**CHRIST'S HOSPITAL**

**ONLINE SAFETY POLICY**

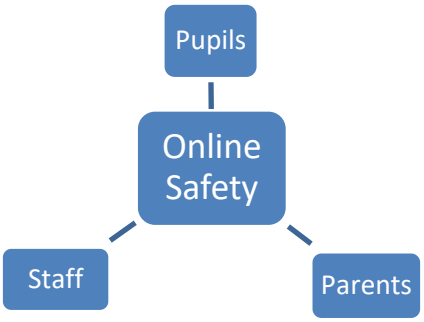
## Introduction

1. Online safety has been defined by Ofsted as: "a school's ability to protect and educate pupils and staff in their use of technology as well as having appropriate mechanisms in place to intervene and support any incident where appropriate."

2. Promoting a safe online culture and protecting pupils involves using appropriate monitoring and filtering to control what pupils can access when accessing the internet using the School's network.

3. However, education about online safety is the only way to ensure that, wherever they are, pupils know how to stay safe online.

## Scope




4. Pupils, staff (teaching and support) and parents represent three core communities where Christ's Hospital should be proactive in ensuring that we all derive and follow best practice in relation to online safety. Through recognising and utilising our collective knowledge, professionalism and experience, we can continue to make good progress.

5. We aim to reduce the risks presented by:

- online bullying
- grooming and exploitation
- youth-produced sexual imagery ("sexting")
- inappropriate use of social media
- damage to online reputation
- access to inappropriate web content
    - material of a sexual nature
    - extreme violence
    - material intended to exert extreme influence over (radicalise) the viewer
    - misuse of identity, personal information, and identity theft
- overuse, lack of self-control and poor habits
- carelessness with personal online security such that misuse by others is facilitated
- hacking
- an unawareness of potential consequences

We also recognise that it is important that, owing to the very fluid nature of the internet and online use, we keep abreast of the latest trends in use. This applies especially to the use of social media.

## Practice

6. Pupils in the second and third forms are not allowed to use social media, including WhatsApp, to communicate with other Christ's Hospital pupils, other than their own siblings, whilst at School. This is because experience has shown that, despite the online safety education provided, our youngest pupils all too easily slip into habits of thoughtless or unkind messaging, causing serious upset to others.

7. Education pertaining to online safety takes place:-

For pupils

- When it is appropriate in the classroom. For example, when a class is researching, appropriate attention should be drawn to validity and bias.
- In specific programmes within Learning for Life and PSHE. This begins in the Second Form.
- In the ICT Code of Conduct for Pupils.
- On an ad hoc basis in tutorials, for example bringing the attention of tutor groups to stories in the press which pertain to online safety and are age relevant.
- By inviting guest speakers and specialists to talk to specific year groups; for example targeting the Deputy Grecians (Year 12) on the importance of 'online reputation'.
- By interacting with other subjects. For example, working with the drama department to create and perform short pieces on online bullying.
- By creating responsibilities for pupils; the Pupil Wellbeing Committee should include online safety as part of its brief to raise awareness.
- By listening to pupils' concerns and harnessing 'pupil voice' via School and House Councils and other pupil forums.
- By utilising the School website and portal to host and display relevant information such as 'Safer Internet Day'.

For staff

- As specialised INSET. For example raising staff awareness of good practice with social media. Staff need to know about risks and safeguarding in this area for themselves and also for the pupils.
- Staff are also regularly reminded about good practice as part of annual safeguarding INSET and the delivery of the tutorial programme.
- Staff are directed to report concerns which they may have about usage.

For parents

- Utilising areas of the CH website and Parents' Portal to host information relevant to parents on online safety. Provision of resources: links to specialist websites, news articles and our policies at CH.
- Inviting parents to presentations by guest speakers at events such as Parents' Pastoral Mornings; dissemination of online safety advice.
- Parental communications about updates to the School's policies and new concerns about evolving online safety issues in society.

**Sanctions**

**7.** Pupils

- School sanctions such as red cards, suspension, Deputy Head's Behavioural Agreement or Head Teacher's contract can and will be used in support of online safety.
- Pupils are informed that the above sanctions will be used in cases of online bullying, posting inappropriate images or comments online or misuse of social media. These activities will not be tolerated.
- The ultimate sanction is expulsion, either for a repeat of behaviour that has already incurred a more minor sanction or for a single instance of very serious misuse of the internet, including social media.

**Technical online safety arrangements**

8. The following technical online safety measures are in place at Christ's Hospital:

- ICT Codes of Conduct are in force for both staff and pupils.
- User access controls (log-ins and monthly-changing passwords).
- MFA (*Multi-Factor Authentication*) applied to staff and Pupil network accounts when accessing School email from outside the School
- Regularly updated anti-virus and other security software.
- Network level security user restrictions.
- Encryption of email and portable devices.
- Internet web page access controls, including monitoring of all sites accessed by staff and pupils.
- Managed wireless user controls.
- Physical server and data centre access controls.

10. It is accepted that exceptionally, for good educational reasons, pupils may need to research certain topics (e.g. racism, drugs, discrimination etc.) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request that the IT team temporarily remove those sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Any request to do so would be referred to the Deputy Head. Any such decision will be auditable, with clear reasons for the need.

**Investigating incidents and breaches**

11. Any actual or suspected online safety incidents that put the safety of a pupil at risk should be reported without delay to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy Head who will initiate the appropriate reporting and investigative actions.

12. Breaches of this policy by pupils and other incidents, which do not present an immediate threat to the safety of pupils or staff, should be reported to the Head of Year who will then take the appropriate action. Serious search breaches by pupils will be reported to the Deputy Head.

13 The Deputy Head will review an online safety report every day, during term time. Action, either directly with the pupil or through the house parent and/or Designated Safeguarding Lead, will be taken where necessary.

**Monitoring and review**

13. The effective implementation of this policy will be assessed regularly by the Deputy Head.

**Associated policies**

14. This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents, copies of which are available on the School intranet (for staff) and/or website:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Information Security and Data Protection Policy
- ICT Code of Conduct for Pupils
- ICT Code of Conduct for Staff

Author: RMJB
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