are dedicated to creating a safe environment for all students. Our approach includes:

1. Prevention and Education

We educate students about cyberbullying through lessons on online safety and respectful digital communication. Workshops and assemblies raise awareness for students, staff, and parents.

2. Reporting Procedures

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of cyberbullying to a trusted adult, such as a teacher or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Clear reporting channels ensure that concerns are addressed promptly.

3. Support and Intervention

Upon receiving a report, we investigate the incident thoroughly. Support is offered to victims, and appropriate actions are taken against perpetrators, following our behaviour policy.

Our aim is to foster a positive school culture where every student feels safe, respected, and valued.

Empowering children to stay safe online:

At St. Alban's we empower students to navigate the online world safely by teaching them how to respond if they encounter content that upsets them. Our approach varies by age group to ensure that the strategies are appropriate for their developmental stages.

Key Stage 1 (KS1) – Stop, Close, Tell

For our younger students, we use the simple strategy of Stop, Close, Tell:

- **Stop:** If they see something upsetting, they should stop and take a moment to think.
- **Close:** They should close the screen or device to prevent further exposure to the upsetting content.
- **Tell:** Finally, they are encouraged to tell a trusted adult, such as a parent, teacher, or caregiver, about what they saw so that they can receive support.

Key Stage 2 (KS2) – Report, Save, Block

For our older students, we teach the Report, Save, Block strategy:

- **Report:** They should report any upsetting content or interactions to a trusted adult or use reporting tools on the platform.
- **Save:** They are encouraged to save any evidence, such as screenshots, that may be needed for reporting.
- **Block:** Students should block the individual or account that is causing distress to prevent further contact.

By instilling these practices, we help students build resilience and confidence in managing their online experiences. Regular discussions and activities reinforce these strategies, ensuring students know how to seek help and stay safe in the digital world.