



ONLINE E-SAFETY POLICY

SCHOOL NAME:	HORNCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
DATE OF ADOPTION:	01/11/2025
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW DUE:	01/11/2026
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS SIGNATURE:	L. HALL
HEAD SIGNATURE:	S.MADHVANI

1. Context

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children online is:

- protecting children from maltreatment online
- ensuring that children know the dangers of being online and how to safely report concerns
- taking action to enable all children to be safe online and aware of the dangers

2. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to assist all staff in tackling incidents with students online and preventing incidents from occurring online:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices;
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety;
- ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

3. Principles

At Hornchurch High School we are committed to safeguarding children and young people, and we expect everyone who works in our school to share this commitment. Adults in our school take all welfare concerns seriously and encourage children and young people to talk to us about anything that worries them. Ultimately, all systems, processes and policies in our school operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

We recognise that the use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues, including child-on-child abuse. The online world develops and changes at great speed. New opportunities, challenges and risks are appearing all the time. The DSL supported by the DSL team and specific staff who have expertise in Online Safety will stay up to date with the latest devices, platforms, apps, trends and related threats.



To address this, our school strives to:

- have clear procedures in place to ensure the online safety of all staff and students
- educate the school community in the safe and responsible use of online technology
- set clear expectations for the use of online technology, including mobile phones
- engage and support parents/carers with helping them keep their children safe at home

4. Online Safety Risks

Our approach to online safety is framed by four main areas of risk:

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism
- **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes
- **Conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying)
- **Commerce** - risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.

5. Preventative Measures

To address the risks above, as a school we:

- i) Ensure all staff have read KCSIE and informing them of regular updates;
- ii) train staff in online safety, including at induction;
- iii) train staff in how to identify and respond to incidents where a child's safety may be at risk (due to their online activity);
- iv) train students in online safety, through a range of forms including assemblies, computing lessons, civics lessons and form time programme;
- v) use a filtering and monitoring systems to protect children when they use the school's network to access the internet. These systems are regularly evaluated by the DSL;



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- vi) provide clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults;
- vii) support and encourage parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online, providing workshops and recommended resources;
- develop clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child or young person;
- viii) review and update the security of our information systems regularly;
- ix) ensure that images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given

6. Response

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse);
- providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying or cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation;
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and all stakeholders inside our organisation into account;
- reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.