



E-SAFETY POLICY

Ben Rhydding Primary School



Document history

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Lead member of staff:	Glen Hartford, Head teacher Peter Timms, Deputy Head teacher
Lead governor:	Andrew Rabbit
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Introduction

At Ben Rhydding Primary School, 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 mitigate the risk of harm.



Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- **[New]** DfE (2021) 'Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes'
- DfE (2021) 'Keeping children safe in education 2020'
- **[New]** Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and UK Council for Internet Safety (2020) 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people'
- DfE (2019) 'Teaching online safety in school'
- DfE (2018) 'Searching, screening and confiscation'
- National Cyber Security Centre (2017) 'Cyber Security: Small Business Guide'
- UK Council for Child Internet Safety (2020) 'Education for a Connected World – 2020 edition'

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

- Cyberbullying Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Allegations of Abuse against Staff Policy
- Acceptable Use Agreement
- E-Security Breach Prevention and Management Plan
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- PSHE Policy
- RSE and Health Education Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Positive Behavioural Policy
- Disciplinary Policy and Procedures
- Data Protection Policy
- Prevent Duty Policy
- Remote Learning Policy



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 the following:

- 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. content involving radicalisation
- Plagiarism and copyright infringement
- Sharing the personal information of others without the individual's consent or knowledge

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 governing board is responsible for ensuring that there are appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place to safeguard pupils.

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

The e-safety officer is responsible for chairing the e-safety, which includes representatives of the school SLT, teaching staff, governors, parents, pupils and the wider school community.

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that the e-safety officer and any other relevant staff receive CPD to allow them to fulfil their role and train other members of staff.

The e-safety officer will provide all relevant training and advice 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 and data protection officer (DPO) will ensure there is a system in place which monitors and supports the e-safety officer, whose role is to carry out the monitoring of e-safety in the school, keeping in mind data protection requirements.

The e-safety officer will regularly monitor the provision of e-safety in the school and will provide feedback to the head teacher.

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

The e-safety officer 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.

The e-safety officer will attempt to find alternatives to monitoring staff use of social media, where possible, and will justify all instances of monitoring to ensure that it is necessary and outweighs the need for privacy. The member of staff who is being monitored will be consulted prior to any interception by the school.

The governing board will hold regular meetings with the e-safety officer to discuss the effectiveness of the e-safety provision, current issues, and to review incident logs, as part of the school's duty of care.

The governing board will evaluate and review this E-safety Policy on a termly basis, considering the latest developments in ICT and the feedback from staff/pupils.

The head teacher will review and amend this policy with the e-safety officer and DPO, taking into account new legislation, government guidance and previously reported incidents, to improve procedures.

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.

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 ownership of 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 to their classroom teacher.

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:

A planned calendar programme of e-safety training opportunities is available to all staff members, including whole school activities and CPD training courses.

All staff will undergo e-safety training on a termly 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 undergo regular audits by the e-safety officer in order to identify areas of training need.

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 will be educated on which sites are deemed appropriate and inappropriate.

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 e-safety officer 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, the school website and social media.

Twilight courses and presentations will be run by the school for parents.

Parents' evenings, meetings and other similar occasions will be utilised to inform parents of any e-safety related concerns.

E-safety control measures

Internet access:

Internet access will be authorised once parents and pupils have returned the signed consent form in line with our Acceptable Use Agreement.

A record will be kept by the head teacher of all pupils who have been granted internet access.



All users in Key Stage 2 and above will be provided with usernames and passwords and will be instructed to keep these confidential to avoid any other pupils using their login details.

Pupils' passwords will expire every 90 days, and their activity is continuously monitored by the e-safety officer.

Management systems will be in place to allow teachers and members of staff to control workstations and monitor pupils' activity.

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.

Filtering systems will be used which are relevant to pupils' age ranges, their frequency of use of ICT systems, and the proportionality of costs compared to risks.

The governing board will ensure that the use of appropriate filters and monitoring systems does not lead to 'over blocking' – 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 teacher.

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. volunteers.

Master users' passwords will be available to the head teacher for regular monitoring of activity.

Staff are able to use the internet for personal use during out-of-school hours, as well as break and lunch times.

Personal use will only be monitored by the e-safety officer for access to any inappropriate or explicit sites, where the need to do so outweighs the need for privacy.

Inappropriate internet access by staff may result in the staff member being permitted to use the internet for school purposes only and prohibited from using any personal devices. This will be dealt with following the process outlined in the misuse by staff section of this policy.

Email:

Pupils and 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 email.

Pupils are made aware that all email messages are monitored and that the filtering system will detect inappropriate links, viruses, malware and profanity.

Staff members are aware that their email messages are not monitored.

Any emails sent by pupils to external organisations will be overseen by their class teacher and must be authorised before sending.

Chain letters, spam and all other emails from unknown sources will be deleted without opening.



The e-safety officer will, at the start of each school year, hold an assembly explaining what a phishing email might look like – this assembly will include information on the following:

- Determining whether or not an email address is legitimate
- Knowing the types of address, a phishing email could use
- Asking “does it urge the recipient to act immediately?”
- Checking the spelling and grammar

Staff will not be punished if they are caught out by cyber-attacks as this may prevent similar reports in the future. The e-safety officer will conduct an investigation; however, this will be to identify the cause of the attack, any compromised data and if there are any steps that can be taken in the future to prevent similar attacks happening.

Social networking:

The use of social media on behalf of the school will be conducted following the processes outlined in our Social Media Policy.

Access to social networking sites will be filtered as appropriate.

Should access be needed to social networking sites for any reason, this will be monitored and controlled by staff at all times and 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 regularly educated on posting 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 reputation.

Staff are not permitted to access social media sites during teaching hours unless it is beneficial to the material being taught. This will be discussed with the head teacher prior to accessing the social media site.

Published content on the school website:

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 staff or pupils will be published.

Images and full names of pupils, or any content that may easily identify a pupil, will be selected carefully and will not be posted until authorisation from parents has been received.

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 our photography policy. 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.



Online hoaxes and harmful online challenges:

For the purposes of this policy, an “**online hoax**” is defined as a deliberate lie designed to seem truthful, normally one that is intended to scaremonger or to distress individuals who come across it, spread on online social media platforms.

For the purposes of this policy, “**harmful online challenges**” refers to challenges that are targeted at young people and generally involve users recording themselves participating in an online challenge, distributing the video through social media channels and daring others to do the same. Although many online challenges are harmless, an online challenge becomes harmful when it could potentially put the participant at risk of harm, either directly as a result of partaking in the challenge itself or indirectly as a result of the distribution of the video online – the latter will usually depend on the age of the pupil and the way in which they are depicted in the video.

The DSL ensures that pupils are taught about how to critically identify when online content is untrue or harmful and how to respond to this content.

The DSL will work with the SENDCO to assess whether some pupils, e.g. pupils who have been identified as being vulnerable or pupils with SEND, need additional help with identifying harmful online challenges and hoaxes, and tailor support accordingly.

The school will ensure all pupils are aware of who to report concerns to surrounding potentially harmful online challenges or hoaxes.

Where staff suspect there may be a harmful online challenge or online hoax circulating amongst pupils in the school, they will report this to the DSL immediately.

The DSL will conduct a case-by-case assessment for any harmful online content brought to their attention, establishing the scale and nature of the possible risk to pupils, and whether the risk is one that is localised to the school or the local area, or whether it extends more widely across the country.

Where the harmful content is prevalent mainly in the local area, the DSL will consult with the LA about whether quick local action can prevent the hoax or challenge from spreading more widely.

The DSL will check the factual basis of harmful online challenges or hoaxes against a known, reliable and trustworthy source, e.g. the UK Safer Internet Centre, and will carefully consider if a challenge or story is a hoax or is harmful prior to providing any direct warnings to pupils or parents.

The school understands that discussing or naming a specific online hoax can, in some cases, needlessly increase pupils’ exposure to distressing content, and will avoid showing pupils distressing content where doing so is not considered absolutely necessary for preventing its spread or easing fears amongst the school community.

Where the DSL’s assessment finds an online challenge to be putting pupils at risk of harm, e.g. it encourages children to participate in age-inappropriate activities that could increase safeguarding risks or become a child protection concern, they will ensure that the challenge is directly addressed to the relevant pupils, e.g. those within a particular age range that is directly affected or even to individual children at risk where appropriate.



The DSL/Headteacher will only implement a school-wide approach to highlighting potential harms of a hoax or challenge when the risk of needlessly increasing pupils' exposure to the risk is considered and mitigated as far as possible.

Prior to deciding how to respond to a harmful online challenge or hoax, the DSL/Headteacher will decide whether each proposed response is:

- Factual and avoids needlessly scaring or distressing pupils.
- Not inadvertently encouraging pupils to view the hoax or challenge where they would not have otherwise come across it, e.g. where content is explained to younger pupils that is almost exclusively being shared amongst older pupils.
- Proportional to the actual or perceived risk.
- Helpful to the pupils who are, or are perceived to be, at risk.
- Age-appropriate and appropriate for the relevant pupils' developmental stage.
- Supportive.

Mobile devices and hand-held computers:

The head teacher may authorise the use of mobile devices by a pupil where it is seen to be for safety or precautionary use.

Pupils are not permitted to access the school's Wi-Fi system at any time using their mobile devices and hand-held computers.

Mobile devices are not permitted to be used during school hours by pupils or members of staff.

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 by the e-safety officer where it is justifiable to do so and the justification outweighs the need for privacy.

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.

No mobile device or hand-held computer owned by the school will be used to access public Wi-Fi networks. ICT technicians will inform pupils and staff members of this rule before they can use school-owned devices away from the premises.

The DPO will, in collaboration with the e-safety officer, ensure all school-owned devices are password protected – these passwords will be changed after each use to ensure their security.

All mobile devices and hand-held computers will be fitted with tracking software to ensure they can be retrieved if lost or stolen.

To protect, retrieve and erase personal data, all mobile devices and hand-held computers will be fitted with software to ensure they can be remotely accessed.

ICT technicians will review all mobile devices and hand-held computers on a monthly basis to ensure all apps are compliant with data protection regulations and up-to-date, and to carry out any required updates.



ICT technicians and the e-safety officer will review and authorise any apps and/or computer programmes before they are downloaded – no apps or programmes will be downloaded without express permission from an ICT technician or the e-safety officer.

Apps will only be downloaded from manufacturer approved stores, e.g. Google Play and the Apple App Store.

Network security:

Network profiles for each pupil and staff member 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 require a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols to ensure they are secure as possible.

Passwords will expire after 90 days to ensure maximum security for pupil and staff accounts.

Passwords should be stored using non-reversible encryption.

The following passwords will not be accepted by the school's security systems as they are too predictable:

Password

- Pa55word
- Password123
- Qwerty
- 123456
- 12345678
- ABC123

The e-safety officer and ICT technicians will ensure all school-owned laptops and computers have their encryption settings turned on or, if there is no built-in encryption option, encryption software is installed.

Important folders, e.g. those including pupils' medical records, will be password protected to ensure their security – the e-safety officer, school nurse and other designated individual(s) will be the only people who have access to this password.

Virus management:

Technical security features, such as virus software, are kept up-to-date and managed by the e-safety officer.

The e-safety officer will ensure that the filtering of websites and downloads is up-to-date and monitored.

Firewalls will be switched on at all times – ICT technicians will review these on a weekly basis to ensure they are running correctly and to carry out any required updates.

Firewalls and other virus management systems, e.g. anti-virus software, will be maintained in accordance with the school's Data Security Breach Prevention and Management Plan.

Staff members will report all malware and virus attacks to the e-safety officer and DPO immediately.

E-safety committee:

The E-safety Policy will be monitored and evaluated by the school's e-safety committee on a yearly basis.



The committee will include a member of the SLT, a DSL and the Computing/e safety coordinator.

Cyber bullying

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

The school recognises that both staff and pupils may experience cyber bullying and is committed to responding appropriately to 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 utmost seriousness and will be dealt with in accordance with our Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy and Cyber Bullying Policy.

The head teacher will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the police or anti-social behaviour coordinator in their LA of the action taken against a pupil.

Reporting misuse

Ben Rhydding Primary School 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:

Teachers have the power to discipline pupils who engage in misbehaviour with regards to internet use.

Any instances of misuse should be immediately reported to a member of staff, who will then report this to the head teacher using a complaints form.

Any pupil who does not adhere to the rules outlined in our Acceptable Use Agreement and is found to be wilfully misusing the internet will have a letter sent to their parents explaining the reason for suspending their internet use.

Members of staff may decide to issue other forms of disciplinary action to a pupil upon the misuse of the internet. This will be discussed with the head teacher and will be issued once the pupil is on the school premises.

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, using a complaints form.

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 anti-social behaviour coordinator in their 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 suggests 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.

Staff will not view or forward illegal images of a child. If they are made aware of such an image, they will contact the DSL.

Remote learning

All remote learning is delivered in line with the school's Pupil Remote Learning Policy.

All staff and pupils using video communication must:

- Communicate in groups – one-to-one sessions are only carried out where necessary.
- Wear suitable clothing – this includes others in their household.
- Be situated in a suitable 'public' living area within the home with an appropriate background – 'private' living areas within the home, such as bedrooms, are not permitted during video communication.
- Use appropriate language – this includes others in their household.
- Maintain the standard of behaviour expected in school.
- Use the necessary equipment and computer programs as intended.
- Not record, store, or distribute video material without permission.
- Ensure they have a stable connection to avoid disruption to lessons.
- Always remain aware that they are visible.

All staff and pupils using audio communication must:

- Use appropriate language – this includes others in their household.
- Maintain the standard of behaviour expected in school.
- Use the necessary equipment and computer programs as intended.
- Not record, store, or distribute audio material without permission.
- Ensure they have a stable connection to avoid disruption to lessons.
- Always remain aware that they can be heard.



Pupils not using devices or software as intended will be disciplined in line with the Behavioural Policy.

The school will risk assess the technology used for remote learning prior to use and ensure that there are no privacy issues or scope for inappropriate use.

The school will ensure that all school-owned equipment and technology used for remote learning has suitable anti-virus software installed, can establish secure connections, can recover lost work, and allows for audio and visual material to be recorded or downloaded, where required.

During the period of remote learning, the school will maintain regular contact with parents to:

- Reinforce the importance of children staying safe online.
- Ensure parents are aware of what their children are being asked to do, e.g. sites they have been asked to use and staff they will interact with.
- Encourage them to set age-appropriate parental controls on devices and internet filters to block malicious websites.
- Direct parents to useful resources to help them keep their children safe online.

The school will not be responsible for providing access to the internet off the school premises and will not be responsible for providing online safety software, e.g. anti-virus software, on devices not owned by the school.

Monitoring and review

The e-safety committee will evaluate and review this E-safety Policy on a termly basis, taking into account the school's e-safety calendar, the latest developments in ICT and feedback from staff/pupils.

This policy will also be reviewed on an annual basis by the governing board; any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.

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