Newtown Community Primary School

Online Safety Policy

Rationale

Newtown Community Primary School believes:

- That no child or young person should ever experience abuse of any kind.
- Children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguarding steps need to be in place to ensure they are always kept safe.

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 keep children and young people safe online whilst at school and using school devices.
    - We have a responsibility to help children learn how to stay safe online beyond school.
- 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.
- 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.

This policy reflects key legislation and guidance relating to online abuse, bullying and child protection.

The NSPCC has made summaries of the key legislation and guidance.

This is available at:

- online abuse
- bullying
- child protection.

Key Principles

We believe that for children to learn how to stay safe online, and to stay as a safe as possible online, the following principles must be in place.

The school:

- Has an identified online safety leader. This role is held with the DSL/DDSL role.
- Has an identified governor for online safety.
- Provides clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults.
- Teaches, supports and encourages children to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others.
- Supports and encourages parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online.
- Develops clear and robust procedures to enable the school to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child or young person.
- Reviews and updates the security of our information systems regularly.
- Ensures that usernames, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively.
- Ensures personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate.
- Ensures 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.
- Provides supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety.
- Examines and risk assesses any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.
- Has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place which are regularly reviewed for effectiveness.
- Ensures appropriate staff are trained and aware of the filtering and monitoring systems in place and know how to escalate concerns when identified.

Online abuse

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 our organisation as a whole into account.
- Reviewing the school's processes to address online abuse at regular intervals, to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

Online behaviour

With the growing role of social media in children's lives, schools are becoming increasingly involved in supporting children understand what acceptable and unacceptable online behaviour is.

At Newtown we do this through educating the children in school about the important online behaviours which will help keep them safe and also instil a respect for other online users.

Whilst we will support families where behaviour of online users outside of school has been unacceptable, it is important to recognise it is a parent's responsibility to monitor and supervise their own child's online presence and behaviour. Many social media sites are age restricted, yet many primary pupils still register for and use them. The vast majority of online behaviour incidents we deal with at Newtown have happened where children have not had adequate supervision and monitoring of their devices at home.

Online behaviour falls within the scope of the school's behaviour policy and depending on the context of any behaviour will be managed within the relevant behaviour processes.

Online behaviour and the role of parents

A strong, supportive and positive partnership with home matters. When a child knows that the school and their parents/carers communicate and work together to resolve issues at school, including online behaviours and incidents, there is a far greater chance that children will be able to safe online.

The school will always

- Contact parents and carers if they feel that a child's online behaviour is a concern.
- Aim to work with parents and carers positively to present a united front when managing online behaviour concerns.

How we teach online safety

Online safety is incorporated into the school's personal development curriculum and is taught in explicit sessions using our online safety skills progression.

The online safety skills progression is based upon Project EVOLVE.

The progression is reviewed annually to ensure it incorporates relevant contextual changes. For example, being informed by Keeping Children Safe in Education updates.

Incorporating the 4Cs (Content, Contact, Conduct, Commerce) from KCSiE the online safety skills progression has eight key threads, these being:

- Self-image and identity
- Online Relationships
- Online Reputation
- Online Bullying
- Managing Online Information ('Fake News' and disinformation and misinformation (the unintentional spread of false information/ The use of AI)
- Health, Well-being, and Lifestyle
- Privacy and Security
- Copyright and ownership

Resources can be accessed at https://projectevolve.co.uk/ you will have to create a user account to view them.

Children's use of mobile phones

Mobile phones are one most common ways children access the internet and social media. Children are not allowed to bring a phone into school. This is because it not necessary for a child to have a phone in school.
The only exception to this is within Year 5 and Year 6 where children may have been given permission by their parents to walk home independently.

In these circumstances, if a child is bringing in a mobile phone to school, the following rules must be agreed with and adhered to:

- Mobiles are switched off on arrival to school.
- The phone is handed to the class teacher as soon as the pupil comes into the classroom.
- The phones are secured in a locked cupboard throughout the day.
- Phones will be handed back to pupils at the end of the school day but should not be turned on until leaving the site.

This online safety policy works alongside other key guidance documents and policies including:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- GDPR Policy.
- DFE Behaviour and Discipline in Schools

All of these documents are published on the school website

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