# Chorus Education Trust Online Safety Policy

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Name and job title of author: Katie Anderson, Director of Safeguarding and Inclusion

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Procedure, Staff Disciplinary procedure, Date Protection Policy, Privacy Notices, Complaints procedure, ICT Acceptable Use policy





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### 1. Policy Aims

Chorus Education Trust believes that online safety is an essential element of safeguarding students and adults in the digital world, when using technology such as computers, mobile phones or games consoles.

Chorus Education Trust identifies that the Internet and information communication technologies are an important part of everyday life so students must be supported to be able to learn how to develop strategies to manage and respond to risk so they can be empowered to build resilience online.

Each school has a duty to provide the school community with quality Internet access to raise education standards, promote student achievement, support the professional work of staff and enhance the school's management functions.

Chorus Education Trust also identifies that with this there is a clear duty to ensure that students are protected from potential harm online.

The purpose of this online safety policy is to:

- Clearly identify the key principles expected of all members of the community with regards to the safe and responsible use of technology to ensure that schools within the trust are safe and secure environments.
- Safeguard and protect all members of the school's community online.
- Raise awareness with all members of the school's community regarding the potential risks as well as benefits of technology.
- Enable staff to work safely and responsibly, to role model positive behavior online and to be aware of the need to manage their own standards and practice when using technology.
- Identify clear procedures to use when responding to online safety concerns that are known by all members of the community
- This policy applies to staff including the governing body, teachers, support staff, external
  contractors, visitors, volunteers (and other individuals who work for or provide services
  on behalf of Chorus Education Trust or individual schools) as well as students and
  parents/carers.
- This policy applies to all access to the Internet and use of information communication devices including personal devices or where students, staff or other individuals have been provided with Chorus Education Trust issued devices for use off-site, such as a work laptop or mobile phone.
- This policy must be read in conjunction with other relevant policies including (but not limited to) Safeguarding, Anti-bullying, Behaviour, Acceptable Use, GDPR and Information sharing. This online safety policy has been written by Chorus Education Trust, building on advice with specialist advice and input as required. It takes into account the DfE statutory guidance and legislation listed below.

With implementation of this policy the school aims to:

 Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors



- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as 'mobile phones')
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate

#### The 4 key categories of risk

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

- **Content** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, homophobia, transphobia radicalisation and extremism
- Contact being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as peer-topeer 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, such as making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g., consensual and nonconsensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography), sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
- Commerce risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scam

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory safeguarding guidance, <u>Keeping</u> <u>Children Safe in EducationKeeping</u>, and its advice for schools on:

- Teaching online safety in schools
- Preventing and tackling bullying and cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff
- Relationships and sex education
- Searching, screening and confiscation

It also refers to the DfE's guidance on protecting children from radicalisation.

It reflects existing legislation, including but not limited to the <u>Education Act 1996</u> (as amended), the <u>Education and Inspections Act 2006</u> and the <u>Equality Act 2010</u>. In addition, it reflects the <u>Education Act 2011</u>, which has given teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by, if necessary, searching for and deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

The policy also takes into account the National Curriculum computing programmes of study.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.



## 3. Roles and responsibilities

#### 3.1 The governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The governing board will co-ordinate regular meetings with appropriate staff to discuss online safety and monitor online safety logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

All governors will:

- Ensure that they have read and understand this policy
- Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendix 2)
- Ensure that, where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, is
  adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with SEND because of
  the importance of recognising that a 'one size fits all' approach may not be appropriate
  for all children in all situations, and a more personalised or contextualised approach may
  often be more suitable

#### 3.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that staff understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school.

#### 3.3 The designated safeguarding lead

Details of the school's DSL and deputies are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy as well as relevant job descriptions.

The DSL takes lead responsibility for online safety in school, in particular:

- Supporting the headteacher in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school
- Attend and complete Online Safety Training (complete and refresher) delivered by partner agencies in agreement with the local authority
- Working with the headteacher, ICT manager and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents
- Managing all online safety issues and incidents in line with the school child protection policy
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- Updating and delivering staff training on online safety



- Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary
- Providing regular reports on online safety in school to the headteacher and/or governing board

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

#### 3.4 The ICT and Network manager

The ICT manager is responsible for:

- Putting in place an appropriate level of security protection procedures, such as filtering
  and monitoring systems, which are reviewed and updated on a regular basis to assess
  effectiveness and ensure pupils are kept safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate
  content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material
- Ensuring that the school's ICT systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware, and that such safety mechanisms are updated regularly
- Conducting a full security check and monitoring the school's ICT systems on an ongoing basis
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

#### 3.5 All staff and volunteers

All staff, including contractors and agency staff, and volunteers are responsible for:

- Maintaining an understanding of this policy
- Implementing this policy consistently
- Agreeing and adhering to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendix 3), and ensuring that pupils follow the school's terms on acceptable use (appendix 2)
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- Responding appropriately to all reports and concerns about sexual violence and/or harassment, both online and offline and maintaining an attitude of 'it could happen here'

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.



#### 3.6 Parents

Parents are expected to:

- Notify a member of staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding this
  policy
- Ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet (appendix 1)

Parents can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online from the following organisations and websites:

#### 3.7 Visitors and members of the community

Visitors and members of the community who use the school's ICT systems or internet will be made aware of this policy, when relevant, and expected to read and follow it. If appropriate, they will be expected to agree to the terms on acceptable use (appendix 2).

- What are the issues? <u>– UK Safer Internet Centre</u>
- Hot topics Childnet International
- Parent resource sheet Childnet International
- Healthy relationships Disrespect Nobody

<u>Links and update from these organisations will be shared to whole school community via the school</u> website.

https://www.silverdale-chorustrust.org/studentwellbeing

https://www.westfield-chorustrust.org/studentwellbeing

https://www.hopevalley-chorustrust.org/studentwellbeing

### 4. Educating pupils about online safety

Pupils will be taught about online safety as part of the curriculum:

It is also taken from the guidance on relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education.

All schools have to teach:

Relationships and sex education and health education in secondary schools

In Key Stage 3, pupils will be taught to:

 Understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting their online identity and privacy



• Recognise inappropriate content, contact and conduct, and know how to report concerns Pupils in **Key Stage 4** will be taught:

- To understand how changes in technology affect safety, including new ways to protect their online privacy and identity
- How to report a range of concerns

#### By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online
- About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the
  potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising
  material placed online
- Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them
- What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online
- The impact of viewing harmful content
- That specifically sexually explicit material (e.g. pornography) presents a distorted picture
  of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others
  and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners
- That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail
- How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online
- How to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours
- How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (in all contexts, including online)

The safe use of social media and the internet will also be covered in other subjects where relevant.

Where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, will be adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with SEND.

## 5. Educating parents about online safety

The school will raise parents' awareness of internet safety in letters or other communications home, and in information via our website. This policy will also be shared with parents.

Online safety will also be covered during parents' evenings.

If parents have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with the headteacher and/or the DSL.

Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the headteacher.



## 6. Cyber-bullying

#### 6.1 Definition

Cyber-bullying takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites. Like other forms of bullying, it is the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. (See also the school behaviour policy.)

#### 6.2 Preventing and addressing cyber-bullying

To help prevent cyber-bullying, we will ensure that pupils understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure that pupils know how they can report any incidents and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim.

The school will actively discuss cyber-bullying with pupils, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. Form tutors, class teachers and pastoral staff will all discuss cyber-bullying with their tutor groups or targeted intervention groups.

Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the curriculum to cover cyber-bullying. This includes personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, and other subjects where appropriate.

All staff, governors and volunteers (where appropriate) receive training on cyber-bullying, its impact and ways to support pupils, as part of safeguarding training (see section 11 for more detail).

The school also sends information/leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents so that they are aware of the signs, how to report it and how they can support children who may be affected.

In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, the school will follow the processes set out in the school behaviour policy. Where illegal, inappropriate or harmful material has been spread among pupils, the school will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the incident is contained.

The DSL will consider whether the incident should be reported to the police if it involves illegal material, and will work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

#### 6.3 Examining electronic devices

School staff have the specific power under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (which has been increased by the Education Act 2011) to search for and, if necessary, delete inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices, including mobile phones, iPads and other tablet devices, where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

When deciding whether there is a good reason to examine or erase data or files on an electronic device, staff must reasonably suspect that the data or file in question has been, or could be, used to:

- Cause harm, and/or
- Disrupt teaching, and/or
- Break any of the school rules



- If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the staff member in conjunction with the DSL or other member of the senior leadership team to decide whether they should:
- Delete that material, or
- Retain it as evidence (of a criminal offence or a breach of school discipline), and/or
- Report it to the police\*
- \* Staff may also confiscate devices for evidence to hand to the police, if a pupil discloses that they are being abused and that this abuse includes an online element.
- Any searching of pupils will be carried out in line with:
  - o The DfE's latest guidance on screening, searching and confiscation
  - UKCIS guidance on <u>sharing nudes and semi-nudes</u>: <u>advice for education settings</u> <u>working with children and young people</u>
  - The school's COVID-19 risk assessment

Any complaints about searching for or deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices will be dealt with through the school complaints procedure.

## 7. Acceptable use of the internet in school

All pupils, parents, staff, volunteers and governors are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendices 1-3). Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use if relevant.

Use of the school's internet must be for educational purposes only, or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of an individual's role.

We will monitor the websites visited by pupils, staff, volunteers, governors and visitors (where relevant) to ensure they comply with the above.

More information is set out in the acceptable use agreements in appendices 1, 2 and 3.

## 8. Pupils using mobile devices in school

Pupils may bring mobile devices into school. Mobile devices should only be used in line with the Behaviour Procedure.

Any use of mobile devices in school by pupils must be in line with the acceptable use agreement (see appendices 1 and 2).

Any breach of the acceptable use agreement by a pupil may trigger disciplinary action in line with the school behaviour policy, which may result in the confiscation of their device.



## 9. Staff using work devices outside school

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Keeping the device password-protected strong passwords are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters (e.g. asterisk or currency symbol)
- Ensuring their hard drive is encrypted this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device
- Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time
- Not sharing the device among family or friends
- Installing anti-virus and anti-spyware software
- Keeping operating systems up to date always install the latest updates

Staff members must not use the device in any way which would violate the school's terms of acceptable use, as set out in appendix 3.

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from the ICT Manager.

## 10. Reducing online risks

Chorus Education Trust is aware that the Internet is a constantly changing environment with new apps, tools, devices, sites and material emerging at a rapid pace.

Emerging technologies will be examined for educational benefit and Chorus Education Trust Leadership team along with the Network Manager and Director of Safeguarding, will ensure that appropriate risk assessments are carried out before use in school is allowed.

Chorus Education Trust will ensure that appropriate filtering systems are in place to prevent staff and students from accessing unsuitable or illegal content.

Our 'DNA' monitoring system and filtering system will:

- Inspect everything that is typed or done.
- Take screen shots and will report any suspicious use detected.
- Detect when proxy bypass sites have been used.
- Help stop downloads of obscene or offensive content.
- Potentially get an early warning of predator grooming.
- Can help warn when students are planning to meet people they do not know.
- Pick up 'cries for help' which will:



Reduce fears over suicide, self-harm and abuse; Take appropriate action quickly; Strengthen your pastoral care.

#### **Filtering Decisions**

- School have ensured that individual settings have age and ability appropriate filtering and monitoring in place, to limit students' exposure to online risks.
- The governors and leaders are aware of the need to prevent "over blocking", as that may unreasonably restrict what can be taught, with regards to online activities and safeguarding.
- Our decision regarding filtering and monitoring has been informed by a risk assessment, considering our specific needs and circumstances.
- Changes to the filtering and monitoring approach will be risk assessed by staff with
  educational and technical experience and, where appropriate, with consent from the
  Senior Leadership Team; all changes to the filtering policy are logged and recorded.
- The Senior Leadership Team will ensure that regular checks are made to ensure that the filtering and monitoring methods are effective and appropriate.
- Staff are aware that they cannot rely on filtering and monitoring alone to safeguard students; effective classroom management and regular education about safe and responsible use is essential.

## 11. How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a pupil misuses the school's ICT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in our policies & procedures on behaviour and ICT and internet acceptable use. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident, and will be proportionate. At all times safeguarding students will be at the heart of the decision making and actions taken.

Where a staff member misuses the school's ICT systems or the internet or misuses a personal device where the action constitutes misconduct, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the staff code of conduct. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident.

The school will consider whether incidents which involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the police.

### 12. Training

All new staff members will receive training, as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation.

All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year as part of safeguarding training, as well as relevant updates as required (for example through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings).



By way of this training, all staff will be made aware that:

- Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues, and that children are at risk of online abuse
- Children can abuse their peers online through:
  - Abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages
  - Non-consensual sharing of indecent nude and semi-nude images and/or videos, especially around chat groups
  - Sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who don't want to receive such content
  - Physical abuse, sexual violence and initiation/hazing type violence can all contain an online element

Training will also help staff:

- develop better awareness to assist in spotting the signs and symptoms of online abuse
- develop the ability to ensure pupils can recognise dangers and risks in online activity and can weigh the risks up
- develop the ability to influence pupils to make the healthiest long-term choices and keep them safe from harm in the short term

The DSL and deputies will undertake child protection and safeguarding training, which will include online safety, at least every 2 years. They will also update their knowledge and skills on the subject of online safety at regular intervals, and at least annually.

Governors will receive training on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues as part of their safeguarding training.

Volunteers will receive appropriate training and updates, if applicable.

More information about safeguarding training is set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

#### 13. Monitoring arrangements

The DSL logs behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety. This will be recorded and stored securely through the CPOMS system in place.

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Director of Safeguarding and Inclusion alongside the DSL at each school. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board. The review be supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks pupils face online. This is important because technology, and the risks and harms related to it, evolve and change rapidly.



## 14. Links with other policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy
- Behaviour procedure
- Staff disciplinary procedures
- Data protection policy and privacy notices
- Complaints procedure
- ICT and internet acceptable use policy

#### 15. Contacts

## **Chorus Education Trust Important contacts**

ROLE/ORGANISATION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Director of Safeguarding and Inclusion – Chorus Education Trust	Katie Anderson	0114 2357983  KAnderson@chorustrust.org
CEO Chorus Trust	Chris James	0114 2357983
Chair of Safeguarding and Inclusion Committee Chorus Education Trust	Jen Carlring-Wright	0114 2357983
Chair of Trustees	Kevin James	chairoftrustees@chorustrust.org 0114 2357983



## **Silverdale School Important Contacts**

Katie Anderson	Designated Safeguarding Lead	0114 2369991
Richard Horton	Deputy Headteacher with strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Inclusion	kanderson@chorustrust.org 0114 2369991
		rhorton@chorustrust.org
Sarah Sims	Headteacher	0114 2369991
Richard Clough	Network Manager	0114 2369991
		rclough@chorustrust.org
Alex Migali	Chair of Governors	0114 2369991

## **Westfield School Important Contacts**

Katie Anderson	Designated Safeguarding Lead	0114 2369991 <u>kanderson@chorustrust.org</u> 0114 2369991
Joe Birkbeck	Headteacher	0114 2485221
Richard Clough	Network Manager	0114 2369991  rclough@chorustrust.org
Liz Perry	Chair of Governors	0114 2485221

## **Hope Valley College Important Contacts**

Katie Anderson	Designated Safeguarding Lead	0114 2369991
		kanderson@chorustrust.org



Debbie Petts	Deputy Principal with strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Inclusion	01433 620555 dpetts@chorustrust.org
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Gaynor Jones	Principal	01433 620555
Richard Clough	Network Manager	0114 2369991
		rclough@chorustrust.org
Dave Butcher	Chair of Governors	01433 620555



## Appendix 1: acceptable use agreement (pupils and parents/carers)

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS/CARERS

#### Name of pupil:

I will read and follow the rules in the acceptable use agreement policy
When I use the school's ICT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in school I will:

- Always use the school's ICT systems and the internet responsibly and for educational purposes only
- Only use them when a teacher is present, or with a teacher's permission
- Keep my username and passwords safe and not share these with others
- Keep my private information safe at all times and not give my name, address or telephone number to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer
- Tell a teacher (or sensible adult) immediately if I find any material which might upset, distress or harm me or others
- Always log off or shut down a computer when I'm finished working on it

#### I will not:

- Access any inappropriate websites including: social networking sites, chat rooms and gaming sites unless my teacher has expressly allowed this as part of a learning activity
- Open any attachments in emails, or follow any links in emails, without first checking with a teacher
- Use any inappropriate language when communicating online, including in emails
- Log in to the school's network using someone else's details
- Arrange to meet anyone offline without first consulting my parent/carer, or without adult supervision

#### If I bring a personal mobile phone or other personal electronic device into school:

- I will not use it during lessons, tutor group time, clubs or other activities organised by the school, without a teacher's permission
- I will use it responsibly, and will not access any inappropriate websites or other inappropriate material or use inappropriate language when communicating online

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don't follow the rules.

Signed (pupil):	Date:		
Parent/carer's agreement: I agree that my child can appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. using the school's ICT systems and internet, and for unake sure my child understands these.	. I agree to the conditions set out above for pupils		
Signed (parent/carer):	Date:		



## Appendix 2: acceptable use agreement (staff, governors, volunteers and visitors)

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR STAFF, GOVERNORS, VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

Name of staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor:

When using the school's ICT systems and accessing the internet in school, or outside school on a work device (if applicable), I will not:

- Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal or pornographic nature (or create, share, link to or send such material)
- Use them in any way which could harm the school's reputation
- · Access social networking sites or chat rooms
- Use any improper language when communicating online, including in emails or other messaging services
- Install any unauthorised software, or connect unauthorised hardware or devices to the school's network
- Share my password with others or log in to the school's network using someone else's details
- · Take photographs of pupils without checking with teachers first
- Share confidential information about the school, its pupils or staff, or other members of the community
- Access, modify or share data I'm not authorised to access, modify or share
- Promote private businesses, unless that business is directly related to the school

I will only use the school's ICT systems and access the internet in school, or outside school on a work device, for educational purposes or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of my role.

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the school's ICT facilities and systems.

I will take all reasonable steps to ensure that work devices are secure and password-protected when using them outside school, and keep all data securely stored in accordance with this policy and the school's data protection policy.

I will let the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and ICT manager know if a pupil informs me they have found any material which might upset, distress or harm them or others, and will also do so if I encounter any such material.

I will always use the school's ICT systems and internet responsibly, and ensure that pupils in my care do so too.

Signed (staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor):	Date: