

HOBBS HILL WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Online Safety Policy

Committee	Resources
Author	DPO with local arrangements
Approved By Governing Body	14 January 2026
Frequency of Review	Annually
Next review Date	Autumn 2026

Our Vision

Aiming for excellence; creating equal opportunities for each individual to develop academic and life skills so they can make a positive contribution to their community and become lifelong learners.

Our Mission

Inspiring confident and independent learners

Our Values

We believe that children should be able to enjoy the rights and uphold the responsibilities of the school charter.

School Charter

We have the right to:	We have a responsibility to:
Be safe in school and online	Behave in a safe way
Learn	Listen and try our best
Be supported with our learning	Support and help each other
Be happy, play and have fun	Share, be kind, polite and considerate towards others
Be respected and treated fairly	Be helpful and responsible
A clean and purposeful environment	Recycle and keep the class and school environment tidy
Speak and be heard	Listen and respect each other's opinion

1. Introduction

Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School recognises that internet, mobile, AI and digital technologies provide valuable opportunities for teaching, learning, socialisation and communication. At the same time, these technologies bring potential risks. This policy sets out how the school ensures that pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers and visitors use digital technologies safely and responsibly.

Online safety is part of the school's wider safeguarding responsibilities and applies to everyone in the school community. The policy should be read alongside safeguarding, behaviour, data protection, anti-bullying, and curriculum policies.

2. Responsibilities

The governing board and headteacher have overall responsibility for ensuring online safety is monitored and embedded throughout the school.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the named online safety lead, supported by senior leaders. The DSL is responsible for responding to safeguarding concerns linked to online use.

Staff must act as role models in safe use of technology, follow this policy, and teach pupils how to use digital technologies safely.

Pupils must follow the Acceptable Use Agreements and report anything that worries them online.

Parents/carers are expected to support the school's approach to online safety and reinforce safe use at home.

Visitors, volunteers, parent/carer helpers, contractors and supply teachers must follow the school's online safety and acceptable use procedures.

3. Scope of Policy

This policy applies to:

- All pupils, staff (including student and peripatetic teachers) and governors
- Parents/carers
- Visitors, volunteers, contractors and partner organisations using school systems or devices

It applies to all use of digital technologies on the school site and any use offsite that could affect the safety or reputation of the school or its community.

The policy also covers remote education and hybrid learning.

4. Policy and Procedure

Use of email:

- Staff and governors must only use school email accounts or approved platforms for school business.
- Pupils must use school-approved accounts for learning activities.
- Personal email accounts must not be used for school business.

Accessing sites and downloading:

- Staff must check websites, software or apps before recommending or using them with pupils.
- Pupils must only access approved sites.
- Copyright and licensing rules must be followed.

Storage and use of images:

- Images will be used only in line with consent held by the school.
- Images must only be stored on approved school systems.
- Personal devices must not be used to take images of pupils without the Headteacher's permission.

Mobile phones and personal devices:

- Staff may only use personal devices in designated areas, never in the presence of pupils.
- Pupils must hand in phones/devices as per school rules.
- Parents may only use devices in designated areas and must not take photos of children other than their own, unless authorised by the Headteacher.

New technologies and AI:

- Emerging technologies, including generative AI, will only be used after approval by the Headteacher.
- AI must never be used in ways that compromise safeguarding or data protection.

Filtering, monitoring and cybersecurity:

- The school uses filtering and monitoring systems in line with KCSIE and DfE requirements.
- Staff and pupils must not bypass filters.
- Phishing and scams must be reported immediately.

Reporting incidents:

- Inappropriate content, cyberbullying, harmful communications or safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately to a member of staff or the DSL (see Appendix E).
- All incidents are logged.

- Staff and pupils must use strong passwords, enable multi-factor authentication where available, and never share login details.

5. Curriculum

Online safety is embedded in the curriculum across subjects, including Computing, PSHE, Relationships and Health Education. Pupils are taught:

- How to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly.
- To understand risks such as cyberbullying, online grooming, fake news and extremism
- To protect personal information and maintain privacy online.
- To build digital resilience and a positive online reputation.

6. Staff and Governor Training

All staff and governors receive regular training in online safety and safeguarding. Training needs are reviewed annually. New staff (including student teachers and peripatetic teachers) and governors must sign Appendix A at induction or before starting work at the school.

7. Working in Partnership with Parents/Carers

The school works with parents/carers to promote safe online use at home. Parents are provided with guidance, updates and workshops. Parents are asked to sign Appendix C annually with their child and Appendix D on their child/children joining the school.

8. Visitors, Volunteers and Parent/Carer Helpers

Any of the following working with or without children at the school are provided with a copy of the school's online safety policy are required to sign Appendix B.

- Visitors
- Volunteers
- Parent/Carer helpers
- Contractors
- Supply Teachers

9. Records, Monitoring and Review

Online safety incidents are recorded and monitored. The DSL and governors review incident logs regularly. This policy is reviewed annually and updated as required to reflect changes in technology and guidance.

10. Appendices

- Appendix A – Acceptable Use Agreement for Staff, Governors, Student Teachers, Peripatetic Teachers

- Appendix B – Requirements for Visitors, Volunteers, Parent/Carer Helpers, Contractors and Supply Teachers
- Appendix C – Acceptable Use Agreement for Pupils
- Appendix D – Parent/Carer Responsibilities (Summary)
- Appendix E – Guidance on Responding to Cyberbullying
- Appendix F – Guidance on Preventing and Responding to Negative Comments on Social Media

Policy Review – Online Safety Policy

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body every year. We reserve the right to update this policy at any time and will provide a new version when we make substantial updates.

Appendix A – Acceptable Use Agreement for Staff, Governors, Student Teachers, Peripatetic Teachers

- I will use school devices, accounts, and systems responsibly and professionally.
- I will use only school email accounts for school business.
- I will not access, create or share offensive or illegal content.
- I will separate personal and professional use of social media.
- I will not share passwords or give pupils access to staff accounts.
- I will protect personal and school data in line with the Data Protection Policy.
- I will not use personal devices to take images of pupils without HT permission.
- I will immediately report online safety concerns to the DSL.

Full Name:	Role:
Signature:	Date:

Appendix B – Requirements for Visitors, Volunteers, Parent/Carer Helpers, Contractors and Supply Teachers

- I will follow staff instructions on use of technology and the internet.
- I will not take images, recordings, or videos of pupils.
- I will not access inappropriate content online.
- I will not use personal mobile phones except in designated areas.
- I will report any safeguarding concerns to the DSL or Headteacher.

Full Name:	Role:
Signature:	Date:

Appendix C – Acceptable Use Agreement for Pupils

- I will use school devices and accounts responsibly for learning.
- I will not use personal accounts on school devices.
- I will be polite and respectful in all online communication.
- I will not give out personal details (name, phone number, address, school).
- I will not share or upload images of others without permission.
- I will tell an adult if I see anything that upsets or worries me.
- I understand that my use of the internet can be monitored.

Pupil Name:	Date:
Signature:	Class:

Parent/Carer Name:	Signature:	Date:
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Appendix D – Parent/Carer Responsibilities (Summary)

To be signed when their child/children join the school.

- I will support my child in following the pupil Acceptable Use Agreement.
- I will not post school-related information or images online that could bring the school or its community into disrepute.
- I will only take images of my own child at school events, unless authorised by the Headteacher.
- I will use personal mobile devices on school premises only in designated areas.
- I will raise concerns with the school directly rather than posting them online.

Parent/Carer Name:	Signature:	Date:
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Appendix E – Guidance on Responding to Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place online or through digital devices. It may include sending or sharing harmful, false, or mean content about someone else. It can include sharing personal or private information, causing embarrassment or humiliation.

The school will:

- Treat all incidents of cyberbullying as serious and investigate promptly.
- Support the victim through pastoral and safeguarding systems.
- Take appropriate disciplinary action against perpetrators in line with the Behaviour Policy.
- Where necessary, report incidents to social media platforms, the police, or other external agencies.
- Educate pupils about respectful online behaviour and the impact of cyberbullying through the curriculum.

Appendix F – Guidance on Preventing and Responding to Negative Comments on Social Media

Parents, carers, staff and pupils are expected to use social media responsibly. Negative, misleading, or abusive comments about the school or individuals can cause harm.

The school will:

- Encourage concerns to be raised directly with the school, not via social media.
- Monitor for reputational risks online where possible.
- Where inappropriate comments are identified, contact the individual to request removal.
- Escalate serious or defamatory comments to the platform or, if necessary, take legal advice.
- Provide parents and pupils with guidance on safe and positive use of social media.