Policy Title: Online Safety

Date of Review: Summer 2023

Review by: Summer 2026

Signed by:

Chair of Governors

All policies available at www.springvaleprimary.org

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Online Safety Policy

A Introduction

This policy was created after a period of consultation with relevant stakeholders within school. It has been formally adopted by governors and reflects our approach at Springvale Primary School.

B Aims and Principles

The policy is underpinned by the central aims of Springvale Primary and values held by the school community:

C Aims of the school

- Springvale is committed to promoting high standards of academic achievement for all learners in all subjects.
- As a school we will continue to develop and instil key life skills and values in our pupils.
- We will encourage positive relationships and communications between home, our community and the wider world.

In particular, Springvale School has an inclusive approach to our provision. Our aim is always to involve all our children and stakeholders in all areas of the curriculum and school life. In accordance with our **Disability Equality Scheme** we recognise that this may mean making special adaptations or arrangements from time to time for children with specific disabilities. We welcome the involvement of disabled adults in all areas of school life.

D Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principals and strategies for the safe use of the ICT facilities at Springvale Primary School and to set out our proposed teaching of Online Safety using technology at home and/or out of school (e.g. personal devices) as part of our Computing Policy. The school uses many resources from www.thinkuknow.co.uk to support Governors,staff, pupils and parents/carers to keep up with the latest guidance and advice.

E Background

The school aims to provide a safe environment in which our pupils learn to take a full part in society and learn to handle the risks and responsibilities inherent in adult life. As part of this and to achieve these aims teachers need to create the right balance between protecting pupils from online harms and enabling them to access all that the internet offers safely. We do this by providing a thorough approach to Online Safety through our Computing and PHSE/wellbeing curriculum approaches.

The Computing Lead at Springvale Primary is Mr T Venus.

The Wellbeing Lead at Springvale Primary is Mrs L Wildsmith.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr L McClure, the Deputy (DDSL) is Mrs R Fearn and the Safeguarding Governor is Miss C Throssell.

The internet is a valuable resource that can raise educational standards by offering both pupils and staff opportunities to search for information from a very wide range of sources based throughout the world. However, it is essential that the internet facility in school and at home be used in a safe manner, avoiding a number of potential and growing/evolving dangers.

The Local Authority and school have taken every possible precaution to protect pupils from unsuitable sites by giving pupils access to only resources found to be appropriate and secure. This means that when a child logs onto the school network or uses a school device, they only have access to internet sites which are deemed safe and appropriate by the technology and protection software used in school. Were pupils or staff raise concerns about any content accessible in school we report this to our IT provider and ensure that any such content is reviewed and blocked as soon as possible.

F Provision

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1 (KS1) are made aware of the school rules in place to keep children safe whilst using ICT. Parents are also informed of these via a letter in the New Entrant Parent Pack. KS1 children take part in whole school assemblies in which these rules are explained and re-visited at least 3 times per academic year. The Key Stage 2 curriculum provides Online Safety sessions to enable children to make informed decisions about their use of ICT. Ultimately parents and carers of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using information sources outside the school premises. To this end, from 2023/24 the school will expect all families to sign and return a personalised version of the school's Online Safety Agreement.

Due to our partners liaising within the local area through the Barnsley School Alliance or Safeguarding Board, Police leaders and safeguarding bodies are acting with the school to protect our young people. As part of this information sharing we know that County Lines and Sexual Exploitation are becoming more prevalent in our society.

For this reason, we have recently reviewed our approach and additional support for children and families relating to being safe online.

Our curriculum offer is now significantly more weighted towards being safe online in terms of the content of our Computing and Wellbeing curriculum plans. Both set out clear progression of skills, knowledge and key vocabulary for all pupils from Nursery to Year 6. Each curriculum area is delivered by experienced teachers having being devised by specialist leaders and refined through pupil, parent/carer, staff and Governor feedback over the last 3 or more years.

G Pupil rules for internet use
The school has accepted the Stay Safe Online rules (see Appendix A) for ICT use by any stakeholder. These rules are visible alongside every ICT resource in school and are kept under constant review.

Our Family Online Safety Agreement, which is reviewed and signed annually by parents and pupils from F2 to Y6 is seen Appendix B. If parents/carers don't sign or return the online agreement then school leaders will ask the reason why this has been the case. If it's due to lack of IT abilities we will help and support them. Any other reason may trigger and be recorded as a significant safeguarding concern.

All desktop computing sessions see users being provided with a user name and complex, personal password.

We share and revisit these key rules at least once per term and leaders regularly check that pupils can recite and apply them through various monitoring activities, some of which include the Governing Body.

H Sanctions

Governors, teachers, pupils, students and all other users are required to follow all the conditions laid down in this policy. Any breach of these conditions may lead to withdrawal of the user's access to the school's network and in some instances this could lead to criminal prosecution. In the case of employees, any breach may also be considered a breach of the employee's conditions of service, which could lead to disciplinary action.

All users understand that if they break any of the rules they can be temporarily or permanently suspended from using the school's ICT resources. Additional action may be taken in line with the school's Family Online Safety Agreement. When appropriate, police or local authorities may be involved.

Cyber-bullying or incidents where children fall out online are often brought to the attention of school staff and leaders. Where this is the case, school will keep records of reported concerns and monitor the in-school behaviours and friendships of any children involved. School **cannot and will not** action any behavioural sanction or discuss with any child an incident that happened purely online and out of the school setting. We may, however, report what we know to social services and/or the police if the content causes school leaders significant concern. Our school places great importance on the mental, emotional and physical wellbeing of our pupils, families and staff.

The school **will** adapt lessons and assembly themes to meet the evolving needs of the children in terms of what we consider to be safe online behaviours. Furthermore, we will support any children affected by online behaviours through our wellbeing and safeguarding mechanisms and we will remind parents and/or carers of their responsibilities to keep children safe online e.g. by following age restrictions on apps, games or websites.

I Incident Management Process

The school will follow the process dictated by the local authority for incident management. All adults working within school have read, signed and accepted the guidance given on Online Safety in this policy. Where an incident of concern happens in school a full investigation will take place led by the DSL and reported to the Chair of Governors, the Safeguarding Governor and where appropriate, the Local Authority Designated Officer for Safeguarding (LADO).

J Parental Role

We provide regular updates and support to parents/carers in the following ways:

- Annual training or support via a formal meeting
- Annual Online Family Safety Agreement
- Springvale Museum event
- Weekly National Online Safety posters are shared with families via social media
- Ongoing support and guidance through newsletters and wellbeing support in school
- Free support with setting up new devices safely

It is the role of the parent/carer to ensure that their children are safe online and free from harm. It is also their responsibility to ensure that their child uses technology safely and appropriately to ensure that they do not bring harm or distress to others. Please note that this responsibility is extended to grandparents or friends when children are supported/looked after by others.

Parents/Carers should try to keep up with the ever-emerging new platforms and trending items that on the surface may look harmless but actually contain damaging content. School will support this through the mechanisms stated above.
Parents/Carers to be extra vigilant if their children access online learning content via libraries, internet cafes or e-learning centres.

K Links To Other Policies

We are fully committed to the Government's Prevent Policy/Strategy regarding the growing issue of children being radicalised online (including other concerns such as adopting misogynistic views from social media influencers). Should the DSL become aware of any incidents regarding this sanctions and a thorough investigation would occur and may be escalated in line with the School's Prevent procedures. All of our policies are available to read on the school website for further guidance at www.springvaleprimary.org.

Appendix A- Stay Safe Online Poster

Appendix B

Family Online Safety Agreement (see pages 6 and 7)