ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children's Online Policy

November 2026

Our Mission Statement

The Mission of St. John's Catholic Primary School is to grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus by being: responsible, caring, prayerful, creative, independent, thoughtful, curious and respectful. We live our Mission by:

- Ensuring that our attitudes and values are transmitted through a curriculum that is consistent with the Catholic faith
- Delivering a curriculum that is relevant, varied, interesting, stimulating, balanced and appropriate
- Developing policies and schemes of work which recognise that R.E. is an integral part of the curriculum
- Developing sound teaching and effective classroom management
- Generating a positive attitude to learning where realistic expectations of pupils and high standards of work are expected
- Using a variety of teaching approaches that reflect the needs of individual pupils
- Participating in projects which focus on the needs of others including local and international charities

St. John's is a Catholic voluntary aided primary school, established by the Church to serve the parishes of St. John the Baptist, Trowbridge, St. Bernadette's, Westbury and St. Thomas More, Bradford-on-Avon.

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Feeling safe and happy at school

At St John's Catholic Primary School, we want you to feel looked after, safe and happy in school, at home and when you're online.

Internet safety is a big part of keeping you safe. We have special rules, lessons and people who can help if something online worries you.

Computers, tablets and phones help us learn, play and talk to friends and family. But sometimes people can use them in ways that aren't kind or safe. That's why we'll teach you how to protect yourself online and what to do if you feel unsure, worried or upset.

We can help by:

- Teaching you what online safety means.
- Showing you what to do if you feel worried or scared.
- Making sure you know who you can talk to.

If you don't understand something, just ask. There's always someone who can help.

1 What does online safety mean?

Online safety means learning how to use the internet, games, and technology safely and kindly.

It's about protecting you while you're online and helping you make good choices when you use apps, games, videos, or websites. We'll teach you how to tell when something online might not be true or real.

Our school follows the rules in a document called 'Keeping children safe in education' to help everyone stay safe online.

If you ever see, hear or read something online that upsets you or makes you feel uncomfortable, tell an adult at school or at home. We can help make it right and keep you safe.

Follow the **SMART** rules to keep safe online:

S - SAFE: Keep personal information private (like your full name, address or school).

M - MEETING: Never meet anyone you only know online.

A - ACCEPTING: Don't open messages or files from people you don't know.

R - RELIABLE: Not everything you read or see online is true.

T - TELL: Tell an adult you trust if something online worries you.

2 Online dangers

The internet is full of fun things, like chatting, games, learning and videos, but there are also dangers to be aware of.

Some examples include:

- Cyberbullying, which is when people send unkind or scary messages or images.
- Strangers pretending to be someone they're not.
- Websites or videos that show things that aren't suitable for children.
- 'Viruses' that can harm computers or steal information.
- People who try to get your personal details.
- False or unkind information designed to trick or upset you (this is sometimes called 'misinformation').
- People who try to get you to do or believe something mean or unsafe (this can be part of 'radicalisation').
- Online games, chats or livestreams where others behave in ways that are not kind or safe.

Using AI safely

Sometimes websites, games or apps use something called artificial intelligence (AI). AI can do things like chat, draw pictures or answer questions.

AI can be fun and helpful, but it can also make mistakes or show you things that aren't true. Always check with an adult if something an AI shows you feels strange, unkind or confusing.

Online behaviour and kindness

When you're online, be as kind as you would be face-to-face. Think before you post, share or comment.

Ask yourself: "Would I say this in real life?" If the answer's **no**, don't say it online either. Being kind online helps make the internet a safe and happy place for everyone.



Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying includes any kind of bullying which takes place online. Cyberbullies (online bullies) send unkind messages over the internet and sometimes share private information online to hurt someone's feelings.

Cyberbullying happens when someone uses technology to be unkind. It can include:

- Sending mean, scary or upsetting messages or pictures.
- Sharing private or embarrassing photos or videos.
- Pretending to be someone else online to cause trouble.
- Posting nasty comments or rumours.

Cyberbullying is never okay. If you see it happen, or it happens to you, tell an adult you trust. Our school will deal with it quickly and help keep everyone safe.

Cyberbullying is sometimes done by a group of people 'ganging up' on someone – if you ever see someone being cyberbullied, **never** join in and **always** tell a grown-up you trust.

A **cyberbully** could be anyone, like one of your friends, a brother or sister, or even an adult. It's really important that you tell someone if you think you or someone is being a cyberbully.



Sharing pictures and messages

Sometimes people online might ask you to send or look at pictures or messages that show private parts of your or somebody else's body. **This is never okay**.

It's against the law to share these kinds of pictures, even if you take them yourself.

If anyone asks you to do these things, **don't do it**. Tell an adult you trust straight away. You will never be in trouble for telling the truth or asking for help.

It's **against the law** to have naked pictures or videos (sometimes called 'nudes') of someone who's under the age of 18, even if you're not the person sending them, and even if you took the photos or videos of yourself.



Who to talk to

If you're worried about something, you can talk to an adult at school. This could be your teacher or any member of staff. **If you need to talk, we'll always listen.**

At home

You can talk to your parents or carers about how to stay safe online. They can help you with privacy settings, check your games, and help if you see something upsetting.

Remember, you can always walk away or close the game, app or computer programme if something online makes you feel worried, upset or confused.

Tell someone you trust if something makes you feel like this. You won't be in trouble for asking for their help.

At school

Staff at school have training to protect children.

It's really important to get help if you're worried or unhappy about something online, and we'll do our best to spot if there's a problem.

It's important that you tell someone you trust if someone is:

- Cyberbullying you.
- Saying things to you online that make you feel upset or uncomfortable.
- Sending unkind or false messages on the internet or to your phone.
- Asking you to do things that you're uncomfortable with.

Important members of staff

DSL stands for **Designated Safeguarding Lead**. In every school there's always somebody who has special training to keep you safe. That's their job, so it's really important they know all the facts. All teachers and other staff members have to tell the DSL if they're worried about you.

The DSL may have other job titles, like **safeguarding officer** or **safeguarding manager**.

Teachers and other staff members also have training on how to keep you safe. It's the most important part of their job.

Here's a list of the people at school you can speak to if you're worried or need help:

- **Mrs O'Mahony**
- **Mrs O'Rourke**
- **Mr Gerrish**

If you ever need extra help, you can also speak to:

- Childline on 0800 11 11 or visit www.childline.org.uk

- NSPCC on 0800 800 5000 or visit www.nspcc.org.uk
- Kidscape on 020 7730 3300 or visit www.kidscape.org.uk
- Youth Access on 020 8772 9900 or visit www.youthaccess.org.uk

We'll always make time to listen and talk if you need us.

Remember:

- You're important to us.
- It's never your fault if someone's upsetting you.
- There's always someone that can help you.
- You won't be in trouble.

Let's make St John's Catholic Primary School a happy place!

This policy has been approved and adopted by the Governing Body.

Head teacher : Mrs K O'Rourke

Chair of Governors : Mrs C Doogue

Review cycle:	Annually
Next review due:	November 2027