



## **Overton St Helen's CE Primary School**

Surrounded by God, we inspire hearts and minds through learning, faith and love.

*'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven' (Matthew 21: 15)*

### **ONLINE SAFETY POLICY**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy, Anti-bullying Policy and Behaviour policy

#### **Vision**

We encourage children to be respectful, forgiving and compassionate. We are a nurturing, inclusive and safe community built on Christians Values that inspire positive trusting relationships between school, families and the wider world.

We aim high, engaging children in a dynamic and diverse curriculum with opportunities and experiences that allow them to excel, through discovering their unique talents, relishing challenges with courage and perseverance, knowing that God is with them.

#### **Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of this policy is to:

- 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.

The policy applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in activities with Overton St Helen's CE Primary School.

#### **Policy Development**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available on:

- [online abuse learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse](https://www.learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse)
- [bullying learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying](https://www.learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying)
- [child protection learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system](https://www.learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system)

## **Approaches to Online Safety**

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

We recognise that:

- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however, it can also present risks and challenges
- we have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using our network and devices
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety

## **School Responsibilities**

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- appointing an online safety coordinator
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our induction process which includes the relevant policies listed at the start of this policy
- supporting and encouraging children to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others (this occurs through our school PSHE curriculum, Kidsafe lessons and Coram Life Education visits).
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online through online safety information shared in our newsletters, assemblies and workshops when relevant
- ensuring appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place so that children cannot access harmful or inappropriate material from our school network
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child/young person – see Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that user names, logins and passwords are used effectively and kept private
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children at Overton St Helen's, is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used in line with our parental consent
- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used with suitable training
- working with partners and other agencies when appropriate, for example police, mental health workers, school nurse etc

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

- having clear and robust behaviour, anti-bullying and safeguarding procedures (see relevant policies) in place for responding to incidents and abuse (including online abuse)
- providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including child-on-child abuse, bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our school as a whole 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.

### **Monitoring and review**

Monitoring is the responsibility of the Headteacher, Governors (through the School Improvement Committee) and senior leader with responsibility for Online Safety. The policy will be reviewed annually.

This policy has been written in accordance to recent advice, publications and the law:

- KCSIE – Keeping Children Safe in Education – Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges’ Department for Education (September 2021)
- ‘Teaching online safety in schools’ Department for Education (June 2019)
- ‘Example online safety policy statement and agreement’ NSPCC (September 2019)

**This policy will be reviewed every year in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy**

**Date of policy: Autumn 2022**

**Next review date: Autumn 2023**