



The Saints Academies Online Safety Policy

Reviewed and revised September 2024

Next review September 2025

1. Policy Aims

This policy takes into account the DfE statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', Early Years Foundation Stage, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and the Staffordshire County Council safeguarding procedures.

The purpose of this online safety policy is to:

- Safeguard and protect all members of The Saints Academies online.
- Identify approaches to educate and raise awareness of online safety throughout the community.
- Enable all staff to work safely and responsibly, to role model positive behaviour online and to manage professional standards and practice when using technology.
- Identify clear procedures to use when responding to online safety concerns.
- Provide staff with regular online safety updates via access to National Online Safety.

Identifies that the issues classified within online safety are considerable, but can be broadly categorised into four areas of risk:

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material
- **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users
- **Conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm.
- **Commerce:** online gambling, inappropriate adverts, phishing and financial scams.

2. Policy Scope

- The Saints Academies believe that online safety is an essential part of safeguarding and acknowledges its duty to ensure that all learners and staff are protected from potential harm online.
- The Saints Academies identifies that the internet and associated devices, such as computers, tablets, mobile phones and games consoles, are an important part of everyday life.



- The Saints Academies believe that learners should be empowered to build resilience and to develop strategies to manage and respond to risk online.
- This policy applies to all staff including the governing body, leadership team, teachers, support staff, external contractors, visitors, volunteers and other individuals who work for, or provide services on behalf of the setting (collectively referred to as "staff" in this policy) as well as learners, parents and carers.
- This policy applies to any access to the internet and use of technology, including personal devices, or where staff or other individuals have been provided with setting issued devices for use off-site, such as a work laptops, tablets or mobile phones.

2.2 Links with other policies and practices

- This policy links with several other policies, practices and action plans including:
 - Code of conduct
 - Safeguarding policy
 - Curriculum policies, such as: Computing, Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE), Citizenship and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
 - Data security (GDPR)

3. Monitoring and Review

- Technology in this area evolves and changes rapidly. The Saints Academies will review this policy at least annually.
- The policy will also be revised following any national or local policy requirements; any child protection concerns or any changes to the technical infrastructure.
- We will regularly monitor internet use and evaluate online safety mechanisms to ensure that this policy is consistently applied.
- To ensure they have oversight of online safety, the *Executive Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher* will be informed of online safety concerns, as appropriate.
- We will report on a regular basis to the Local Academy Council on online safety practice and incidents, including outcomes.
- Any issues identified via monitoring will be incorporated into our action planning.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) with support from the Computing Coordinator has lead responsibility for online safety.



- The Saints Academies recognises that all members of staff have important roles and responsibilities to play with regards to online safety.

4.1 The leadership and management team will:

- Ensure that online safety is viewed as a safeguarding issue and that practice is in line with national and local recommendations and requirements.
- Ensure there are appropriate and up-to-date policies regarding online safety; including a staff code of conduct/behaviour policy, which covers acceptable use of technology.
- Ensure that suitable and appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place and work with technical staff to monitor the safety and security of our systems and networks.
- Ensure that online safety is embedded within a progressive curriculum, which enables all learners to develop an age-appropriate understanding of online safety.
- Support the DSL and Computing Coordinator by ensuring they have sufficient time and resources to fulfil their online safety responsibilities.
- Ensure there are robust reporting channels for the community to access regarding online safety concerns, including internal, local and national support.
- Ensure that appropriate risk assessments are undertaken regarding the safe use of technology.
- Audit and evaluate online safety practice to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

4.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) with support from the Computing Coordinator will:

- Act as a named point of contact on all online safeguarding issues and liaise with other members of staff or other agencies, as appropriate.
- Ensure online safety is recognised as part of the settings safeguarding responsibilities and that a coordinated approach is implemented.
- Ensure all members of staff receive regular, up-to-date and appropriate online safety training.
- Access regular and appropriate training and support to ensure they understand the unique risks associated with online safety and have the relevant and up to date knowledge required to keep learners safe online.
- Access regular and appropriate training and support to ensure they recognise the additional risks that learners with SEN and disabilities (SEND) face online.
- Keep up-to-date with current research, legislation and trends regarding online safety and communicate this with the community, as appropriate.
- Work with staff to coordinate participation in local and national events to promote positive online behaviour, such as Safer Internet Day.



- Ensure that online safety is promoted to parents, carers and the wider community, through a variety of channels and approaches.
- Maintain records of online safety concerns, as well as actions taken, as part of the settings safeguarding recording mechanisms.
- Monitor online safety incidents to identify gaps and trends, and use this data to update the education response, policies and procedures.
- Report online safety concerns, as appropriate, to the setting management team and LAC. Work with the leadership team to review and update online safety policies on a regular basis (at least annually) with stakeholder input.
- Meet regularly with the governors with responsibility for safeguarding *and* online safety.

4.3 It is the responsibility of all members of staff to:

- Contribute to the development of online safety policies.
- Read and adhere to the online safety policy and acceptable use policies.
- Take responsibility for the security of setting systems and the data they use or have access to.
- Model good practice when using technology and maintain a professional level of conduct in their personal use of technology, both on and off site.
- Embed online safety education in curriculum delivery.
- Have an awareness of a range of online safety issues and how they may be experienced by the children in their care.
- Identify online safety concerns and take appropriate action by following the settings safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Know when and how to escalate online safety issues, including signposting to appropriate support, internally and externally.
- Take personal responsibility for professional development in this area.

4.4 It is the responsibility of staff managing the technical environment to:

- Provide technical support and perspective to the DSL, Computing Coordinator and leadership team, especially in the development and implementation of appropriate online safety policies and procedures.
- Implement appropriate security measures as directed by the DSL, Computing Coordinator and leadership team to ensure that the settings IT infrastructure/system is secure and not open to misuse or malicious attack, whilst allowing learning opportunities to be maximised.
- Ensure that our filtering policy is applied and updated on a regular basis; responsibility for its implementation is shared with the leadership team.
- Ensure that our monitoring systems are applied and updated on a regular basis; responsibility for its implementation is shared with the leadership team.



- Ensure appropriate access and technical support is given to the DSL and leadership team to our filtering and monitoring systems, to enable them to take appropriate safeguarding action if/when required.

4.5 It is the responsibility of learners (at a level that is appropriate to their individual age and ability) to:

- Engage in age appropriate online safety education opportunities.
- Contribute to the development of online safety policies.
- Read and adhere to the acceptable use policies.
- Respect the feelings and rights of others both on and offline.
- Take responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe online.
- Seek help from a trusted adult, if there is a concern online, and support others that may be experiencing online safety issues.

4.6 It is the responsibility of parents and carers to:

- Support our online safety approaches by discussing online safety issues with their children and reinforcing appropriate and safe online behaviours at home.
- Role model safe and appropriate use of technology and social media.
- Identify changes in behaviour that could indicate that their child is at risk of harm online.
- Seek help and support from the setting, or other appropriate agencies, if they or their child encounter risk or concerns online.
- Take responsibility for their own awareness in relation to the risks and opportunities posed by new and emerging technologies by participating in training opportunities.

5 Education and Engagement Approaches

5.1 Education and engagement with learners

- The Saints Academies will establish and embed a progressive online safety curriculum to raise awareness and promote safe and responsible internet use amongst learners by:
 - Ensuring education regarding safe and responsible use precedes internet access.
 - Including online safety in Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE), Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and computing programmes of study.
 - Reinforcing online safety messages whenever technology or the internet is in use.
 - Educating learners in the effective use of the internet to research; including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation.



- Teaching learners to be critically aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.
- The Saints Academies will support learners to read and understand the acceptable use policies in a way which suits their age and ability by:
 - Displaying acceptable use posters in all rooms with internet access.
 - Informing learners that network and internet use will be monitored for safety and security purposes and in accordance with legislation.
 - Seeking learner voice when writing and developing online safety policies and practices, including curriculum development and implementation.
 - Using support, such as external visitors, where appropriate, to complement and support our internal online safety education approaches.

5.2 Vulnerable Learners

- The Saints Academies recognises that some learners are more vulnerable online due to a range of factors. This may include, but is not limited to children in care, children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or mental health needs, children with English as an additional language (EAL) and children experiencing trauma or loss.
- The Saints Academies will ensure that differentiated and ability appropriate online safety education, access and support is provided to vulnerable learners. When implementing an appropriate online safety policy and curriculum, The Saints Academies will seek input from specialist staff as appropriate, including the SENCO in each school.

5.3 Training and engagement with staff

We will:

- Provide and discuss the online safety policy and procedures with all members of staff as part of induction.
- Provide up-to-date and appropriate online safety training for all staff on a regular basis as part of existing safeguarding training.
 - This will cover the potential risks posed to learners (Content, Contact and Conduct) as well as our professional practice expectations.
- Recognise the expertise staff build by undertaking safeguarding training and managing safeguarding concerns and provide opportunities for staff to contribute to and shape online safety policies and procedures.
- Make staff aware that our IT systems are monitored, and that activity can be traced to individual users; staff will be reminded to behave professionally and in accordance with our policies when accessing our systems and devices.



- Make staff aware that their online conduct outside of the setting, including personal use of social media, could have an impact on their professional role and reputation.
- Highlight useful educational resources and tools which staff should use, according to the age and ability of the learners including the National Online Safety website.
- Ensure all members of staff are aware of the procedures to follow regarding online safety concerns affecting learners, colleagues or other members of the community.

5.4 Awareness and engagement with parents and carers

- The Saints Academies recognises that parents and carers have an essential role to play in enabling children and young people to become safe and responsible users of the internet and associated technologies.
- We will build a partnership approach to online safety with parents and carers by:
 - Providing information and guidance on online safety in a variety of formats.
- This will include offering specific online safety awareness training via NOS and highlighting online safety events such as Safer Internet Day.
 - Drawing their attention to the online safety policy and expectations in newsletters, letters and on our website.
 - Requesting that they read online safety information as part of joining our academies, for example, within our home school agreement.
 - Requiring them to read our acceptable use policies and discuss the implications with their children.

6. Reducing Online Risks

- The Saints Academies recognises that the internet is a constantly changing environment with new apps, devices, websites and material emerging at a rapid pace.
- We will:
 - Regularly review the methods used to identify, assess and minimise online risks.
 - Examine emerging technologies for educational benefit and undertake appropriate risk assessments before use in the setting is permitted.
 - Ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring is in place and take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users can only access appropriate material.
 - Due to the global and connected nature of the internet, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material cannot be accessed via our computers or devices.
- All members of The Saints Academies are made aware of our expectations regarding safe and appropriate behaviour online and the importance of not posting any content, comments, images or



videos which could cause harm, distress or offence to members of the community. This is clearly outlined in our acceptable use policies and highlighted through a variety of education and training approaches.

7 Safer Use of Technology

7.1 Classroom Use

- The Saints Academies uses a wide range of technology. This includes access to:
 - Computers and other digital devices (e.g. iPads)
 - Internet which may include search engines and educational websites.
 - Digital cameras, web cams and video cameras (via iPads)
 - Programmable devices such as Bee Bots
- All setting owned devices will be used in accordance with our acceptable use policies and with appropriate safety and security measures in place.
- Members of staff will always evaluate websites, tools and apps fully before use in the classroom or recommending for use at home.
- The setting will use age appropriate search tools following an informed risk assessment, to identify which tool best suits the needs of our community.
- Supervision of learners will be appropriate to their age and ability.
 - **Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1**
Access to the internet will be by adult demonstration, with occasional directly supervised access to specific and approved online materials, which supports the learning outcomes planned for the learners' age and ability.
 - **Key Stage 2**
Learners will use age-appropriate search engines and online tools. Learners will be directed by the teacher to online materials and resources which support the learning outcomes planned for the learners' age and ability.

7.2 Managing Internet Access

- All staff and visitors will read and agree to an acceptable use policy before being given access to our computer system, IT resources or internet.

7.3.1 Decision Making

- The Saints Academies LAC and leaders have ensured that our setting has age and ability appropriate filtering and monitoring in place, to limit learner's exposure to online risks.
- The LAC and leaders are aware of the need to prevent "over blocking", as that may unreasonably restrict what can be taught, with regards to online activities and safeguarding.



- Our decision regarding filtering and monitoring has been informed by a risk assessment, considering our specific needs and circumstances.
- Changes to the filtering and monitoring approach will be risk assessed by staff with educational and technical experience and, where appropriate, with consent from the leadership team; all changes to the filtering policy are logged and recorded.
- The leadership team will ensure that regular checks are made to ensure that the filtering and monitoring methods are effective and appropriate.
- All members of staff are aware that they cannot rely on filtering and monitoring alone to safeguard learners; effective classroom management and regular education about safe and responsible use is essential.

7.3.2 Filtering

- Education broadband connectivity is provided through Staffs Tech Ltd.
- We use a filtering system which blocks sites which can be categorised as: pornography, racial hatred, extremism, gaming and sites of an illegal nature
- The filtering system blocks all sites on the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) list.
- We work with Staffs Tech Ltd to ensure that our filtering policy is continually reviewed.
- All staff having an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring.
- If learners discover unsuitable sites, they will be required to:
 - Report the concern immediately to a member of staff.
 - The member of staff will report the concern (including the URL of the site if possible) to the Computing Coordinator, DSL and/or Office Manager.
 - The breach will be recorded and escalated as appropriate.
 - Parents/carers will be informed of filtering breaches involving their child.
- Any material believed to be illegal will be reported immediately to the appropriate agencies, such as the IWF, Staffordshire Police or CEOP.
- Additional guidance about filtering and monitoring can be found via the link [Appropriate Filtering and Monitoring - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

7.3.3 Monitoring

- All users will be informed that use of our systems can be monitored and that all monitoring will be in line with data protection, human rights and privacy legislation.

7.4 Security and Management of Information Systems

- We take appropriate steps to ensure the security of our information systems, including:
 - Virus protection being updated regularly.



- Encryption for personal data sent over the Internet or taken off site (such as via portable media storage) or access via appropriate secure remote access systems.
- Not using portable media without specific permission; portable media will be checked by an anti-virus /malware scan before use.
- Not downloading unapproved software to work devices or opening unfamiliar email attachments.
- Regularly checking files held on our network,
- The appropriate use of user logins and passwords to access our network.
- Specific user logins and passwords will be enforced for all.
- All users are expected to log off or lock their screens/devices if systems are unattended.

7.4.1 Password policy

- All members of staff will have their own unique username and private passwords to access our systems; members of staff are responsible for keeping their password private.
- Each year group has their own username and password.
- We require all users to:
 - Use strong passwords for access into our system.
 - Always keep their password private; users must not share it with others or leave it where others can find it.
 - Not to login as another user at any time.

7.5 Managing the Safety of our Website

- We will ensure that information posted on our website meets the requirements as identified by the Department for Education (DfE).
- We will ensure that our website complies with guidelines for publications including: accessibility; data protection; respect for intellectual property rights; privacy policies and copyright.
- Staff or learner's personal information will not be published on our website; the contact details on the website will be our setting address, email and telephone number.
- The administrator account for our website will be secured with an appropriately strong password.
- We will post appropriate information about safeguarding, including online safety, on our website for members of the community.

7.6 Publishing Images and Videos Online



- We will ensure that all images and videos shared online are used in accordance with the associated policies, including (but not limited to) the: cameras and image use, data security, acceptable use policies, codes of conduct/behaviour, social media and use of personal devices and mobile phones.

7.7 Managing Email

- Access to our email systems will always take place in accordance with data protection legislation and in line with other policies, including confidentiality, acceptable use policies and the code of conduct/behaviour policy.
 - The forwarding of any chain messages/emails is not permitted.
 - Spam or junk mail will be blocked and reported to the email provider.
 - Any electronic communication which contains sensitive or personal information will only be sent using secure and encrypted email.
 - Setting email addresses and other official contact details will not be used for setting up personal social media accounts.
- Members of The Saints Academies will immediately tell the Executive Headteacher if they receive offensive communication, and this will be recorded in our safeguarding files/records.

7.7.1 Staff email

- The use of personal email addresses by staff for any official setting business is not permitted.
 - All members of staff are provided with an email address to use for all official communication.
- Members of staff are encouraged to have an appropriate work life balance when responding to email, especially if communication is taking place between staff, learners and parents (this includes messaging on Tapestry).

7.8 Management of Applications (apps) used to Record Children's Progress

In Foundation Stage, we use software to track learners' progress. The Executive Headteacher is ultimately responsible for the security of any data or images held of children. As such, they will ensure that the use of tracking systems is appropriately risk assessed prior to use, and that they are used in accordance with data protection legislation, including the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection legislation.

- To safeguard learner's data:
 - Only school issued devices will be used for apps that record and store learners' personal details, attainment or photographs.



- Personal staff mobile phones or devices will not be used to access or upload content to any apps which record and store learners' personal details, attainment or images.
- Devices will be appropriately encrypted if taken off site, to reduce the risk of a data security breach, in the event of loss or theft.
- All users will be advised regarding safety measures, such as using strong passwords and logging out of systems.
- Parents and carers will be informed of the expectations regarding safe and appropriate use, prior to being given access; for example, not sharing passwords or images including those from Tapestry then sharing these on social media.

8. Social Media

8.1 Expectations

- The expectations regarding safe and responsible use of social media applies to all members of The Saints Academies.
- The term social media may include (but is not limited to): blogs; wikis; social networking sites; forums; bulletin boards; online gaming; apps; video/photo sharing sites; chatrooms and instant messenger.
- All members of The Saints Academies are expected to engage in social media in a positive, safe and responsible manner.
 - All members of The Saints Academies are advised not to publish specific and detailed private thoughts, concerns, pictures or messages on any social media services, especially content that may be considered threatening, hurtful or defamatory to others.
- Any inappropriate online conduct of any member of The Saints Academies on social media, should be reported to the DSL and will be managed in accordance with our anti-bullying, allegations against staff, behaviour and child protection policies.

8.2 Staff Personal Use of Social Media

- The safe and responsible use of social networking, social media and personal publishing sites will be discussed with all members of staff as part of staff induction and will be revisited and communicated via regular staff training opportunities including the code of conduct (reviewed annually).
- Safe and professional behaviour will be outlined for all members of staff (including volunteers) as part of our code of conduct/behaviour policy as part of acceptable use policy.

Reputation



- All members of staff are advised that their online conduct on social media can have an impact on their role and reputation within the setting.
 - Civil, legal or disciplinary action may be taken if staff are found to bring the profession or institution into disrepute, or if something is felt to have undermined confidence in their professional abilities.
- All members of staff are advised to safeguard themselves and their privacy when using social media sites. Advice will be provided to staff via staff training and by sharing appropriate guidance and resources on a regular basis. This will include (but is not limited to):
 - Setting the privacy levels of their personal sites
 - Being aware of location sharing services.
 - Opting out of public listings on social networking sites.
 - Logging out of accounts after use.
 - Keeping passwords safe and confidential.
 - Ensuring staff do not represent their personal views as that of the setting.
- All members of staff are encouraged to carefully consider the information, including text and images, they share and post online and to ensure that their social media use is compatible with their professional role and is in accordance with our policies and the wider professional and legal framework.
- Information and content that staff members have access to as part of their employment, including photos and personal information about learners and their family members or colleagues will not be shared or discussed on social media sites.
- Members of staff will notify the Leadership Team immediately if they consider that any content shared on social media sites conflicts with their role.

Communicating with learners and parents and carers

- All members of staff are advised not to communicate with or add as 'friends' any current or past learners or their family members via any personal social media sites, applications or profiles.
- Staff will not use personal social media accounts to contact learners or parents, nor should any contact be accepted, except in circumstances whereby prior approval has been given by the leadership team.
- Any communication from learners and parents received on personal social media accounts will be reported to the leadership team or DSL.

8.3 Learners Personal Use of Social Media

- Safe and appropriate use of social media will be taught to learners as part of an embedded and progressive education approach, via age appropriate sites and resources.



- We are aware that many popular social media sites state that they are not for children under the age of 13, therefore we will not create accounts specifically for learners under this age.
- Any concerns regarding learners' use of social media will be dealt with in accordance with existing policies, including anti-bullying and behaviour.
 - Concerns will be shared with parents/carers as appropriate, particularly when concerning underage use of social media sites, games or tools.
- Learners will be advised:
 - To consider the benefits and risks of sharing personal details on social media sites which could identify them and/or their location.
 - To only approve and invite known friends on social media sites and to deny access to others by making profiles private.
 - Not to meet any online friends without a parent/carer or other responsible adult's permission and only when a trusted adult is present.
 - To use safe passwords.
 - To use social media sites which are appropriate for their age and abilities.
 - How to block and report unwanted communications.
 - How to report concerns both within the setting and externally.

9. Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones

- The Saints Academies recognises that personal communication through mobile technologies is an accepted part of everyday life for learners, staff and parents/carers, but technologies need to be used safely and appropriately within the setting.

9.1 Expectations

- All use of personal devices (including but not limited to; tablets, games consoles and 'smart' watches) and mobile phones will take place in accordance with the law and other appropriate policies, such as anti-bullying, behaviour and child protection.
- Electronic devices of any kind that are brought onto site are the responsibility of the user.
 - All members of The Saints Academies are advised to take steps to protect their mobile phones or devices from loss, theft or damage; we accept no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of such items on our premises.
 - All members of The Saints Academies are advised to use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised calls or actions cannot be made on their phones or devices; passwords and pin numbers should be kept confidential and mobile phones and personal devices should not be shared.
- Mobile phones and personal devices are not permitted to be used in specific areas within the site such as class rooms (when pupils are present).



- The sending of abusive or inappropriate messages or content via mobile phones or personal devices is forbidden by any member of the community; any breaches will be dealt with as part of our behaviour policy.
- All members of The Saints Academies are advised to ensure that their mobile phones and personal devices do not contain any content which may be offensive, derogatory or would otherwise contravene our behaviour or child protection policies.

9.2 Staff Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones

- Members of staff will ensure that use of personal phones and devices takes place in accordance with the law, as well as, relevant policy and procedures, such as: confidentiality, child protection, data security and acceptable use.
- Staff will be advised to:
 - Keep mobile phones and personal devices in a safe and secure place during lesson time.
 - Keep mobile phones and personal devices switched off or switched to 'silent' mode during lesson times.
 - Ensure that Bluetooth or other forms of communication (such as 'airdrop') are hidden or disabled during lesson times.
 - Not use personal devices during teaching periods, unless permission has been given by a member of the leadership team, such as in emergency circumstances.
 - Ensure that any content bought onto site via mobile phones and personal devices are compatible with their professional role and expectations.
- Staff will not use personal devices to take photos or videos of learners and will only use work provided equipment for this purpose.
- If a member of staff breaches our policy, action will be taken in line with our code of conduct/staff behaviour and allegations policy
 - If a member of staff is thought to have illegal content saved or stored on a mobile phone or personal device or have committed a criminal offence, the police will be contacted.

9.3 Learners Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones

- Learners will be educated regarding the safe and appropriate use of personal devices and mobile phones and will be made aware of boundaries and consequences.
- The Saints Academies expects learners' not to bring in personal mobile phones from home.
- If a learner needs to contact his/her parents or carers the office will make contact and inform the teacher / child when necessary.



- Parents are advised to contact their child via the school office e.g. with messages about being collected at the end of the day.

9.4 Visitors' Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones

- Parents/carers and visitors (including volunteers and contractors) must use their mobile phones and personal devices in school in accordance with our acceptable use policy and other associated policies, such as: anti-bullying, behaviour, child protection and image use.
- We will ensure appropriate signage and information is displayed and provided to inform parents, carers and visitors of expectations of use.
- Members of staff are expected to challenge visitors if they have concerns and will always inform the DSL or leadership team of any breaches our policy.

10. Responding to Online Safety Incidents and Concerns

- All members of The Saints Academies will be made aware of the reporting procedure for online safety concerns, including: breaches of filtering, youth produced sexual imagery (sexting), cyberbullying and illegal content in line with KCSIE.
- All members of the community must respect confidentiality and the need to follow the official procedures for reporting concerns.
 - Learners, parents and staff will be informed of our complaints procedure and staff will be made aware of the whistleblowing procedure.
- We require staff, parents, carers and learners to work in partnership to resolve online safety issues.
- After any investigations are completed, we will debrief, identify lessons learnt and implement any policy or curriculum changes as required.
- If we are unsure how to proceed with an incident or concern, the DSL will seek advice from the Education Safeguarding Team.
- Where there is suspicion that illegal activity has taken place, we will contact the Education Safeguarding Team or Staffordshire Police using 101, or 999 if there is immediate danger or risk of harm.
- If an incident or concern needs to be passed beyond our community (for example if other local settings are involved or the public may be at risk), the DSL will speak with Staffordshire Police and the Education Safeguarding Team first to ensure that potential investigations are not compromised.

10.1 Concerns about Learners Welfare



- The DSL will be informed of any online safety incidents involving safeguarding or child protection concerns.
 - The DSL will record these issues in line with our child protection policy.
- The DSL will ensure that online safety concerns are escalated and reported to relevant agencies in line with the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board thresholds and procedures.
- We will inform parents and carers of online safety incidents or concerns involving their child, as and when required.

10.2 Staff Misuse

- Any complaint about staff misuse will be referred to the Executive Headteacher, in accordance with the allegations policy.
- Any allegations regarding a member of staff's online conduct will be discussed with the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer).
- Appropriate action will be taken in accordance with our staff code of conduct.

11 Procedures for Responding to Specific Online Incidents or Concerns

11.1 Online Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children

- Our setting has accessed and understood "Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges" guidance and part 1 of 'Keeping children safe in education', in addition staff receive relevant safeguarding training.
- The Saints Academies recognises that sexual violence and sexual harassment between children can take place online. Examples may include; non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos, sexualised online bullying, online coercion and threats, unwanted sexual comments and messages on social media, online sexual exploitation and other harmful content.
 - Full details of how we will respond to concerns relating to sexual violence and sexual harassment between children can be found within our child protection and anti-bullying policy.
- The Saints Academies recognises that the internet brings the potential for the impact of any sexual violence and sexual harassment concerns to extend further than the local community, and for a victim or alleged perpetrator to become marginalised and excluded by online communities.
- The Saints Academies also recognises the potential for repeat victimisation in the future if abusive content continues to exist somewhere online.



- The Saints Academies will ensure that all members of staff are made aware of the potential social, psychological and criminal consequences of online sexual violence and sexual harassment between children by implementing a range of age and ability appropriate educational methods as part of our PSHE and RSE curriculum.
- We will respond to concerns regarding online sexual violence and sexual harassment between children, regardless of whether the incident took place on our premises or using our equipment.
- If made aware of online sexual violence and sexual harassment, we will:
 - Immediately notify the DSL and act in accordance with our child protection and anti-bullying policies.
 - If content is contained on learners' electronic devices, they will be managed in accordance with the DfE 'searching screening and confiscation' advice.
 - Provide the necessary safeguards and support for all learners involved, such as offering specific advice on blocking, reporting and removing online content, as well as providing appropriate counselling/pastoral support.
 - Implement appropriate sanctions in accordance with our behaviour policy.
 - Inform parents and carers, if appropriate, about the incident and how it is being managed.
 - If appropriate, make a referral to partner agencies, such as Staffordshire Childrens Advice and Support (SCAS) and/or Staffordshire Police.
 - If the concern involves children and young people at a different educational setting, work in partnership with other DSLs to ensure appropriate safeguarding action is taken in the wider local community.
- If a criminal offence has been committed, the DSL will discuss this with Staffordshire Police first to ensure that investigations are not compromised.
 - Review the handling of any incidents to ensure that best practice was implemented, and policies/procedures are appropriate.

11.2 Youth Produced Sexual Imagery ("Sexting")

- The Saints Academies recognises youth produced sexual imagery (known as "sexting") as a safeguarding issue; all concerns will be reported to and dealt with by the DSL.
- We will follow the advice as set out in the non-statutory UKCCIS guidance: 'Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people': "Responding to youth produced sexual imagery".
- The Saints Academies will ensure that all members of the community are made aware of the potential social, psychological and criminal consequences of 'sexting' by implementing preventative approaches, via a range of age and ability appropriate educational methods.
- We will respond to concerns regarding youth produced sexual imagery, regardless of whether the incident took place on site or using setting provided or personal equipment.
- We will not:



- View any images suspected of being youth produced sexual imagery, unless there is no other possible option, or there is a clear need or reason to do so.
- If it is deemed necessary, the image will only be viewed by the DSL and their justification for viewing the image will be clearly documented.
 - Send, share, save or make copies of content suspected to be an indecent image of a child (i.e. youth produced sexual imagery) and will not allow or request learners to do so.
- If made aware of an incident involving the creation or distribution of youth produced sexual imagery, we will:
 - Act in accordance with our child protection policies and the relevant Staffordshire County Council Safeguarding Board procedures.
 - Ensure the DSL responds in line with the 'Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people' guidance.
 - Store the device securely.
 - If an indecent image has been taken or shared on our network or devices, we will act to block access to all users and isolate the image.
 - Carry out a risk assessment which considers any vulnerability of learners involved; including carrying out relevant checks with other agencies.
 - Inform parents and carers, if appropriate, about the incident and how it is being managed.
 - Make a referral to Staffordshire Childrens Advice and Support (SCAS) and/or the Police, as deemed appropriate in line with the UKCCIS : 'Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people' guidance.
 - Provide the necessary safeguards and support for learners, such as offering counselling or pastoral support.
 - Implement appropriate sanctions in accordance with our behaviour policy but taking care not to further traumatise victims where possible.
 - Consider the deletion of images in accordance with the UKCCIS: 'Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people' guidance.
 - Images will only be deleted once the DSL has confirmed that other agencies do not need to be involved; and are sure that to do so would not place a child at risk or compromise an investigation.
 - Review the handling of any incidents to ensure that best practice was implemented; the leadership team will also review and update any management procedures, where necessary.

11.3 Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (including child criminal exploitation)



- The Saints Academies will ensure that all its staff are aware of online child sexual abuse, including: exploitation and grooming; the consequences; possible approaches which may be employed by offenders to target children and how to respond to concerns, staff have undertaken Safeguarding Level 1 training.
- The Saints Academies recognises online child sexual abuse and exploitation (including criminal exploitation) as a safeguarding issue and, as such, all concerns will be reported to the DSL.
- We will implement preventative approaches for online child sexual abuse and exploitation (including criminal exploitation) via a range of age and ability appropriate education for learners, staff and parents/carers.
- We will ensure that all members of staff are aware of the support available regarding online child sexual abuse and exploitation (including criminal exploitation), both locally and nationally.
- If made aware of incident involving online child sexual abuse and exploitation (including criminal exploitation), we will:
 - Act in accordance with our child protection policies and the relevant Staffordshire Safeguarding procedures.
 - If appropriate, store any devices involved securely.
 - Make a referral to Staffordshire Childrens Advice and Support (SCAS) (if required/appropriate) and immediately inform Staffordshire police via 101, or 999 if a child is at immediate risk.
 - Carry out a risk assessment which considers any vulnerabilities of learner(s) involved (including carrying out relevant checks with other agencies).
 - Inform parents/carers about the incident and how it is being managed.
 - Provide the necessary safeguards and support for learners, such as, offering counselling or pastoral support.
 - Review the handling of any incidents to ensure that best practice is implemented; the leadership team will review and update any management procedures, where necessary.
- We will respond to concerns regarding online child sexual abuse and exploitation (including criminal exploitation), regardless of whether the incident took place on our premises or using setting provided or personal equipment.
 - Where possible, learners will be involved in decision making and if appropriate, will be empowered to report concerns such as via the Click CEOP report:
www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/
- If we are unclear whether a criminal offence has been committed, the DSL will obtain advice immediately through the Education Safeguarding Team and/or Staffordshire Police.
- If made aware of intelligence or information which may relate to child sexual exploitation (on or offline), it will be passed through to the Child Sexual Exploitation Team (CSET) by the DSL.



- If learners at other setting are believed to have been targeted, the DSL will seek support from Staffordshire Police and/or the Education Safeguarding Team first to ensure that potential investigations are not compromised.

11.4 Indecent Images of Children (IIOC)

- The Saints Academies will ensure that all members of staff are made aware of the possible consequences of accessing Indecent Images of Children (IIOC).
- We will respond to concerns regarding IIOC on our equipment and/or personal equipment, even if access took place off site.
- We will seek to prevent accidental access to IIOC by using an internet Service provider (ISP) which subscribes to the Internet Watch Foundation block list and by implementing appropriate filtering, firewalls and anti-spam software.
- If we are unclear if a criminal offence has been committed, the DSL will obtain advice immediately through Staffordshire Police and/or the Education Safeguarding Team.
- If made aware of IIOC, we will:
 - Act in accordance with our child protection policy and the relevant Staffordshire Safeguarding Board procedures.
 - Store any devices involved securely.
 - Immediately inform appropriate organisations, such as the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), Staffordshire police or the LADO.
- If made aware that a member of staff or a learner has been inadvertently exposed to indecent images of children, we will:
 - Ensure that the DSL is informed.
 - Ensure that the URLs (webpage addresses) which contain the suspect images are reported to the Internet Watch Foundation via www.iwf.org.uk.
 - Ensure that any copies that exist of the image, for example in emails, are deleted.
 - Report concerns, as appropriate to parents and carers.
- If made aware that indecent images of children have been found on the setting provided devices, we will:
 - Ensure that the DSL is informed.
 - Ensure that the URLs (webpage addresses) which contain the suspect images are reported to the Internet Watch Foundation via www.iwf.org.uk.
 - Ensure that any copies that exist of the image, for example in emails, are deleted or Inform the police via 101 (999 if there is an immediate risk of harm) and Staffordshire Childrens Advice and Support (SCAS) (as appropriate).
 - Only store copies of images (securely, where no one else has access to them and delete all other copies) at the request of the police only.
 - Report concerns, as appropriate to parents and carers.



- If made aware that a member of staff is in possession of indecent images of children on setting provided devices, we will:
 - Ensure that the Executive Headteacher is informed in line with our managing allegations against staff policy.
 - Inform the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and other relevant organisations in accordance with our managing allegations against staff policy.
 - Quarantine any devices until police advice has been sought.

11.5 Cyberbullying

- Cyberbullying, along with all other forms of bullying, will not be tolerated at The Saints Academies.
- Full details of how we will respond to cyberbullying are set out in our anti-bullying policy.

11.6 Online Hate

- Online hate content, directed towards or posted by members of staff will not be tolerated at The Saints Academies and will be responded to in line with existing policies, including anti-bullying and behaviour.
- All members of The Saints Academies will be advised to report online hate in accordance with relevant policies and procedures.
- The Police will be contacted if a criminal offence is suspected.
- If we are unclear on how to respond, or whether a criminal offence has been committed, the DSL will obtain advice through the Education Safeguarding Team and/or Staffordshire Police.

11.7 Online Radicalisation and Extremism

- All staff members have received PREVENT training and know how to recognise radicalisation.
- We will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that learners and staff are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet on site.
- If we are concerned that a child or parent/carer may be at risk of radicalisation online, the DSL (or deputy) will be informed immediately, and action will be taken in line with our child protection policy.
- If we are concerned that member of staff may be at risk of radicalisation online, the Executive Headteacher will be informed immediately, and action will be taken in line with the child protection and allegations policies.



Signed: *Julia Smith* Chair of LAC

Signed: *Rebecca Walker* Executive Headteacher