

Online Safety Policy Statement

This policy should be read alongside Lawnside Academy's policies and procedures on child protection and safeguarding. More information about child protection and safeguarding can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2

The purpose of this policy statement

Lawnside Academy is a lower school which educates children aged from 4 - 9 years. The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children is paramount; when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
- ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices
- the policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and anyone involved in Lawnside Academy activities

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance which seeks to protect children in England. Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available on:

- online abuse <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse>
- bullying <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying>
- child protection <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system>

We believe that:

- children 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 to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
- we have a responsibility to help keep children safe online, whether or not they are using Lawnside Academy's network and devices
- 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

- working in partnership with children, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting children's welfare and in helping children to be responsible in their approach to online safety

We will seek to keep children safe by:

- appointing an online safety coordinator
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our staff code of conduct
- supporting and encouraging the children to use the internet, games consoles and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- developing an online safety agreement for use with children and their parents/carers
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that user names, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- ensuring that images of children and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety
- examining and risk assessing any education platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation

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/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:

- Child protection
- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child wellbeing
- Dealing with allegations of abuse made against a child

- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Photography and image sharing guidance

Version	Date	Author	Notes on revision(s)	Date ratified by governors	Review date
1	September 2021	S. Dawson	New policy written for adoption		September 2024



Signed: _____
Head Teacher

Chair of Governors