



Online Safety Policy 2023-2025

Equality Impact Assessment: Askham Bryan College recognises the importance of the Equality Act 2010 and its duties under the Act. This document has been assessed to ensure that it does not adversely affect staff, students or stakeholders on the grounds of any protected characteristics.

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this online safety policy is to:

- Safeguard and protect all members of Askham Bryan College ('The College') community online;
- Identify approaches to educate and raise awareness of online safety throughout the community;
- Enable all staff to work safely and responsibly, to role model positive behaviour online and to manage professional standards and practice when using technology; and
- Identify clear procedures to use when responding to online safety concerns.

1.2. The College identifies that the issues classified within online safety are considerable, but can be broadly categorised into four areas of risk:*

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material;
- **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; and/or
- **Conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm.
- **Commerce:** risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams

*The risks include, for example:

- Access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate images or other content;
- Unauthorised access to / loss of / sharing of personal information;
- The risk of being subject to grooming by those with whom they make contact on the internet;
- The sharing / distribution of personal images without an individual's consent or knowledge;
- Inappropriate communication / contact with others, including strangers;

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- Cyber-bullying;
- Access to unsuitable video / internet games;
- An inability to evaluate the quality, accuracy and relevance of information on the internet; Plagiarism and copyright infringement;
- Illegal downloading of music or video files;
- The potential for excessive use which may impact on the social and emotional development and learning of the young person

1.3. The policy takes into account the following DfE guidance:

- 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' September 2023;
- 'Preventing and tackling bullying: DfE July 2017;
- 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and Colleges: DfE September 2021.
- 'Teaching online safety in school': DfE June 2019
- 'Education for a Connected World': UKCCIS 2020

2. POLICY SCOPE

2.1. The College believes that online safety is an essential part of safeguarding and acknowledges its duty to ensure that all students and staff are protected from potential harm online. The College identifies that the internet and associated devices, such as computers, tablets, mobile phones and games consoles, are an important part of everyday life. The College believes that students should be empowered to build resilience and to develop strategies to manage and respond to risk online.

2.2. This policy applies to all staff including the governing body, teaching staff, support staff, external contractors, visitors, volunteers and other individuals who work for, or provide services on behalf of the College (collectively referred to as 'staff' in this policy) as well as students and parents/carers.

2.3. This policy applies to all access to the internet and use of technology, including personal devices, or where students, staff or other individuals have been provided with College issued devices for use off-site, such as a work laptops, tablets or mobile phones.

3. MONITORING AND REVIEW

3.1. The College will review this policy at least biennially. The policy will also be revised following any national or local policy requirements, any child protection concerns or any changes to the technical infrastructure.

- We will ensure that we regularly monitor internet use and evaluate online safety mechanisms to ensure that this policy is consistently applied.

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- To ensure they have oversight of online safety, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be informed of online safety concerns, as appropriate.
- The named Governor for safeguarding will report on a regular basis to the governing body on online safety incidents, including outcomes.
- Any issues identified will be incorporated into the College self-assessment processes.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The College has nominated the Designated Safeguarding Lead to be the online safety lead.
- The College recognises that all members of the community have important roles and responsibilities to play with regards to online safety.

4.1. The Executive and Senior Leadership teams will:

- Ensure that online safety is viewed as a safeguarding issue and that practice is in line with national and local recommendations and requirements.
- Ensure there are appropriate and up-to-date policies regarding online safety; including a Code of conduct and/or an AUP (Acceptable Use Policy), which covers acceptable use of technology.
- Ensure that suitable and appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place and are cognisant of both the Department for Education's filtering and monitoring standards (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges/filtering-and-monitoring-standards-for-schools-and-colleges>) which support schools and colleges to have effective systems in place
- Review and implement as far as possible and a desire to meet the DfE's Cyber security standards for schools and colleges (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges/cyber-security-standards-for-schools-and-colleges>)
- Work with technical staff to monitor the safety and security of College systems and networks.
- Ensure that online safety is embedded within curriculum, which enables all students to develop an age-appropriate understanding of online safety.
- Support the Designated Safeguarding Lead by ensuring they have sufficient time and resources to fulfil their online safety responsibilities.
- Ensure there are robust reporting channels for the College community to access regarding online safety concerns, including internal, local and national support.
- Ensure that appropriate risk assessments are undertaken regarding the safe use of technology. Audit and evaluate online safety practice to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

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4.2. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will:

- In line with KCSIE 2023, ensure that all staff receive training on the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring.
- Take lead responsibility for understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place.
- Ensure that information on the College Safeguarding Policy includes information on appropriate filtering and monitoring on College devices and networks.
- Act as a named point of contact on all online safeguarding issues and liaise with other members of staff or other agencies, as appropriate.
- Keep up-to-date with current research, legislation and trends regarding online safety and communicate this with the College community, as appropriate.
- Ensure all members of staff receive regular, up-to-date and appropriate online safety training.
- Work with staff to coordinate participation in local and national events to promote positive online behaviour, such as Safer Internet Day.
- Ensure that online safety is promoted to parents, carers and the wider community, through a variety of channels and approaches.
- Maintain records of online safety concerns, as well as actions taken, as part of the College's safeguarding recording mechanisms.
- Monitor online safety incidents to identify gaps and trends, and use this data to update the education response, policies and procedures.
- Report online safety concerns, as appropriate, to the management team and Corporation.
- Work with the leadership team to review and update Online Safety policy and procedures on a regular basis (at least biennially) with stakeholder input.
- Meet regularly with the governor with a lead responsibility for safeguarding and/or online safety.

4.3. It is the responsibility of all members of staff to:

- Contribute to the development of online safety policies
- Read and adhere to the Online Safety policy and the College's policy on acceptable use
- Understand their responsibilities and roles in relation to the College filtering and monitoring systems
- Take responsibility for the security of College systems and the data they use, or to which they have access.
- Model good practice when using technology and maintain a professional level of conduct in their personal use of technology, both on and off site.
- Embed online safety education in curriculum delivery, wherever possible.
- Have an awareness of a range of online safety issues and how they may be experienced by the learners in their care.
- Identify online safety concerns and take appropriate action by following the College's safeguarding policies and procedures.

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- Know when and how to escalate online safety issues, including signposting to appropriate support, internally and externally.
- Take personal responsibility for professional development in this area.

4.4. It is the responsibility of staff managing the technical environment to:

- Provide technical support and perspective to the DSL and senior leadership team, especially in the development and implementation of appropriate online safety policies and procedures.
- Implement appropriate security measures (including password policies and encryption) to ensure that the College's IT infrastructure/system is secure and not open to misuse or malicious attack, whilst allowing learning opportunities to be maximised.
- Report any filtering breaches to the DSL and leadership team, as well as, the College's Internet Service Provider or other services, as appropriate.
- Ensure that any safeguarding concerns, identified through monitoring or filtering breaches are reported to the DSL, in accordance with the College's safeguarding procedures.

4.5. It is the responsibility of students (at a level that is appropriate to their individual age, ability and vulnerabilities) to:

- Engage in age appropriate online safety education opportunities.
- Contribute to the development of online safety policies.
- Read and adhere to the College policy on acceptable use.
- Respect the feelings and rights of others both on and offline.
- Take responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe online.
- Seek help from a trusted adult, if there is a concern online, and support others that may be experiencing online safety issues.

4.6. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to:

- Read the College policy on acceptable use as set out in the College's IT Policy and encourage their children to adhere to them.
- Support the College in their online safety approaches by discussing online safety issues with their children and reinforce appropriate, safe e- behaviours at home.
- Role model safe and appropriate use of technology and social media.
- Abide by the College's homeworking agreement and/or College's policy on acceptable use as set out in the College's IT Policy.
- Identify changes in behaviour that could indicate that their child is at risk of harm online and raise with the College's Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Seek help and support from the College, or other appropriate agencies, if they or their child encounter risk or concerns online.

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5. EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT APPROACHES

5.1. Education and engagement with students

The College will establish and embed an online safety curriculum throughout the whole College, to raise awareness and promote safe and responsible internet use amongst students by:

- Ensuring education regarding safe and responsible use precedes internet access.
- Including online safety in programmes of study, covering use both at home and College.
- Reinforcing online safety messages whenever technology or the internet is in use.
- Educating students in the effective use of the internet to research; including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation.
- Teaching students to be critically aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.

The College will support students to read and understand the College's policy on acceptable use as set out in the College's IT Policy in a way which suits their age and ability by:

- Displaying acceptable use posters in all rooms with internet access.
- Informing students that network and internet use will be monitored for safety and security purposes and in accordance with legislation.
- Rewarding positive use of technology by students.
- Implementing appropriate peer education approaches.
- Seeking student voice when writing and developing College online safety policies and practices, including curriculum development and implementation.
- Using support, such as external visitors, where appropriate, to complement and support the Colleges internal online safety education approaches.

5.2. Vulnerable Students

- The College is aware that some students are considered to be more vulnerable online due to a range of factors. This may include, but is not limited to children in care, children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or mental health needs, children with English as an additional language (EAL) and children experiencing trauma or loss.
- The College will ensure that differentiated and ability appropriate online safety education, access and support is provided to vulnerable students.
- The College will seek input from specialist staff as appropriate, including the CAM for Inclusive Learning

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5.3. Training and engagement with staff

The College will:

- Provide and discuss the online safety policy (including responsibilities and roles regarding the College filtering and monitoring systems) with all members of staff as part of induction.
- Provide up-to-date and appropriate online safety training for all staff on a regular basis, with at least annual updates, as part of existing safeguarding training / updates. (This will cover the potential risks posed to students (Content, Contact and Conduct) as well as professional practice expectations).
- Make staff aware that College systems are monitored and activity can be traced to individual users; staff will be reminded to behave professionally and in accordance with College's policies when accessing College systems and devices.
- Make staff aware that their online conduct out of College, including personal use of social media, could have an impact on their professional role and reputation within College.
- Highlight useful educational resources and tools which staff should use, according to the age and ability of the students.
- Ensure all members of staff are aware of the procedures to follow regarding online safety concerns affecting students, colleagues or other members of the College community.

5.4. Awareness and engagement with parents and carers

The College recognises that parents and carers have an essential role to play in enabling children to become safe and responsible users of the internet and associated technologies.

The College will build a partnership approach to online safety with parents and carers by:

- Providing information and guidance on online safety in a variety of formats. This will include offering specific online safety awareness information and highlighting online safety at other events such as parent evenings and open days.
- Drawing their attention to the College Online Safety Policy and expectations in any newsletters, letters, the prospectus and on the College website.
- Requesting that they read the College's policy on acceptable use as set out in the College's IT Policy and discuss its implications with their children.

6. REDUCING ONLINE SAFETY RISKS

6.1. The College recognises that the internet is a constantly changing environment with new apps, devices, websites and material emerging at a rapid pace. We will:

- Regularly review the methods used to identify, assess and minimise online risks.

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- Examine emerging technologies for educational benefit and undertake appropriate risk assessments before use in College is permitted.
- Ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring is in place and take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users can only access appropriate material.
- Recognise that due to the global and connected nature of the internet, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material cannot be accessed via a College computer or device.
- Reflect the standards set out by the DfE relating to online safety in our policy and practice

All members of the College community are made aware of the College's expectations regarding safe and appropriate behaviour online and the importance of not posting any content, comments, images or videos which could cause harm, distress or offence to members of the community. This is clearly outlined in the College's policy on acceptable use as set out in the College's IT Policy and highlighted through a variety of education and training approaches.

7. SAFER USE OF TECHNOLOGY

7.1. Classroom Use

The College uses a wide range of technology. This includes access to:

- Computers, laptops and other digital devices
 - Internet, which may include search engines and educational websites
 - College Moodle
 - Email
 - Digital cameras, web cams and video cameras
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- All College owned devices will be used in accordance with College's policy on acceptable use as set out in the College's IT Policy
 - Members of staff will always evaluate websites, tools and apps fully before use in the classroom or recommending for use at home.
 - The College will ensure that the use of internet-derived materials, by staff and students, complies with copyright law and acknowledge the source of information.
 - Supervision of students will be appropriate to their ability.
 - Students' access to the internet will be by adult demonstration, with occasional directly supervised access to specific and approved e- materials, which supports the learning outcomes planned for the students' ability.
 - It is accepted that from time to time, for good educational reasons, students may need to research topics (e.g. racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request that the Head of IT can temporarily remove those sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Any request to do so, should be auditable, with clear reasons for the need.

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- Students in residential provision: The College will balance a student's ability to take part in appropriate peer activities online, with the need to detect and prevent abuse, bullying or unsafe practice by students in accordance with the national minimum standards (NMS).

8. SOCIAL MEDIA

8.1. Please see 'Staying Safe on Social media Policy 2023-2025

9. USE OF PERSONAL DEVICES AND MOBILE PHONES

The College recognises that personal communication through mobile technologies is an accepted part of everyday life for students, staff and parents/carers, but technologies need to be used safely and appropriately within College.

9.1. Expectations

- All use of personal devices and mobile phones will take place in accordance with the law and other appropriate College policies, including, but not limited to: Anti-bullying, Behaviour and Safeguarding.
- Electronic devices of any kind that are brought onto site are the responsibility of the user at all times:
 - All members of The College community are advised to take steps to protect their mobile phones or devices from loss, theft or damage; the College accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of such items on College premises.
 - All members of The College community are advised to use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised calls or actions cannot be made on their phones or devices; passwords and pin numbers should be kept confidential and mobile phones and personal devices should not be shared.
- Mobile phones and personal devices are not permitted to be used in specific areas within the College site such as changing rooms, toilets. The sending of abusive or inappropriate messages/ content via mobile phones or personal devices is forbidden by any member of the community; any breaches will be dealt with as part of our Behaviour policy.
- All members of The College community are advised to ensure that their mobile phones and personal devices do not contain any content which may be considered to be offensive, derogatory or would otherwise contravene the College Behaviour or Safeguarding policies.

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9.2. Staff Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones

- Members of staff will ensure that use of personal phones and devices takes place in accordance with the law, as well as, relevant College policy and procedures.
- Staff will be advised to:
 - Keep mobile phones and personal devices in a safe and secure place during lesson time
 - Keep mobile phones and personal devices switched off or switched to 'silent' mode during lesson times.
 - Ensure that Bluetooth or other forms of communication (such as 'airdrop') are hidden or disabled during lesson times.
 - Not use personal devices during teaching periods, unless written permission has been given by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, such as in emergency circumstances.
 - Ensure that any content bought onto site via mobile phones and personal devices are compatible with their professional role and expectations.
- Members of staff are not permitted to use their own personal phones or devices for contacting students or parents and carers.
 - Any pre-existing relationships, which could undermine this, will be discussed with the Senior Designated Safeguarding Officer and/or Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Staff will not use personal devices, such as: mobile phones, tablets or cameras:
 - To take photos or videos of students and will only use work-provided equipment for this purpose.
 - Directly with students, and will only use work-provided equipment during lessons/educational activities.
- If a member of staff breaches the College policy, action will be taken in line with the College behaviour and allegations policy
- If a member of staff is thought to have illegal content saved or stored on a mobile phone or personal device or have committed a criminal offence, the police will be contacted.

9.3. Students' Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones

- Students will be educated regarding the safe and appropriate use of personal devices and mobile phones and will be made aware of boundaries and consequences.
- The College expects pupil's personal devices and mobile phones to be switched off, kept out of sight during lessons and while moving between lessons)
- If a pupil needs to contact his/her parents or carers they will be allowed to use a College phone.

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- Mobile phones or personal devices will not be used by students during lessons or formal College time unless as part of an approved and directed curriculum-based activity with consent from a member of staff:
 - The use of personal mobile phones or devices for a specific education purpose does not mean that blanket use is permitted.
 - If members of staff have an educational reason to allow students to use their mobile phones or personal devices as part of an educational activity, it will only take place when approved by the Leadership Team.
- Mobile phones and personal devices must not be taken into examinations:
 - Students found in possession of a mobile phone or personal device during an exam will be reported to the appropriate examining body. This may result in the pupil's withdrawal from either that examination or all examinations.
- If a student breaches the College policy, the phone or device will be confiscated and will be held in a secure place:
 - College staff may confiscate a student's mobile phone or device if they believe it is being used to contravene the College's Behaviour or Bullying policy, or could contain youth produced sexual imagery (sexting).
 - Searches of mobile phone or personal devices will only be carried out in accordance with the College's policy. (See also www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation)
 - Students' mobile phones or devices may be searched by a member of the management team, with the consent of the student or a parent/ carer. Content may be deleted or requested to be deleted, if it contravenes College policies.
 - Mobile phones and devices that have been confiscated will be released to students or parents or carers at an appropriate and agreed time
 - If there is suspicion that material on a pupil's personal device or mobile phone may be illegal or may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the device will be handed over to the police for further investigation.

9.4. Visitors' Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones

- Parents, carers and visitors (including volunteers and contractors) must use their mobile phones and personal devices in accordance with the College's Acceptable use policy and other associated policies, such as: Anti-bullying, Behaviour, Safeguarding and Image use.
- The College will ensure appropriate signage and information is displayed/ provided to inform parents, carers and visitors of expectations of use.
- Members of staff are expected to challenge visitors if they have concerns and will always inform the Senior Designated Safeguarding Officer of any breaches of College policy.

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9.5. Officially provided phones and mobile devices

- Members of staff will be issued with a work phone number and email address, where contact with students or parents/ carers is required.
- College mobile phones and devices will be suitably protected via a passcode/ password/ pin and must only be accessed or used by members of staff.
- College mobile phones and devices will always be used in accordance with the Acceptable use policy and other relevant policies

10. RESPONDING TO ONLINE SAFETY INCIDENTS AND CONCERNS

- All members of the College community will be made aware of the reporting procedure for online safety concerns, including: breaches of filtering, youth produced sexual imagery (sexting), cyberbullying and illegal content.
- All members of the community must respect confidentiality and the need to follow the official College procedures for reporting concerns:
- Students, parents and staff will be informed of the College's complaints procedure and staff will be made aware of the whistleblowing procedure.
- The College requires staff, parents, carers and students to work in partnership to resolve online safety issues.
- After any investigations are completed, the College will debrief, identify lessons learnt and implement any policy or curriculum changes as required.
- If the College is unsure how to proceed with an incident or concern, the DSL will seek advice from the local Safeguarding Team.
- Where there is suspicion that illegal activity has taken place, the College will contact the local Safeguarding Team or Police using 101, or 999 if there is immediate danger or risk of harm.
- If an incident or concern needs to be passed beyond the College community (for example if other local Colleges are involved or the public may be at risk), the College will speak with local Police and/or the local Safeguarding Team first, to ensure that potential investigations are not compromised.

10.1. Concerns about Students Welfare

- The DSL will be informed of any online safety incidents involving safeguarding or child protection concerns.
- The DSL will record these issues in line with the College's Safeguarding Policy.
- The DSL will ensure that online safety concerns are escalated and reported to relevant agencies in line with the local multi-agency thresholds and procedures.
- The College will inform parents and carers of any incidents or concerns involving their child, as and when required.

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10.2. Staff Misuse

- Any complaint about staff misuse will be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, according to the Safeguarding policy on allegations.
- Any allegations regarding a member of staff's e- conduct will be discussed with the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer).
- Appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the Staff Code of Conduct.

11. USEFUL LINKS: NATIONAL / LOCAL LINKS AND RESOURCES

- Action Fraud: www.actionfraud.police.uk CEOP:
- www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- www.ceop.police.uk
- Childnet: www.childnet.com
- Get Safe Online: www.getsafeonline.org
- Internet Matters: www.internetmatters.org
- Internet Watch Foundation (IWF): www.iwf.org.uk
- Lucy Faithfull Foundation: www.lucyfaithfull.org
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk/e-safety
- ChildLine: www.childline.org.uk
- Net Aware: www.net-aware.org.uk
- The Marie Collins Foundation: www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk
- Professional Online safety Helpline: www.saferinternet.org.uk/about/helpline
- 360 Safe Self-Review tool for Colleges: www.360safe.org.uk
- Online Safety (saferchildrenyork.org.uk)

12. RELEVANT POLICIES

Online Safety Procedures

IT Policy

Data Protection Policy

Information Security

Peer on Peer Abuse policy

Staff Code of Conduct

Staff Disciplinary Policy

Positive Behaviour Policy

Student Charter

Safeguarding Policy

Staying Safe on Social Media Policy

Complaints Policy

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