

Online Safety Policy – appendix

Hillocks Primary Academy

September 2024

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1 Introduction

Online safety in schools is of paramount importance. As the online world evolves, so do both the online harms and risks facing our children and the relevant legislation, both statutory and non-statutory, which directs and guides how schools should meet their online safety requirements.

School staff and governors play a vital role in setting an example for the whole school and are central to implementing policy and process. It is imperative that a whole school community approach to online safety is adopted and that all stakeholders are aware of their responsibilities and duties in relation to keeping children safe online. This will support a robust online safety ethos and ensure that schools are providing the best online safety provision they possibly can.

This policy is applicable to all members of Hillocks Primary Academy. This includes, staff, students and pupils, volunteers, parents/carers, visitors and community users who have access to and are users of the Hillocks Primary Academy digital technology systems, both internally and externally within the home and community setting.

In addition to this appendix, we always adhere to the overarching [Trust Online Safety Policy](#)

2 Online Safety School Statement

- Hillocks Primary Academy asserts that online safety is an essential element of safeguarding and duly acknowledges its statutory obligation to ensure that all learners and staff are protected from potential online harm.
- Hillocks Primary Academy believes that the internet and associated devices are an integral part of everyday life and affirms that all learners should be empowered to build resilience and to develop strategies to recognise and respond to online risks.

3 Policy Scope

Online safety is an omnipresent topic which requires recurrent regulatory review and places a stringent duty of care on us all. This policy supports schools in meeting statutory requirements as per the DfE guidance under [Keeping Children Safe in Education Working together to safeguard children \(2018\)](#) and non-statutory guidance, [Teaching online safety in schools](#). Effective, timely

and robust online safety is fundamental to protecting children and young people in education and it is a significant part of the safeguarding agenda.

High quality online safety provision requires constant vigilance and a readiness to act where abuse, exploitation or neglect is suspected. The landscape of safeguarding is constantly evolving, and at Hillocks Primary Academy we endeavour to embrace and shape their key priorities in support of this. We have a vital role to fulfil in protecting children and young people from forms of online abuse whilst demonstrating a concerted obligation to respond with haste and flexibility to concerns as they arise. Above all, all staff take care to ensure that they listen to the voices of the vulnerable and act upon what is heard. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Defining online abuse: "*Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the web, whether through social networks, playing online games or using mobile phones*" (NSPCC, 2019).

Hidden harms – types of online abuse may include:

- Cyberbullying
- Emotional abuse
- Grooming
- Sexting
- Sexual abuse
- Sexual exploitation

The types, patterns and different circumstances of significant harm and abuse should be considered within the categories identified for children in the [Children Act 1989](#)

Technology can facilitate a world of learning and development in addition to help yield a range of opportunities. However, the stark reality is that it can also present a window to potential and actual harm and abuse. It can elicit and support an array of illegal abusive behaviours including, but not limited to:

- harassment
- stalking
- threatening behaviour
- creating or sharing child sexual abuse material
- inciting a child to sexual activity
- sexual exploitation
- grooming
- sexual communication with a child

- causing a child to view images or watch videos of a sexual act.
- victimisation

4 Roles and Responsibilities

The following section outlines the online safety roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders across the online community within Hillocks Primary Academy.

4.1 Teachers and Staff

All teachers and staff at Hillocks Primary Academy have a full understanding of their duty to protect children online. All staff receive dedicated training to ensure that they understand the processes and procedures when dealing with online safety. At Hillocks, we understand how important it is to ensure that we provide a robust curriculum that teaches children how to be safe online.

Online Safety Lead – Ben Anders – banders@hillocksprimary-ac.org.uk

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Claire Gledhill cgledhill@hillocksprimary-ac.org.uk

All school staff need to:

- Be aware of and adhere to all policies in school which support online safety and safeguarding
- Model good practice when using technology
- Know the process for making referrals and reporting concerns
- Know how to recognise, respond and report signs of online abuse and harm
- Be responsible for their own continuing professional development in online safety

4.2 Children and Young People

With respect to online safety at Hillocks Primary Academy, children need to:

- Engage in age-appropriate online safety education opportunities
- Respect the feelings of others, both off and online
- Take responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe online
- Know where and how to find help with any online incidents or concerns
- Know how, when and where to report concerns and when to seek help from a trusted adult

4.3 Parents and Carers

Parents and carers play a crucial role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use the online services and devices in an appropriate way. The academy will take every opportunity to help parents and carers understand these issues through:

- Ensuring provision and adherence to online safety policies and other policies of relevance
- Providing details of all relevant contacts (for example, the DSL)
- Recognising and cultivating the essential role parents and carers have in fostering safer online safety practices in children and young people, by publishing information about appropriate use of social media relating to posts concerning the academy
- Obtaining permissions concerning digital images
- Ensuring provision of resources, support and advice
- Advice of how and when to raise concerns.

Parents and carers will be encouraged to support our academy in:

- Supporting online safety approaches and education provision and reinforcing the online safety messages provided to learners in academy
- The use of their children's personal devices in the academy (where this is allowed)
- Knowing how to report online issues
- Adhering to academy policy regarding taking photos/using technology at academy events
- Identifying changes in children's behaviour that could indicate they are at risk of online harm or abuse and share any concerns with the academy
- Engaging with resources and shared information from National Online Safety, such as the Weekly Wake Up Wednesday materials and the opportunity to complete online safety modules for parents and carers

5 Education and Training

At Hillocks Primary Academy, we are committed to ensuring the provision of an integrated and highly robust safeguarding service for all ages. Online safety has a high emphasis ensuring up to date policies and procedures, robust governance arrangements and collaborative practices. Professional development ensures that all staff are knowledgeable, confident and equipped with the skills to deal with processes and procedures when concerns arise relating to online abuse or harm. Staff receive online safety training through the certified [National Online Safety Programme](#) which meets the statutory online safety duties in the [Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance](#) and aligns to the [Education for a Connected World Framework](#)

5.1 Learners

Hillocks Primary Academy will promote safe and responsible internet use by ensuring that:

- The Curriculum Lead will work with the Online Safety Lead to ensure a well-planned, sequenced and progressive online safety education programme
- The programme of studies in Personal, Social, Health and Education (PSHE) education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Information Computer Technology, prepare children with the knowledge and personal skills to enable them to keep themselves safe online
- Assemblies and pastoral programmes are used to enrich the curriculum, for example, using relevant national initiatives and opportunities e.g. [Safer Internet Day](#) and [Anti-bullying week](#)

5.2 Vulnerable Learners

Hillocks Primary Academy recognises that some learners are more vulnerable due to a range of factors. Those children may be:

- Receiving statutory care or support
- Known to have experienced specific personal harm
- With a disability, ill-health or developmental difficulties
- In households or families with characteristics or locations that indicate higher potential likelihood of current and future harm
- Vulnerable or of concern by virtue of their identity or nationality
- At risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home
- Caring for others

Hillocks Primary Academy will ensure the effective and safe provision of tailored online safety education and will obtain input and advice from specialist staff as deemed necessary.

6 Cultivating a safe environment through the curriculum offer

An overview of our computing curriculum can be found on the academy website.

Children will be educated in an age-appropriate way around:

- How to evaluate what they see online
- How to recognise techniques for persuasion

- Their online behaviour
- How to identify online risks
- How and when to seek support

7 Responding to Online Safety Concerns

The safety of the child and young person is of paramount importance. Immediate action may be required to safeguard investigations and any other children and young people. Any concern that children and young people may be at risk of harm or abuse must immediately be reported.

Reputational issues must be managed appropriately by discussion with the relevant communications team.

Online safety is recognised as part of Hillocks Primary Academy’s safeguarding responsibilities – the DSL should take lead responsibility for online safety concerns which should be recorded and actioned. Children and young people will be enabled (at a level appropriate to their age and ability) to share online concerns. The academy [Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Appendix](#) includes procedures to follow regarding online safety concerns.

Remember:

- Child welfare is of principal concern – the best interests of children take precedence
- If there is any immediate danger, contact the police on 999
- Refer to all appropriate agencies as per Hillocks Primary Academy local process
- Always adhere to local safeguarding procedures and report to the DSL and Principal:
Miss C Gledhill (SeniorDSL & Principal) Mrs S Meeson (DDSL), and Mr C Letch (DDSL)

8 Monitoring and Compliance

Monitoring Requirements	<p>For example:</p> <p>Analysing incident logs</p> <p>Checking planning for online safety lessons</p> <p>Student, pupils, parents and carers questionnaires</p> <p>Evaluations</p>
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Monitoring Method	QA
Monitoring Prepared by	Mr B Anderson
Monitoring Presented to	Miss Gledhill (DSL)
Frequency of Reporting	Termly