



Thornton Primary School

Online Safety Policy Statement

December 2022

Version: December 2022/2023

Ratified by the Governing Body

Signed by the Governing Body: (Chair of Governors)

To be reviewed (annually): December 2024

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of our pupils is paramount when adults and children use internet enabled devices
- Provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
- Ensure that, as a school, we operate in with out bales and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

The policy statement applies to all staff, pupils, volunteers and anyone involved in Thornton Primary School's activities.

Legal Framework:

The policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022* states:

“Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure online safety is a running and interrelated theme whilst devising and implementing their whole school or college approach to safeguarding and related policies and procedures.

This will include considering how online safety is reflected as required in all relevant policies and considering online safety whilst planning the curriculum, any teacher training, the role and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) and any parental engagement.”

This policy statement accompanies the Thornton Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which provides explicit advice in regard to child-on-child abuse (particularly bullying) and child protection.

The statement give due consideration to the guidance offered in *Teaching Online Safety in Schools* (DfE, 2019) and also takes guidance from the range of online safety materials published by the NSPCC (<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/schools/e-safety-for-schools>).

We believe that:

- Our pupils 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 of ensure that all of our pupils, staff and volunteers are protected from potential harm online
- We have a responsibility to help keep children safe online even when they are not using Thornton's network and devices
- Working in partnership with pupils, their parents, staff, 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
- That online abuse can happen anywhere online that allows digital communication, such as: social networks, text messages, email, online chats, comment on live streaming sites and voice chat in games
- Online abuse comes in multiple forms including: bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse, grooming and sexual exploitation
- All children, regardless of age, disability, race, religion or belief, gender, sex, have the right to equal protection form all types of harm or abuse.

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

- Appointing an online safety lead. Our online safety lead is Mr Samuel Mason (DSL)
- Providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online though our code of conduct and through our staff user agreement
- Providing clear and specific directions to pupils on how to behave online though our code of conduct and through our pupil user agreement
- Providing E-Safety lessons in our PSHE curriculum which educates our pupils how they can use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
- Supporting and encouraging parents and carers to what they can to keep their children safe online
- Utilising web filtering and capture software (Smoothwall) to block harmful content and to capture inappropriate user activity
- Ensure that user names, logins, email accounts and password are used effectively
- Reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- Ensuring personal information about pupils and adults, who involved in our organisation, is held securely and shared appropriately
- Ensuring that images of pupils are taken on school devices and that when pupils images are published (newsletter/website/social media) that pupils' full names are not published alongside said photographs and that permission has been sought from parents/guardians.

- Directing parents to only take photographs of their own children at school events and not to post any images on social media platforms
- Providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety.

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

- Having clear and robust safeguarding procedures on place for responding to abuse (including online abuse). These are documented in Thornton's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- Providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, include 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 plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

Related policies and procedures:

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Teacher Code of Conduct
- Support Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistleblowing and misconduct Policy