



E-Safety Policy

Revised: September 2024

To be reviewed: September 2025

The Pioneer Vision

We put children first, pioneering excellence and championing each and every child.

Statement of intent

At The Pioneer Academy, we understand that computer technology is an essential resource for supporting teaching and learning. The internet, and other digital and information technologies, open up opportunities for pupils and play an important role in their everyday lives.

Whilst the school recognises the importance of promoting the use of computer technology throughout the curriculum, we also understand the need for safe internet access and appropriate use.

Our school has created this policy with the aim of ensuring appropriate and safe use of the internet and other digital technology devices by all pupils and staff.

The school is committed to providing a safe learning and teaching environment for all pupils and staff, and has implemented important controls to prevent any harmful risks.

1. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to the following legislation, including, but not limited to:

- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Computer Misuse Act 1990, amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006
- Communications Act 2003
- Protection of Children Act 1978
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997

This policy also has regard to the following statutory guidance:

- DfE (2019) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2020) 'Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education'
- DfE (2019) 'Teaching online safety in schools' (Guidance)
- DfE (2020) 'Online Harms' (Guidance)

This policy will be used in conjunction with the following school policies and procedures:

- E-security and Data Breach Policy (appendix 2)
- Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy (appendix 8)
- Acceptable Use Agreements

2. Use of the internet

The school understands that using the internet is important when raising educational standards, promoting pupil achievement and enhancing teaching and learning.

Internet use is embedded in the statutory curriculum and is therefore an entitlement for all pupils, though there are a number of controls the school is required to implement to minimise harmful risks.

When accessing the internet, individuals are especially vulnerable to a number of risks which may be physically and emotionally harmful, including:

- Access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate images
- Cyber bullying
- Access to, or loss of, personal information
- Access to unsuitable online videos or games
- Loss of personal images
- Inappropriate communication with others
- Illegal downloading of files
- Exposure to explicit or harmful content, e.g. involving radicalisation
- Plagiarism and copyright infringement
- Sharing the personal information of others without the individual's consent or knowledge

3. Roles and responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all staff to be alert to possible harm to pupils or staff due to inappropriate internet access or use, both inside and outside of the school, and to deal with incidents of such as a priority.

The Head of IT is responsible for ensuring that there are appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place to safeguard pupils.

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring the day-to-day e-safety in the school, and managing any issues that may arise.

The Head Teacher will ensure that relevant training and advice are provided for members of staff as part of the requirement for staff to undergo regularly updated safeguarding training and be able to teach pupils about online safety.

The Head Teacher will establish a procedure for reporting incidents and inappropriate internet use, either by pupils or staff.

The Designated Online Safety Lead will ensure that all members of staff are aware of the procedure when reporting e-safety incidents, and will keep a log of all incidents recorded.

Cyber bullying incidents will be reported in accordance with the school's Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy.

Teachers are responsible for ensuring that e-safety issues are embedded in the curriculum and safe internet access is promoted at all times.

All staff are responsible for ensuring they are up-to-date with current e-safety issues, and this E-Safety Policy.

All staff and pupils will ensure they understand and adhere to our Acceptable Use Agreement, which they must sign and return to the Head Teacher.

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child understands how to use computer technology and other digital devices appropriately.

The Head Teacher is responsible for communicating with parents regularly and updating them on current e-safety issues and control measures.

All pupils are aware of their responsibilities regarding the use of school-based ICT systems and equipment, including their expected behaviour.

4. E-safety education

Educating pupils:

- An e-safety programme will be established and taught across the curriculum on a regular basis, ensuring that pupils are aware of the safe use of new technology both inside and outside of the school.
- Pupils will be taught about the importance of e-safety and are encouraged to be critically aware of the content they access online, including extremist material and the validity of website content.
- Pupils will be taught to acknowledge information they access online, in order to avoid copyright infringement and/or plagiarism.
- Clear guidance on the rules of internet use will be presented in all classrooms.
- Pupils are instructed to report any suspicious use of the internet and digital devices.
- PSHE lessons will be used to educate pupils about cyber bullying, including how to report cyber bullying, the social effects of spending too much time online and where to access help.
- The school will hold e-safety events, such as Safer Internet Day and Anti Bullying Week, to promote online safety.

Educating staff:

- All staff will undergo e-safety training on an annual basis to ensure they are aware of current e-safety issues and any changes to the provision of e-safety, as well as current developments in social media and the internet as a whole.
- All staff will employ methods of good practice and act as role models for pupils when using the internet and other digital devices.
- All staff are reminded of the importance of acknowledging information they access online, in order to avoid copyright infringement and/or plagiarism.
- Any new staff are required to undergo e-safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring they fully understand this E-Safety Policy.
- The Head of IT will act as the first point of contact for staff requiring e-safety advice.

Educating parents:

- E-safety information will be directly delivered to parents through a variety of formats, including newsletters and the school website.
- Parents' evenings, meetings and other similar occasions will be utilised to inform parents of any e-safety related concerns.
- Regular questionnaires will be sent to parents in order to identify the greatest area of support required.

5. E-safety control measures

Internet access:

- Effective filtering systems will be established to eradicate any potential risks to pupils through access to, or trying to access, certain websites which are harmful or use inappropriate material.
- The Pioneer Academy will ensure that use of appropriate filters and monitoring systems does not lead to 'over blocking', such that there are unreasonable restrictions as to what pupils can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.
- Any requests by staff for websites to be added or removed from the filtering list must be first authorised by the Head of IT.
- All school systems will be protected by up-to-date virus software.
- An agreed procedure will be in place for the provision of temporary users, e.g. supply teachers.
- The internet should not normally be used for private or leisure purposes; it is provided primarily for education or business use. Staff may use the internet for other purposes provided that:

- Such use is occasional and reasonable;
- Such use does not interfere in any way with staff duties and
- Staff follow the code of practice at all times

Email:

- Staff will be given approved email accounts and are only able to use these accounts.
- The use of personal email accounts to send and receive personal data or information is prohibited.
- No sensitive personal data shall be sent to any other pupils, staff or third parties via unsecured emails.
- Chain letters, spam and all other emails from unknown sources will be deleted without opening.

Social networking:

- Access to social networking sites will be filtered as appropriate.
- Should access be needed to social networking sites for any reason, this must be first authorised by the Head Teacher.
- Pupils are regularly educated on the implications of posting personal data online outside of the school.
- Staff are not permitted to post inappropriate photos or information online, which may potentially affect their position and the school as a whole.
- Staff are not permitted to communicate with pupils over social networking sites and are reminded to alter their privacy settings.
- Staff are not permitted to publish comments about the school which may affect its reputability.
- Staff are not permitted to access social media sites during teaching hours unless it is justified to be beneficial to the material being taught.

Published content on the school website and images:

- The Head Teacher will be responsible for the overall content of the website, and will ensure the content is appropriate and accurate.
- Contact details on the school website will include the phone number, email and address of the school – no personal details of pupils will be published.

- Images and full names of pupils, or any content that may easily identify a pupil, will not be posted.
- Pupils are not permitted to take or publish photos of others without permission from the individual.
- Staff are able to take pictures, though they must do so in accordance with school policies in terms of the sharing and distribution of such. Staff will not take pictures using their personal equipment.
- Any member of staff that is representing the school online, e.g. through blogging, must express neutral opinions and not disclose any confidential information regarding the school, or any information that may affect its reputability.

Mobile devices and hand-held computers:

- The Head Teacher may authorise the use of mobile devices by staff on occasions in line with school policy.
- Pupils are not permitted to access the school's Wi-Fi system at any times using their mobile devices and hand-held computers.
- Mobile devices are not permitted to be used during school hours by pupils.
- Staff are permitted to use hand-held computers which have been provided by the school, though internet access will be monitored for any inappropriate use when using these on the school premises.
- The sending of inappropriate messages or images from mobile devices is prohibited.
- Mobile devices will not be used to take images or videos of pupils or staff.
- The school will be especially alert to instances of cyber bullying and will treat such instances as a matter of high priority.
- The use of 'hotspot' or 'tethered data' is not permitted via mobile devices at any time.

Network security:

- Network profiles for staff members are created, in which the individual must enter a username and personal password when accessing the ICT systems within the school.
- Passwords have a minimum and maximum length, to prevent 'easy' passwords or mistakes when creating passwords.
- Passwords will expire after 90 days to ensure maximum security for staff accounts.

Virus management:

- Technical security features, such as virus software, are kept up-to-date and managed by the Head of IT.
- The Head of IT will ensure that the filtering of websites and downloads is up-to-date and monitored.

6. Cyber bullying

For the purpose of this policy, cyber bullying is a form of bullying whereby an individual is the victim of harmful or offensive posting of information or images online.

The school recognises that both staff and pupils may experience cyber bullying and will commit to preventing any instances that should occur.

The school will regularly educate staff, pupils and parents on the importance of staying safe online, as well as being considerate to what they post online.

Pupils will be educated about online safety through teaching and learning opportunities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum; this includes covering relevant issues within PSHE lessons as well as sex and relationship education.

The school will commit to creating a learning and teaching environment which is free from harassment and bullying, ensuring the happiness of all members of staff and pupils.

The school has zero tolerance for cyber bullying, and any incidents will be treated with the upmost seriousness and will be dealt with in accordance with our Anti-Bullying Policy.

The Head Teacher will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the police or the LA of the action taken against a pupil.

7. Reporting misuse

The Pioneer Academy will clearly define what is classed as inappropriate behaviour in the Acceptable Use Agreement, ensuring all pupils and staff members are aware of what behaviour is expected of them.

Inappropriate activities are discussed and the reasoning behind prohibiting activities due to e-safety are explained to pupils as part of the curriculum in order to promote responsible internet use.

Misuse by pupils:

- Any instances of misuse should be immediately reported to a member of staff, who will then report this to the Head Teacher.
- Complaints of a child protection nature, such as when a pupil is found to be accessing extremist material, shall be dealt with in accordance with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Misuse by staff:

- Any misuse of the internet by a member of staff should be immediately reported to the Head Teacher.
- The Head Teacher will deal with such incidents in accordance with the Allegations of Abuse against Staff Policy, and may decide to take disciplinary action against the member of staff.
- The Head Teacher will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the police or LA of the action taken against a member of staff.

Use of illegal material:

- In the event that illegal material is found on the school's network, or evidence suggest that illegal material has been accessed, the police will be contacted.
- Incidents will be immediately reported to the Internet Watch Foundation and the police will be contacted if the illegal material is, or is suspected to be, a child sexual abuse image hosted anywhere in the world, a non-photographic child sexual abuse image hosted in the UK, or criminally obscene adult content hosted in the UK.
- If a child protection incident is suspected, the school's child protection procedure will be followed – the DSL and Head Teacher will be informed and the police contacted.

8. Monitoring and review

This policy will also be reviewed on an annual basis or earlier if deemed necessary.

Members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction programmes.