ONLINE SAFETY POLICY

It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. An effective whole school and college approach to online safety empowers a school or college to protect and educate pupils, students, and staff in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate.
(Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2023)

	Date	Signature
GB Approved	March 2014	JPay
Review	March 2017	JS
Review	March 2020	JS
Review	March 2023	JS
Review	March 2026	

The policy statement applies to all Trustees, Governors, staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in Langside School's activities.

1. The purpose of this policy is to:
- ensure that the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices.
- provide staff with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety.
- ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

2. Online Safety and Complex Special Educational Needs at Langside School
- Very few of our pupils can access the internet, social media, or mobile devices without full support, so are not at the same risk as non-disabled pupils, however Langside takes online safety very seriously to ensure all pupils remain safe.
- Those few who can access the internet, social media, or mobile devices, are always supervised by members of staff while online at school, so there is no risk during the school day. However, these pupils receive online safety training according to their ability as part of their curriculum.

3. Legal Framework
This policy has been drawn up based on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England.
Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available on:
- [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](www.gov.uk)
- Online Abuse - https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse
- Bullying - https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying
- Child Protection - https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system
- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-social-care-act-2012-fact-sheets
- https://www.scie.org.uk/mca/introduction/mental-capacity-act-2005-at-a-glance

4. We believe that:
- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
- children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

5. 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 they are using Langside School's network and devices or not.
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

6. We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Principal acting as online safety coordinator who will ensure that teachers understand online safety and that resources are up to date and appropriate, and online safety is taught to any pupils who require this.
- work with the safeguarding governor to ensure that any concerns around online safety are addressed.
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our code of conduct for adults.
- supporting and encouraging the young people using our service to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others.
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online.
- 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.
- checking with the IT manager that the security of our information systems is up to date, that usernames, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively.
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate.
- ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given.
- providing support and training for teachers about online safety through teachers' meetings.
- ensuring all staff are trained in online safety.
- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

7. If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse).
- providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sending nudes, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation as a whole into account.

8. Related policies and procedures

- Code of Conduct
- Safeguarding Policy
- Mobile Phone Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Statement of Procedures for Allegations Against Staff
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- GDPR Policy

9. Supporting information

- http://ceop.police.uk/ For advice and guidance from the Police's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Unit (CEOP)
- http://www.swgfl.org.uk/Staying-Safe For e-safety support material from the South West Grid for Learning who provide Internet connectivity to nearly all state schools in the 15 South West

local authorities as well as actively managed filtering and monitoring. This includes Standard Acceptable User Policies, bring your own device, advice on clouding etc.

- http://www.iwf.org.uk/ Internet Watch Foundation, for the reporting of criminal online content.
- http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100202101002/dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/ig00311/ Guidance for safer working practice for adults who work with children and young people – government 2009.
- http://www.e2bn.org/files/Inspecting_e-safety.pdf Inspecting e-safety Ofsted 2012
- https://www.gov.uk/data-protection/the-data-protection-act Data Protection Act 1998
- http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00334-2008.pdf Byron review 'Safer children in a digital world'
- http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/safe-use-of-new-technologies Safe use of new technologies Ofsted 2009
- www.education.gov.uk/ukccis   Advice on Child Internet Safety 1.0   UK Council for Child Internet Safety
- http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/briefings/Photographing-children_wda96007.html NSPCC guidance on photos in schools
- http://www.ico.org.uk/ Data Protection/Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)
- Safe Schools and Communities team ssct@dorset.pnn.police.uk 01202 222844 . This team provides support if an E safety incident occurs as well as training packages for children, young people, parents/carers and staff.