



LIFE Wirral Sports School

ONLINE SAFETY POLICY INCLUSIVE OF CYBER BULLYING, ACCEPTABLE USE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

This policy, which applies to the whole school, is publicly available on the school website and upon request a copy (which can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required) may be obtained from school.

Document Details

Information Sharing Category	Public Domain
Version	V3
Date Published	01/09/2022
Authorised by (if required)	Chief Executive Officer
Review / Update Date	01/09/2024
Responsible Area	Proprietor and Senior leadership team

Amendments:

Availability: This policy applies to all activities undertaken by the school, inclusive of those outside of the normal school hours and away from the school site and is inclusive of all staff (teaching, support and agency staff), pupils on placement, contractors, the Chief Executive Officer, the Advisory Board and volunteers working in the school. All who work, volunteer or supply services to our school have an equal responsibility to understand and implement this policy being required to state that they have read, understood and will abide by this policy and its procedural documents and confirm this by signing the *Policies Register*.

Monitoring and review:

- This document will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Headteacher
- This policy was last reviewed agreed by the Advisory Board in September 2023 and will next be reviewed no later than September 2024 or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed:

Sarah Quilty
Headteacher

Alastair Saverimutto
Chief Executive Officer

Page Contents

1. Monitoring and Review;
2. Introduction, Roles and Responsibilities;
3. Designated Safeguarding Lead; Staff;
4. Parents; Pupils; Staff/Volunteers Use of IT Systems;

LIFE Wirral Sports School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.

5.	Teaching and Learning, Teaching about Online Safety;
5.	Educating Staff, Educating Parents, Protecting Personal Data;
7.	Assessing Risks; Mobile Electronic Device;,
8.	Cyber-Bullying; Online Sexual Harassment;
9.	ICT-Base Sexual Abuse (Inc Sexting); Chat Room Grooming and Offline Abuse; Social Media;
10.	Use of Email, Taking and Storing Images of Pupils; Remote Learning
11.	Filtering and Monitoring
12.	Related Documents; Legislation and Guidance,
14.	Appendix 1 – Pupil and Parent Acceptable Use Policy
16	Appendix 2 – Staff Acceptable Use of ICT
17	Appendix 3 – Mobile Phone Policy
23	Appendix 4- Use of Photographs of Pupils and Data Protection Form
24	Appendix 5 – Online safety FAQs
30	Appendix 6 – Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones and 4G/5G Compatible Devices

Introduction: The purpose of this Policy is to safeguard pupils and staff at LIFE Wirral Sports School. It details the actions and behaviour required from pupils and members of staff in order to maintain a safe electronic environment and is based on current best practice drawn from a wide range of sources. In accordance with legislative requirements we have a whole school approach to online safety. Our key message to keep pupils and young people safe is to be promoted and should be applied to both online and offline behaviours. Within our Online safety Policy, we have clearly defined roles and responsibilities for online safety as part of the school's wider safeguarding strategy and how this links with our main Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and other related documents.

Online safety is a running and interrelated theme when devising and implementing our wider school policies and procedures, including our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and our Preventing Extremism and Tackling Radicalisation Policy. The staff and pupil Acceptable Use Policies (AUPs) are central to the Online safety Policy and should be consulted alongside this policy. **We consider how we can promote online safety whilst developing our curriculum, through our staff training, and also through parental engagement.** The Online safety Policy will be reviewed annually by the safeguarding team who will provide recommendations for updating the policy in the light of experience and changes in legislation or technologies. The Pupil Voice will be consulted regarding any changes to the Pupil AUP. All staff should read these policies in conjunction with the Online safety Policy. This is particularly important with regard to the Prevent Strategy, as a large portion of cases of radicalisation happen through the online medium. Staff must be vigilant when dealing with such matters and ensure that they observe the procedure for reporting such concerns in line with that laid out in the Safeguarding & Child Protection and Preventing Extremism and Tackling Radicalisation Policies.

Roles and responsibilities: Our Head of Safeguarding (and Senior DSL), working in conjunction with our IT managers, is responsible for ensuring the online safety of the College community. Our Head of IT will take operational responsibility for online safety in the College, but the overall responsibility will fall on the senior DSL for making sure that policy is enforced and that the necessary checks, filters and monitoring are in place. Their roles will include ensuring:

- Young people know how to use the Internet responsibly and that parents and teachers have the right measures in place to keep pupils safe from exploitation or radicalisation.
- Pupils are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the Internet in school, including by establishing appropriate levels of filtering.
- To ensure that pupils use Information and Communications Technology (ICT) safely and securely and are aware of both external and peer to peer risks when using ICT, including cyberbullying and other forms of abuse.
- All staff, volunteers and the Chief Executive Officer will receive the appropriate training, guidance, time and resources to effectively implement online safety policies and procedures.
- Clear and rigorous policies and procedures are to be applied to the use/non-use of personal ICT equipment by all individuals who affect or come into contact with the setting. Such policies and procedures are to include the personal use of work-related resources.
- The Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to be implemented, monitored and reviewed regularly, and for ensuring all updates are to be shared with relevant individuals at the earliest opportunity.

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- Monitoring procedures are to be transparent and updated as agreed in school policies.
- Allegations of misuse or known incidents are to be dealt with appropriately and promptly, in line with agreed procedures, and in liaison with other agencies, where applicable.
- Effective online safeguarding support systems are to be put in place, for example, filtering controls, secure networks and virus protection to ensure that the school's technical infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack.
- An appropriate level of authorisation is to be given to ICT users. Not all levels of authorisation will be the same - this will depend on, for example, the position, work role and experience of the individual concerned.
- That users may only access the networks and devices through a properly enforced password protection policy, in which passwords are regularly changed.
- A current record of all staff and pupils who are granted access to school ICT system is maintained.

Our Lead IT is also the network manager and he has a specific duty of care to ensure that suitable control and filters are in place and that the system is secured and risk-assessed, based on College policies.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is a senior member of the management team who has relevant, current and practical knowledge and understanding of safeguarding, child protection and online safety. Access to an individual holding this role is available at all times, for example, a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is also in place should the DSL be absent. In the event of the absence of both due to Covid-19, either the DSL or the DDSL will be contactable. The designated persons for safeguarding will be responsible for ensuring:

- Agreed policies and procedures are to be implemented in practice.
- All updates, issues and concerns are to be communicated to all ICT users.
- The importance of online safety in relation to safeguarding is to be understood by all ICT users.
- The training, learning and development requirements of staff are to be monitored and additional training needs identified and provided for.
- An appropriate level of access authorisation is given to ICT users.
- staff training on online safety is kept update and delivered and, amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring (appendix 3 contains a self-audit for staff on online safety training needs)

Not all levels of authorisation will be the same - this will depend on, for example, the position, work role and experience of the individual concerned. In some instances, explicit individual authorisation must be obtained for specific activities when deemed appropriate, and any concerns and incidents are to be reported in a timely manner in line with agreed procedures. The learning and development plans of pupils and young people will address online safety. A safe ICT learning environment is to be promoted and maintained.

All Staff: It is the responsibility of all staff to be alert to possible harm to pupils or staff due to inappropriate internet access or use, both inside and outside of LIFE Wirral Sports School, and to deal with incidents of such as a priority. All staff are responsible for ensuring they are up to date with current online safety issues, and this online Safety Policy. Cyber-bullying incidents will be reported in accordance with LIFE Wirral Sports School's Anti-Bullying Policy. All staff will ensure they understand and adhere to our staff Acceptable Use Policy, which they must sign and return to the Online Safety Officer and a copy placed on staff file. Teachers will ensure they are confident in delivering the school's computing and online safety curriculum as required, identifying risks and reporting concerns as they arise.

The Chief Executive Officer: The Chief Executive Officer, who is also the Proprietor, is responsible for ensuring that there are appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place to safeguard pupils. The Chief Executive Officer will hold regular meetings with the Online Safety Officer/DSL to discuss the effectiveness of the online safety provision, current issues, and to review incident logs, as part of LIFE Wirral Sports School's duty of care. The Proprietor will review the policy periodically as specified and evaluate the implementation of the policy.

Parents: Parents are responsible for ensuring their child understands how to use computer technology and other digital devices appropriately. LIFE Wirral Sports School will support parents by sharing information and links through newsletters, school's website, Social Media platforms and informal/formal training. Parents are expected to engage with our online safety guidance which is regularly shared through our website, newsletters, social media platforms and regular safety briefings via email, raising any concerns that they have.

All Pupils: All pupils will ensure they understand and adhere to our pupil Acceptable Use Policy, which they must sign and return to the Online Safety Officer. Pupils are reminded of their responsibilities regarding the use of the school's ICT systems and equipment, including their expected behaviour.

Breadth of Online Safety Issues: We classify the issues within online safety into **four** areas of risk:

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.
- **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer 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; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual 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 scams.

These issues are to be managed by reducing availability, restricting access, promoting safe and responsible use.

The following is a list of possible risks students may face in their access to technology:

- Access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate images or content
- The risk of being subject to grooming by those whom they contact on the internet
- Inappropriate and unsafe communication with strangers
- Cyber bullying
- Access to pornographic material
- Access to extremist material that could lead to radicalisation of students
- Access to unsuitable video or gaming sites
- Sites that encourage gambling
- Illegal downloading of material that breaks copyright laws
- Unauthorised access to/loss of/sharing of personal information

The above risks can be realised through a wide range of technologies, including:

- e-mail
- Smart phones, tablets and laptops, etc.
- The Internet (web)
- Social networking sites; Twitter, YouTube, Facebook etc.
- Gaming sites
- Blogs, instant messaging, chat rooms, message boards, virtual learning environments
- Webcams, video hosting sites
- Photography

Staff/Volunteers Use of IT Systems: Access to the Internet and e-mail is provided to support the curriculum, support school administration and for staff professional development only. All staff must read and confirm by signature that they have read the 'Staff Code of Conduct for ICT (please see appendices) before using any school ICT resource. In addition:

- All staff will receive annual update online safety training.
- Online safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other activities.
- Access to systems should be made by authorised passwords, which must not be made available to any other person.
- At all times take care to ensure the safe keeping of personal data, minimising the risk of its loss or misuse, using personal data only on secure password-protected computers and other devices. Staff are advised to follow the "How do I stay secure on the Internet?" section in the Online safety FAQ document.
- In lessons where Internet use is pre-planned, pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in Internet searches.
- Where pupils are allowed to freely search the Internet, staff should be vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites the pupils visit.
- Occasionally pupils may need to research educational material that may normally result in websites being blocked (e.g. racism). In this situation, staff may request to remove these sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Every request to do so should be auditable with clear reasons for the need.
- The Internet can be used to actively gather personal information about individuals, which may lead to undesirable consequences (e.g. SPAM, fraud, harassment or identity theft). Because of this, staff are advised to only use the school approved web browsers and email systems which have appropriate security in place. Additionally, files should not be saved directly from the Internet unless they can first be scanned for computer viruses, malware, spyware and other malicious programmes.
- Additionally, staff should not communicate with pupils through electronic methods such as social networking sites, blogging, chat rooms, texts or private email. Instead, only the school email system should be used for this purpose.
- Educational materials made by and for classes and uploaded to password-protected YouTube channels, i.e. videos of lessons, activities, or fieldtrips, should be logged for record-keeping purposes. This provides an opportunity to share best practices and resources and enable better teaching and learning outcomes.

Any person suspecting another of deliberate misuse or abuse of technology should take the following action:

1. Report in confidence to the school's Online safety Officer.
2. The Online safety Officer should investigate the incident.
3. If this investigation results in confirmation of access to illegal material, the committing of illegal acts, or transgression of school rules, appropriate sanctions will be enforced.
4. In exceptional circumstances, where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a user has committed a serious criminal offence, the CEO or the police will be informed.
5. No pupil or member of staff should attempt to access or view the material, whether online or stored on internal or external storage devices. If this step is necessary, CEO and/or police will be contacted.

Teaching about online safety: Our Online Safety Curriculum is closely linked with our Relationships and Sex Education Programme and discusses the links associated with Online abuse and other associated risks. Because new opportunities and challenges appear all the time, it is important that we focus our teaching on the underpinning knowledge and behaviours that can help pupils to navigate the online world safely and confidently regardless of the device, platform or app. Online Safety is a focus in all areas of the curriculum and key Online Safety messages are reinforced regularly, teaching pupils about the risks of Internet use, how to protect themselves and their peers from potential risks, how to recognise suspicious, bullying or extremist behaviour and the consequences of negative online behaviour. Access levels to ICT reflect the curriculum requirements and age of pupils. Staff should guide pupils to on-line activities that will support the learning outcomes planned for the pupils' age and maturity. This teaching is built into existing lessons alongside our wider whole-school approach. Pupils will explicitly be taught the following topics through their lessons:

- What Internet use is acceptable and what is not and given clear guidelines for Internet use including protecting their online identity and privacy;
- How to use a wide range of devices and learn about their advantages and disadvantages, in different applications;
- How to evaluate what they see online;

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- How to recognise techniques used for persuasion;
- Online behaviour;
- How to identify online risks and
- How and when to seek support and report a range of concerns.
- How to recognise and respond to harmful online challenges and online hoaxes.

We recognise that child on child abuse can occur online and to this end we teach pupils how to spot early warning signs of potential abuse, and what to do if pupils are subject to sexual harassment online. When accessing the internet, individuals are especially vulnerable to a number of risks which may be physically and emotionally harmful, including:

- Access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate images
- Cyber bullying
- Access to, or loss of, personal information
- Access to unsuitable online videos or games
- Loss of personal images
- Inappropriate communication with others
- Illegal downloading of files
- Exposure to explicit or harmful content, eg. involving radicalisation
- Plagiarism and copyright infringement
- Sharing the personal information of others without the individual's consent or knowledge

Staff should be vigilant in lessons where pupils use the Internet. Online Safety education is reinforced throughout the year alongside our PSHEE programme, These key message and resources are shared with parents to discuss at home as well. We recognise a one size fits all approach may not be appropriate, and a more personalised or contextualised approach for more vulnerable children e.g., victims of abuse and SEND, is used as appropriate.

Pupils Use of IT Systems: All pupils must agree to the IT Acceptable Use Policy before accessing the school systems. Pupils at LIFE Wirral Sports School will be given supervised access to our computing resources and will be provided with access to filtered Internet (see FAQ Document) and other services operating at the school. The promotion of online safety within ICT activities is to be considered essential for meeting the learning and development needs of pupils and young people. The school will ensure that the use of Internet-derived materials by staff and pupils complies with copyright law. LIFE Wirral Sports School will help pupils to understand the risks posed by adults or young people, who use the Internet and social media to bully, groom, abuse or radicalise other people, especially pupils, young people and vulnerable adults. Internet safety is integral to the school's ICT curriculum and is also be embedded in our Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development. The latest resources promoted by the DfE can be found at:

- The UK Safer Internet Centre (www.saferinternet.org.uk)
- CEOP's Thinkuknow website (www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- PSHE Association (<https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/>)
- Google Legends (KS2) (https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk)

Educating Staff: A planned calendar programme of online safety training opportunities will be available to all staff members, including whole charity activities and CPD training courses. Staff will be provided with sufficient online safety training to protect pupils and themselves from online risks and to deal appropriately with online safety incidents when they occur. Ongoing staff development training includes training in online safety, together with specific safeguarding issues including cyber bullying and radicalisation. The frequency, level and focus of such training will depend on individual roles and requirements. Staff will undergo online safety training annually/when changes occur basis to ensure they are aware of current online safety issues and any changes to the provision of online safety, as well as current developments in social media and the internet as a whole. All staff will employ methods of good practice and act as role models for young people when using the internet and other digital devices. All staff will be educated on which sites are deemed appropriate and inappropriate. All staff are reminded of the importance of acknowledging information they access online, in order to avoid copyright infringement and/or plagiarism. Any new staff are required to undergo

online safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring they fully understand this online safety policy/social media policy/user agreement. The Online Safety Officer will act as the first point of contact for staff requiring online safety advice.

Communicating and Educating Parents/Guardians in Online Safety: We believe that it is essential for parents/carers to be fully involved with promoting Online safety both in and outside of school and to be aware of their responsibilities. We regularly consult and discuss Online safety with parents/ carers and seek to promote a wide understanding of the benefits of new technologies, together with the associated risks. For example, Parents/carers are required to make a decision as to whether they consent to images of their child being taken and used in the public domain (e.g., on School website). Parents will also be provided with a copy of the Pupil IT Acceptance Policy, and parents will be asked to sign it, as well as pupils within the KS3 onwards. **LIFE Wirral Sports School** The school will also provide parents and carers with information through newsletters, web site and the parent portals. Parents and guardians are always welcome to discuss their concerns on online safety with the school, who can direct them to the support of our Online Safety Officer if required. Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the school in promoting good online safety practice.

Protecting Personal Data: Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. The school recognises that if required, data may need to be obtained by relevant parties such as the Police. Pupils are encouraged to keep their personal data private as part of our online safety lessons and IT curriculum, including areas such as password protection and knowledge about apps and unsecured networks/apps etc. **The school will act responsible for ensuring we have an appropriate level of security protection procedures in place, in order to safeguard systems, staff and learners and we review the effectiveness of these procedures periodically to keep up with evolving cyber-crime technologies.**

Radicalisation and the Use of Social Media to Encourage Extremism: The Internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major way to communicate with others, especially young people, which has provided access for like-minded people to create an online community and confirm extreme beliefs, sharing extreme ideological views or advocating the use of violence to solve problems. This has led to social media becoming a platform for:

- Intensifying and accelerating the radicalisation of young people;
- Confirming extreme beliefs;
- Accessing likeminded people where they are not able to do this off-line, creating an online community;
- Normalising abnormal views and behaviours, such as extreme ideological views or the use of violence to solve problems and address grievances.

LIFE Wirral Sports School has a number of measures in place to help prevent the use of social media for this purpose:

- Web site filtering is in place to help prevent access to terrorist and extremist material and social networking sites such as Facebook, Instagram or Twitter by pupils.
- Pupils, parents and staff are educated in safe use of social media and the risks posed by on-line activity, including from extremist and terrorist groups.

Further details on how social media is used to promote extremism and radicalisation can be found in guidance from the Department for Education '*How Social Media Is Used to Encourage Travel to Syria and Iraq: Briefing Note for Schools.*'

Reporting of Online safety Issues and Concerns Including Concerns Regarding Radicalisation: LIFE Wirral Sports School has clear reporting mechanisms in place, available for all users to report issues and concerns. For staff, any concerns regarding online safety should be made to the Online Safety Officer, who will review the issue and take the appropriate action. For pupils, they are taught to raise any concerns to their class teacher who will then pass this on to the online safety officer. Complaints of a child protection nature must be dealt with in accordance with our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) provides advice and support to other members of staff on protecting pupils from the risk of on-line radicalisation. **LIFE Wirral Sports School** ensures staff understand what radicalisation and extremism mean and why people may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. We ensure staff have the knowledge and confidence to identify pupils at risk of

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being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas, which can be used to legitimise terrorism. Staff safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils and know where and how to refer pupils and young people for further help as appropriate by making referrals as necessary to Channel.

Assessing Risks:

- We will take all reasonable precautions to prevent access to inappropriate material. However, due to the international scale and linked nature of Internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never appear on a computer connected to the school network. The school cannot accept liability for any material accessed, or any consequences of Internet access.
- Developing technologies, such as mobile phones with Internet access are not governed by the school's infrastructure and can bypass any and all security and filtering measures that are or could be deployed.
- We will audit ICT use to establish if the Online safety Policy is sufficiently robust and that the implementation of the Online safety Policy is appropriate and effective.
- Methods to identify, assess and minimise risks will be reviewed regularly.
- The Senior Leadership Team will review and examine emerging technologies for educational benefit and a risk assessment will be carried out before use in school is allowed.
- Any person not directly employed by the school will not be provided with access to any of the school systems with the exception of filtered *Wi-Fi* access.
- **LIFE Wirral Sports School** takes measures to ensure appropriate IT filters monitoring systems are in place to safeguard pupils from potentially harmful and inappropriate material on-line without unreasonable "over-blocking".
- The school recognises that pupils may choose to circumvent certain safety precautions by using mobile data on their devices over 3G, 4G and 5G. To help provide a safe environment for all pupils, we will supplement the systems filtering with behaviour management and additional staff/pupil training.

Mobile Electronic Devices (Phones, Laptops, iPads and Tablets; please see Appendix 4 for more details): Mobile telephones are not permitted in academic school buildings. During the school day phones are locked in a portable safe until the end of the school day. Mobile phones are kept on site at the risk of the individual pupil. **LIFE Wirral Sports School** is not responsible for any devices lost by pupils.

Recordings made using mobile electronic devices: Using the camera on a personal phone or similar device, either to photograph/film/record any member of the school community, do any form of live streaming or to show to others the photos/videos/audio recordings already on the phone or similar device is prohibited. The discovery of any uploads to social media platforms will result in serious sanctions being applied. Recordings should only be recorded using the school camera.

Cyber-Bullying: Because of the anonymity that new communications technologies offer, anyone with a mobile phone or Internet connection can be a target for cyber-bullying. Furthermore, bullies can reach much larger numbers within a peer group than they can with conventional bullying. Vindictive comments posted on a website, for instance, can be seen by a large audience, as can video clips sent by mobile phone. Most cyber-bullying is done by pupils in the same class or year group and although it leaves no visible scars, cyber-bullying of all types can be extremely destructive.

- Between a fifth and a quarter of pupils have been cyber-bullied at least once over the previous few months.
- Phone calls, text messages and email are the most common forms of cyber-bullying.
- There is more cyber-bullying outside school than in school.
- Girls are more likely than boys to be involved in cyber-bullying in school, usually by phone.
- For boys, text messaging is the most usual form of cyber-bullying, followed by picture/video clip or website bullying.

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- Picture/video clip and phone call bullying are perceived as the most harmful forms of cyber-bullying.
- Website and text bullying are equated in impact to other forms of bullying.
- Around a third of those being cyber-bullied tell no one about the bullying.

Cyber bullying is the use of ICT, particularly mobile electronic devices and the Internet, deliberately to upset someone else. Cyberbullying (along with all forms of bullying) will not be tolerated and incidents of cyberbullying should be reported and will be dealt with in accordance with the School's Anti-Bullying Policy. Use of electronic devices of any kind to bully, harass or intimidate others will not be tolerated and will constitute a serious breach of discipline. If there is a suggestion that a child is at risk of abuse or significant harm, the matter will be dealt with under the school's child protection procedures (see our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy). Seven categories of cyber-bullying have been identified:

- **Text message bullying** involves sending unwelcome texts that are threatening or which cause discomfort;
- **Picture/video-clip bullying via mobile phone cameras** is used to make the person being bullied feel threatened or embarrassed, with images usually sent to other people. 'Happy slapping' involves filming and sharing physical attacks;
- **Phone call bullying via mobile phone** uses silent calls or abusive messages. Sometimes the bullied person's phone is stolen and used to harass others, who then think the phone owner is responsible. As with all mobile phone bullying, the perpetrators often disguise their numbers, sometimes using someone else's phone to avoid being identified;
- **Email bullying** uses email to send bullying or threatening messages, often using a pseudonym for anonymity or using someone else's name to pin the blame on them;
- **Chat room bullying and online grooming** involve sending menacing or upsetting responses to pupils or young people when they are in a web-based chat room;
- **Bullying through instant messaging (IM)** is an Internet-based form of bullying where pupils and young people are sent unpleasant messages through various messaging applications (for example, WhatsApp, Group Me, Skype, Facebook Messenger, Snapchat, Google Hangouts etc.) as they conduct real-time conversations online;
- **Bullying via websites and social networks (an example of this would be Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)** includes the use of defamatory blogs, personal websites and online personal polling sites. There has also been a significant increase in social networking sites for young people, which can provide new opportunities for cyber-bullying.

Pupils should remember the following:

- Always respect others - be careful what you say online and what images you send.
- Think before you send - whatever you send can be made public very quickly and could stay online forever.
- Don't retaliate or reply online.
- Save the evidence - learn how to keep records of offending messages, pictures or online conversations. Ask someone if you are unsure how to do this. This will help to show what is happening and can be used by the school to investigate the matter.
- Block the bully. Most social media websites and online or mobile services allow you block someone who is behaving badly.
- Don't do nothing - if you see cyberbullying going on, support the victim and report the bullying.

Online Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment creates an atmosphere that, if not challenged, can normalise inappropriate behaviours and provide an environment that may lead to sexual violence. online sexual harassment include: non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos and sharing sexual images and videos (both often referred to as sexting); inappropriate sexual comments on social media; exploitation; coercion and threats. Online sexual harassment may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence. All cases or allegations of sexual harassment, online or offline, is unacceptable and will be dealt with under our Child Protection Procedures.

Additionally, we recognise that incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment that occur online (either in isolation or in connection to offline incidents) can introduce a number of complex factors. These include the potential for the incident to take place across a number of social media platforms and services and for things to move from platform to platform online. It also includes the

potential for the impact of the incident to extend further than the school's local community (e.g. for images or content to be shared around neighbouring schools/colleges) and for a victim (or alleged perpetrator) to become marginalised and excluded by both online and offline communities. There is also the strong potential for repeat victimisation in the future if abusive content continues to exist somewhere online. Online concerns can be especially complicated. Support is available at:

- a. The UK Safer Internet Centre provides an online safety helpline for professionals at 0344 381 4772 and helpline@saferinternet.org.uk. Providing expert advice and support for school staff with regard to online safety issues and when an allegation is received.
- b. If the incident involves sexual images or videos that have been made and circulated online, we will support the victim to get the images removed through the [Internet Watch Foundation \(IWF\)](#). The IWF will make an assessment of whether the image is illegal in line with UK Law. If the image is assessed to be illegal, it will be removed and added to the IWF's Image Hash list.

ICT-Based Sexual Abuse (Including Sexting): The impact on a child of ICT-based sexual abuse is similar to that for all sexually abused pupils. However, it has an additional dimension in that there is a visual record of the abuse. ICT-based sexual abuse of a child constitutes significant harm through sexual and emotional abuse. Recognition and response is recognising a situation where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer a degree of physical, sexual and/or emotional harm (through abuse or neglect) which is so harmful that there needs to be compulsory intervention by child protection agencies into the life of the child and their family. All adults (volunteers, staff) working with pupils, adults and families will be alerted to the possibility that:

- A child may already have been/is being abused and the images distributed on the Internet or by mobile telephone;
- An adult or older child may be grooming a child for sexual abuse, including involvement in making abusive images. This process can involve the child being shown abusive images;
- An adult or older child may be viewing and downloading child sexual abuse images.

Pupils are reminded that 'sexting' (sending or posting images or videos of a sexual or indecent nature) is strictly prohibited by the school and may constitute a criminal offence. The school will treat incidences of sexting (both sending and receiving) as a safeguarding issue and pupils concerned about images that they have received, sent or forwarded should speak to any member of staff for advice.

There are no circumstances that will justify adults possessing indecent images of pupils. Adults who access and possess links to such websites will be viewed as a significant and potential threat to pupils. Accessing, making and storing indecent images of pupils is illegal. This will lead to criminal investigation and the individual being barred from working with pupils, if proven. Adults should not use equipment belonging to the school to access adult pornography; neither should personal equipment containing these images or links to them be brought into the workplace. This will raise serious concerns about the suitability of the adult to continue to work with pupils. Adults should ensure that pupils are not exposed to any inappropriate images or web links. Where indecent images of pupils or other unsuitable material are found, the police and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) should be immediately informed. Adults should not attempt to investigate the matter or evaluate the material themselves, as this may lead to evidence being contaminated, which in itself can lead to a criminal prosecution.

Chat Room Grooming and Offline Abuse: Our staff need to be continually alert to any suspicious activity involving computers and the Internet. Grooming of pupils online is a faster process than usual grooming, and totally anonymous. The abuser develops a 'special' relationship with the child online (often adopting a false identity), which remains a secret to enable an offline meeting to occur in order for the abuser to harm the child.

Social Media, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other forms of social media are increasingly becoming an important part of our daily lives, including part of the school's marketing strategy.

- Staff are not permitted to access their personal social media accounts using school equipment at any time, unless granted prior permission by the Headteacher for reasons of work
- Staff are advised not to befriend or follow parents of pupils and to keep their personal profile as private as possible
- Staff and pupils are provided with information on how to use social media responsibly and what to do if they are aware of inappropriate use by others

LIFE Wirral Sports School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.

- Staff and pupils, are aware that the information, comments, images and video they post online can be viewed by others, copied and stay online forever

Staff and pupils are aware that their online behaviour should at all times be compatible with UK law. Additionally, more information on best practice for staff can be found in our Staff Behaviour (Code of Conduct) Policy.

LIFE Wirral Sports School recognises that Social media is very likely to play a central role in the fall out from any incident or alleged incident. There is the potential for contact between victim and alleged perpetrator and a very high likelihood that friends from either side could well harass the victim or alleged perpetrator online.

Use of Email

- Pupils will be provided with individual email addresses if needed for educational use.
- The use of personal email accounts to send and receive personal data or information is prohibited.
- No sensitive personal data shall be sent to any other young persons, staff or third parties via works email.
- Young people are made aware that all email messages are monitored and that the filtering system will detect inappropriate links, viruses, malware and profanity.
- Staff members are aware that their email messages may be monitored.
- Any emails sent by young people to external organisations will be overseen by their teacher/support worker and must be authorised before sending.
- Chain letters, spam and all other emails from unknown sources will be deleted without opening.

Taking and Storing Images of Pupils Including Mobile Phones (See our related documents including Appendix 3): LIFE Wirral Sports School provides an environment in which pupils, parents and staff are safe from images being recorded and inappropriately used. Upon their initial visit, parents, volunteers and visitors are given information informing them they are not permitted to use mobile phones on the premises in the presence of pupils, or to take photographs of pupils apart from circumstances as outlined in Appendix 4 of this policy. Mobile phones are only permitted to be used in a private office area. This prevents staff from being distracted from their work with pupils and ensures the safeguarding of pupils from inappropriate use of mobile phone cameras and other digital recording equipment. The school will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement policies to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm:

- When using digital images, staff should inform and educate pupils about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images of themselves and others especially on social networking sites.
- Photographs published onto any website will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images. Care will be taken to ensure that pupils are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute. Their full names will not be used anywhere in the website, particularly in association with photographs.

N.B. The word ‘camera’ in this document refers to any device that may be used to take and store a digital image e.g. mobile phone, tablet, laptop etc. The school has a Mobile Phone Policy which includes:

- The commitment to keep the pupils safe.
- How we manage the use of mobile phones at LIFE Wirral Sports School, taking into consideration staff, pupils on placement, volunteers, other professionals, the Chief Executive Officer, visitors and parents/carers.
- How we inform parents/carers, visitors and other professionals of our procedures.
- What type of mobile phones will be used on educational visits and learning outside the classroom.
- The consequences of any breaches of this policy.
- Reference to other policies, such as Whistleblowing and Safeguarding Children-Child Protection Policies.

Remote Learning (Please see our Remote Learning Policy for more details): Where there are periods in which the school is forced to close, yet continue to provide education (such as during the COVID-19 Pandemic) it is important that LIFE Wirral Sports School supports staff, pupils and parents to access learning safely, especially considering the safety of our vulnerable pupils. Staff and volunteers are aware that this difficult time potentially puts all children at greater risk and the school recognises the importance of all staff who interact with children, including online, continuing to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on learners’ mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and will act on

concerns immediately. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection Policy and where appropriate, referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police. Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the school's staff and pupils respective Behaviour - Code of Conduct. Additionally, LIFE Wirral Sports School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

The school will put additional measures in place to support parents and pupils who are learning from home. This will include specific guidance on which programmes the school is expecting pupils to use and how to access these alongside how pupils and parents can report any concerns that they may have. Guidance will also be issued on which staff members pupils will have contact with and how this will happen, including how to conduct virtual lessons (including video conferencing). Details of this can be found in our schools Remote Learning Policy.

Additionally, the Headteacher has a duty of care for ensuring the safety (including online safety) of members of the school community, with the day to day responsibility being delegated to the Online Safety Lead. The Headteacher (DSL) are aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safety allegation being made against a member of staff, which in line with our main safeguarding reporting procedures.

Staff working remotely should wherever possible use their school-issued ICT equipment, however they may use their own computer equipment if this is not practical, as long as it is in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy. Staff are responsible for security of personal data and must ensure it is stored securely when using personal systems or remote systems to maintain confidentiality from other members of the household.

For more information relating to Online safety procedures, refer to the Online safety Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) in Appendix 5. It covers the following topics on the relevant page as follows:

- 1 How will the policy be introduced to pupils? How will staff be consulted and made aware of this policy? How will complaints regarding Internet use be handled? How will parents' support be enlisted?
- 2 Why is the use of Internet and ICT important? How is the safe use of ICT and the Internet promoted? How does the Internet and use of ICT benefit education in our school? How will pupils learn to evaluate Internet content?
- 3 How is filtering managed? How are emerging technologies managed? How to react to misuse by pupils and young people
- 4 How is printing managed? What are the categories of Cyber-Bullying? What are the pupil rules?
- 5 What has research into Cyber Bullying found? What is the impact on a child of ICT-based sexual abuse? What is the impact on a child of ICT-based sexual abuse? How do I stay secure on the Internet? Why is promoting safe use of ICT important? What does the school's Mobile Phone Policy Include?
- 6 Where can we learn more about Prevent? What do we have to do?
- 7 Do we have to have a separate *Prevent* Policy? What IT filtering systems must we have? What is the definition of a visiting speaker? Do we have to check all our visiting speakers? What checks must we run on visiting speakers? What do we have to record in our Single Central Register about visiting speakers?
- 8 What training must we have? What are the potential legal consequences if we do not take the *Prevent* duty seriously? What are the rules for publishing content online?

Filtering and Monitoring: The school provides a safe environment for students to learn and work in, especially when online. Filtering and monitoring are both important parts of safeguarding students from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. The proprietor has overall strategic responsibility for filtering and monitoring. For this to occur, they have assigned a member of senior leadership team (The DSL) and the Chair of the Advisory Board to be responsible for ensuring these standards are met. The Senior DSL works closely with IT lead and other members of SLT to ensure that filtering and monitoring is adequate and robust in the school. The school considers those who are potentially at greater risk of harm and how often they access the school's IT systems. The school follows the Filtering and Monitoring Standards (DfE: 2023) which ensures that the college:

- identifies and assigns roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems;
- reviews filtering and monitoring provision at least annually;
- blocks harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning.
- has effective monitoring strategies in place that meet the college's safeguarding needs

The IT Team and Senior DSL have worked together and ensured:

The filtering provider MUST be a member of Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), signed up to Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit list (CTIRU) and block access to illegal content including child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

- Any specific risks or vulnerable pupil groups are identified (age of students, SEND issues, EAL, PSHE, RSE, County Lines, BYOD etc.)
- All existing College computers and devices are monitored and checked by the Head of IT in association with the Safeguarding and Vulnerable Student Committee. Boarding students are required to register their e-based devices and are required to use the School Wi-Fi system.

Cyber Security: The school recognises its responsibility to ensure that appropriate security protection procedures are in place to safeguard are systems. As part of our whole-school Online Safety Training, we ensure staff, governance advisory committee and proprietor are updated with the evolving cyber-crime technologies. In addition, the college activity considers the Cyber security standards (DfE: 2023) and uses these as a base for keeping the school and its community safe from cyber-crime.

Related documents:

- Online Safety Appendices 1-6
- Safeguarding Children- Child Protection Policy; Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment (Including Peer-on-Peer Abuse Policy); Anti-Bullying Policy; Behaviour and Discipline Policy; Staff Behaviour (Code of Conduct) Policy.
- Prevent Duty: Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy; Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC); Personal; Personal Social, Health, Economic Education (PSHEE); The School Rules.
- Mobile and Smart Technology Policy, including taking and storing images of pupils; Acceptable use of ICT Sign off forms for Staff/Pupils; Use of Photographs Sign-off Form.

Legislation and guidance

- Part 3, paragraphs 7 (a) and (b) of the Education (Independent College Standards) (England) Regulations 2014 (DfE: as amended and currently force)
- *Keeping Students Safe in Education (KCSIE) Information for all schools and Colleges* (DfE: September 2023) incorporates the additional statutory guidance,
- *Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.*
- *Working Together to Safeguard Students* (WT) (HM Government: September 2018) which also refers to non-statutory advice, *Information sharing* HM Government: March 2015); *Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales* (2021) (*Prevent*). *Prevent* is supplemented by *The Prevent duty: Departmental advice for Colleges and childminders* (June 2015) and
- Based on guidance from the DfE (2014) 'Cyberbullying: Advice for Heads and College staff 'and 'Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying'
- Prepared with reference to DfE Guidance (2014) *Preventing and Tackling Bullying: Advice for College leaders and governors* and the relevant aspects of *Safe to Learn, embedding anti-bullying work in Colleges.*
- Having regard for the guidance set out in the DfE (*Don't Suffer in Silence* booklet)
- The Data Protection Act 1998; GDPR, 2018; BECTA and CEOP.
- Teaching Online Safety in Schools (DfE: 2023)
- The policy also takes into account the National Curriculum computing programmes of study.
- Meeting digital and technology standards in Schools and Colleges (DfE: 2023) (including Broadband, Cyber-Security and data protection procedures)

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- [Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges](#) (DfE: 2023)
- [Cyber security standards for schools and colleges](#) (DfE: 2023)
- [Promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges](#) (September 2022)
- [Behaviour in schools](#) (September 2022)

Guidance (UK Safer Internet Centre)

- [2023 Appropriate filtering and monitoring definitions published](#) (UK Safer Internet Centre)
- [Test Your Internet Filter](#) (UKSIC / SWGfL)
- [A Guide for education settings and filtering providers](#) (UKCIS)
- [Establishing appropriate levels of filtering](#) (UKSIC)
- [Online safety in schools and colleges: questions from the governing board](#) (UKCIS)
- [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

The following legislation and guidance should be considered:

- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Regulatory of Investigatory Power Act 2000
- Computer Misuse Act 1990 – Police and Justice Act 2006
- Prevent Duty – Counter-terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Obscene Publications Act 1959, Protection of children Act 1988, Criminal Justice Act 1988

Student Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

E

Ensure that I do not create, send or post anything which is offensive to other people or brings the school into disrepute. I will not use any language or images which could offend any minority group.

S

Secure all my passwords and not share them with others. I understand I must not reveal or use anyone else's login details or access a device someone else is logged onto. I will change my password immediately if it becomes known to someone else and ensure I log out after every network session.

A

Access only appropriate material. I will not attempt to visit websites that might be considered inappropriate or illegal. I am aware that school can monitor my use of the internet if any poor conduct is suspected. I will report any accidental access to other people's information, unsuitable websites or receipt of any inappropriate material as well as any security risk or suspicious behaviour that I become aware of. Offensive material includes, but is not limited to, content that is abusive, racist, considered to be of an extreme or terrorist related nature, sexist, homophobic, any form of bullying, pornographic, defamatory or criminal activity.

F

Facebook, social media and email use. I will not publish my own and others' personal details, information or location over any social networking site. I am aware that email is not guaranteed to be private. Messages or any communication via social media or email supporting illegal activities will be reported to the authorities.

E

Exercise caution when downloading material. I understand that the illegal download and/or copyright of any material, including receiving, sending or publishing, is forbidden and may be passed to the relevant authorities. I will not download any unapproved software, system utilities or resources from the internet.

T

Turn off mobile hot spots and not use the network in any way that will disrupt its use for other people. This includes any attempt to harm, destroy or remove any equipment, work of another user, or website connected to the system.

Y

Your device, your responsibility. I understand that the school has the right to confiscate and search any device if it suspects that a student is in danger or has misused a device or the school network. I understand that any activity from a device I own is my responsibility, including all portable devices and their content or viruses.

Pupil Acceptable Use Policy

All pupils must follow the rules outlined in this policy when using school ICT resources and equipment, including all Internet access and the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), accessed from both in and outside of school, and on school provided or personal electronic devices. Breaking these conditions may lead to: confiscation of any electronic devices, close monitoring of the pupil's network activity, investigation of the pupil's past network activity, withdrawal of the pupil's access and, in some cases, permanent removal from the School and even criminal prosecution. Pupils are also expected to take care of school-issued electronic devices and any damage to them may result in fines to replace or fix damaged devices. Misuse of the Internet will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behaviour and Discipline Policy and, where there is a safeguarding risk, the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. The school is not responsible for any loss of data on the network, computers connected to the network or data storage used on the network (including USB memory sticks). Data held on the network will be backed up for a limited period. Pupils are responsible for backups of any other data held. Use of any information obtained via the network is at the pupil's own risk.

Pupil access to networked resources is a privilege, not a right. Pupils will be expected to use the resources for the educational purposes for which they are provided.

Pupils are expected to use the network systems in a responsible manner. It is not possible to compile a complete set of rules about what is, and what is not, acceptable; however, the above should be a guide and in cases of dispute the decision of the Head of School will be final.

Pupil agreement

No mobile phones/electronic devices are allowed in school. All student phones are to be locked in our secure storage boxes provided before entering the school building. All phones/electronic devices will be returned to students on exiting the school building.

I will ensure that I do not use the camera on mobile phones or similar devices, either to photograph/film/record any member of the school community, do any form of live streaming or to show to others the photos/videos/audio recordings already on the phone or similar device.

I agree to follow the school rules on the use of school network resources and mobile electronic devices. I will use the network and all mobile electronic devices in a responsible way and observe all of the conditions explained in both the Online safety Policy and this Acceptable Use Policy. I understand and accept the consequences of breaking these rules.

Print pupil name.....

Pupil Signature..... Date.....

Parent/Guardian agreement:

I understand that my child has agreed to accept the terms of the Online safety and Pupil AUP Policy and I confirm that I accept the terms of the agreement. If my child brings any personal electronic devices to school, I understand that the pupil is responsible for its safekeeping and appropriate usage while in transit to and from school.

I have read and understood the Online safety Policy and agree to check any updates, which are made available on the Parent Portal.

Print Parent/Guardian name.....

Parent/Guardian Signature..... Date.....

Appendix 2 – Staff Acceptable Use of ICT Policy: To ensure that members of staff are fully aware of their professional responsibilities when using information systems and when communicating with pupils, they are asked to sign this Acceptable Use Policy. Members of staff should consult the school’s Online safety Policy and Staff Code of Conduct for further information and clarification. You must not use any ICT on-site until you have signed this AUP document and logged it with the school office.

- I will respect all ICT equipment/facilities at LIFE Wirral Sports School and will report any faults that I find or any damage that I accidentally cause.
- I agree to abide by this policy in respect of any of my own ICT equipment or mobile devices that I bring on site. If any ICT device (personal or school-issued) is being used inappropriately or illegally on site (or inappropriately in the presence of pupils), the Headteacher may request that the device be monitored. Failure to comply with the monitoring could result in informing the appropriate authorities.
- I understand that no photographs of pupils may be taken with or stored on my personal electronic devices, including cameras, iPads, mobile phones, or personal computers.
- Photos of pupils should not be uploaded to personal social media accounts
- I am familiar with the school’s Data Protection Policy and I agree I am responsible for the security of all personal data in my possession. I agree that all personal data that relates to an identifiable person and is stored or carried by me on a removable memory device will be encrypted or contained within password-protected files to prevent unauthorised access.
- I am responsible for my use of my own log-in details and if I suspect that my log-in details have become known to others then I will immediately ask for these details to be changed.
- I agree that my use of LIFE Wirral Sports School ICT equipment/facilities will be monitored and may be recorded at all times. I understand that the results of such monitoring and recording may be shared with other parties if I break the terms of this Acceptable Use Policy.
- I will not deliberately attempt to access any unsuitable websites, services, files or other resources when on-site or using LIFE Wirral Sports School equipment/facilities. I understand that I may temporarily access-blocked websites, services and other online resources using only tools that are provided by LIFE Wirral sport School. I agree that I will not display blocked websites, services and other resources to others until I have fully assessed the materials and have found them to be entirely suitable for the intended audience.
- I agree that the provision of LIFE Wirral Sports School ICT equipment/facilities including the email and Internet system are for educational purposes, although limited personal use is permitted provided that this is not done during normal working time and does not contravene any of the other clauses in this document.
- I am aware that downloading copyright materials, including music and video files without paying the appropriate licence fee is often a criminal act. I am aware that any involvement in criminal acts relating to the use of ICT on-site or using LIFE Wirral Sports School equipment/facilities may result in disciplinary or legal action. I will not deliberately engage in these acts.
- I will not deliberately view, send, upload or download any material that is unsuitable for the school environment whilst I am in that environment or using any ICT equipment/facilities belonging to LIFE Wirral Sports School. If I accidentally encounter any such material then I will immediately close, but not delete in the case of emails, the material and immediately report it to the Online safety Officer or to a senior member of staff. I will not be penalised if I view unsuitable material accidentally and by reporting such incidents I will help to improve online safety. If I am in any doubt about the suitability of any material, or if a colleague raises any doubts, then I will not (re)access the material without the agreement of the Online safety Officer. I will not access any material that the Online safety Officer has rated as unsuitable.
- Unless specifically authorised to do so, I will not disclose any of my personal details, other than those that identify me professionally, nor log any such details on websites whilst using LIFE Wirral Sports School equipment or facilities. If I disclose any additional personal details contrary to this instruction, then I agree that these details can be recorded and that I will not hold LIFE Wirral Sorts School responsible for maintaining the security of the details I have disclosed.
- I agree that professional standards of communication will be maintained at all times. I recognise that staff should not communicate with pupils through personal electronic devices or methods such as social networking sites, blogging, chat rooms, text messaging, messenger applications or private email. Instead, only the school email system may be used.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

LIFE Wirral Sports School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.

Appendix 3 - Mobile and Smart Technology Policy, including taking and storing images of pupils

Legal Status:

[Teaching Online Safety in School](#): DfE 2019

[Cyberbullying: Advice of Headteachers and School Staff](#): DfE, 2014

Department for Education's published guidance [on the use of mobile phones and UK law governing the use of mobile phones while driving](#).

Applies to:

- The whole school including all other activities provided by the school, inclusive of those outside of the normal school hours.
- All staff (teaching and support staff), pupils on placement, the Chief Executive Officer and volunteers working in the school.

Related documents:

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Online safety Policy including Cyber-Bullying and ICT Acceptable Use

Availability:

This policy is made available to parents, staff and pupils in the following ways: via the School website and on request, a copy may be obtained from the Office.

Monitoring and review:

- This document will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Headteacher
- This policy was last reviewed agreed by the Advisory Board in September 2023 and will next be reviewed no later than September 2024 or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed:

Sarah Quilty
Headteacher

Alastair Saverimutto
Chief Executive Officer

Introduction: Whilst we welcome the use of mobile phones and cameras for educational purposes and the convenience they offer and recognise that learning to use digital technology is an important part of the ICT and wider curriculum, equally we have to ensure the safeguarding needs of the pupils are met and staff, parents and volunteers are not distracted from their care of pupils. Mobile phones, alongside other technologies aim to change the way we communicate. This speed of communication will often provide security and reassurance; however, as with any other form of technology there are associated risks. Pupils and young people must be encouraged to understand such risks, to enable them to develop the appropriate strategies which will keep them safe. These issues are to be managed by reducing availability, restricting access and increasing resilience. This philosophy is to be applied to the use of mobile phones through the Mobile Phone Policy. Acceptable use and management of mobile phones (for staff) is therefore to be agreed by all service users. There is to be a clear expectation that the personal use of mobile phones is not permitted whilst on the school premises. Safe and secure storage facilities are to be made available to store personal belongings as necessary.

Aims: The aim of the Mobile Phone Policy is to protect pupils and young people from harm, by ensuring the appropriate management and use of mobile phones by all individuals who work or visit our school, including pupils themselves. Pupils and young people are also to be empowered with the skills to manage the changes in technology in a safe and appropriate way; and to be alert to the potential risks of such use. This is to be achieved through balancing protection and potential misuse. It is therefore to be recognised

that alongside the potential risks, mobile phones continue to be effective communication tools. This in turn is to contribute to safeguarding practice and protection.

Scope: The Mobile Phone Policy will apply to all individuals who are to have access to and or be users of personal and/ or work-related mobile phones within the broadest context of the setting environment. This will include pupils and young people, parents and carers, teachers and their co-ordinators, volunteers, pupils, committee members, visitors, contractors and community users. This list is not to be considered exhaustive.

Policy statement: It is to be recognised that it is the enhanced functions of many mobile phones that will give the most cause for concern; and which should be considered the most susceptible to potential misuse. Examples of misuse are to include the taking and distribution of indecent images, exploitation and cyberbullying. It must be understood that should mobile phones be misused, there will be a negative impact on an individual's safety, dignity, privacy and right to confidentiality. Such concerns are not to be considered exclusive to pupils and young people, so the needs and vulnerabilities of all must be respected and protected.

Mobile phones will also cause an unnecessary distraction during the working day and are often to be considered intrusive when used in the company of others. It will often be very difficult to detect when mobile phones are present or being used. The use of all mobile phones needs to be effectively managed to ensure the potential for misuse is to be minimised.

Code of conduct: A code of conduct is to be promoted with the aim of creating an informed workforce, who will work together to safeguard and promote positive outcomes for the pupils and young people in their care. It is to be ensured that all teachers and their co-ordinators will:

- Be aware of the need to protect pupils from harm.
- Have a clear understanding of what constitutes misuse.
- Know how to minimise risk.
- Be vigilant and alert to potential warning signs of misuse.
- Avoid putting themselves into compromising situations which could be misinterpreted and lead to potential allegations.
- Understand the need for professional boundaries and clear guidance regarding acceptable use.
- Be responsible for the self-moderation of their own behaviours.
- Be aware of the importance of reporting concerns immediately.

It is to be recognised that studies consistently indicate that imposing rigid regulations and/or 'bans' on the actions of others are counterproductive and should be avoided. Such imposition will lead to a culture of suspicion, uncertainty and secrecy. An agreement of trust is therefore to be promoted regarding the carrying and use of mobile phones within the school. This is to be agreed by all service users, including all pupils, young people and adults who are to come into contact with the school setting.

Guidance on Use of Mobile Phones by Teaching Staff: The following points apply to all staff and volunteers at our school and apply to the use of all mobile devices to ensure the quality of supervision and care of the pupils, as well as the safeguarding of pupils, staff, parents and volunteers in the school.

LIFE Wirral Sports School allows staff to bring in mobile phones for their own personal use. However, they must be kept away in closed drawers or their bags at all times, and are not allowed to be used in the presence of pupils (this includes not using them on silent mode while pupils are in the classroom, i.e. during a test or quiz). They may be used during working hours in a designated break away from the pupils. Staff are not permitted to use recording equipment on their personal mobile phones to take photos or videos of pupils. If staff fail to follow this guidance, disciplinary action will be taken in accordance LIFE Wirral Sports School, Disciplinary Policy. During outings nominated staff will be permitted to have access to their own mobile phones, which are to be used for emergency contact only. During off-campus activities, i.e. field trips and overnight excursions, trip leaders will be provided with a school-issued mobile phones/walkie talkies in good working condition. There are iPads with access to Wi-Fi owned by the school for the specific education purposes.

If staff need to make an emergency call, (such as summoning medical help or reporting an intruder on the premises) they must do so irrespective of where they are, via a school phone. Staff should provide the school number to members of the family and next of kin so in an emergency the member of staff can be contacted on the school phone.

There is a digital camera available for staff to use. Staff must ensure that there is no inappropriate or illegal content on their phones or mobile devices. Should any member of staff become aware of inappropriate or non-essential use of a mobile phone, this should be reported to a member of the SLT, and may be subject to disciplinary action.

All teachers are responsible for the storage of school mobile devices. Images taken and stored on school devices should be downloaded onto their school-issued computer and deleted from the device when no longer required. Staff are not to use their own equipment to take photos of pupils. Under no circumstances must devices of any kind be taken into the pupil toilets (this includes any device with photographic or video capabilities).

Storage and Review of Images: Images of pupils are stored securely. Digital photographs and videos are reviewed annually and are deleted when no longer required. We regularly check and update our web site, with expired material deleted.

LIFE Wirral Sports School Website and Social Media Pages: Photographs and videos may only be uploaded to the school's website or social media accounts with the Headteacher's approval. Pupil's surnames are never used on our website or social media pages. When pupils join LIFE Wirral Sports School, we ask parents to sign consent for photographs and videos to be taken for such purposes. If consent is withheld such photographs/videos are not published of the individual child concerned. Failure to adhere to the contents of this policy will lead to disciplinary procedures being followed.

External Photographers: Professional photographs are taken throughout the year at school shows, by local media and Professional School Portraits. The Headteacher ensures that professional photographers are DBS checked and that they have their own stringent regulations, which ensure safeguarding of pupils from inappropriate use of images.

Appropriate use of a Mobile Phone During the School Day (Including Social Networking): School-issued Mobile phones have a place on outings or in school buildings, which do not have access to a school landline. In these cases, they are often the only means of contact available and can be helpful in ensuring pupils are kept safe. Ideally staff should use school mobile phones in these circumstances but, if required to use a personal phone, should input 141 to ensure their own number is hidden.

When leaving the school building with pupils (e.g. for sport, or on school trips), the school-issued mobile phones/walkie talkies must be switched on and turned to loud to ensure that staff can be contacted by the school. Contact numbers for all members of staff accompanying the pupils must be left at the school office and a list of contact telephone numbers for all pupils should be with the leader of the off-site activity (although these must be kept confidential).

Staff must not post anything onto social networking sites such as Facebook that could be construed to have any impact on the organisation's reputation. (We advise all our staff to carefully restrict their Facebook profiles to ensure they cannot be contacted by parents and pupils; this could involve removing their last name from their page). We explain to staff that although they are able to accept friendship requests from friends, who may also be parents of pupils at the school, staff must be aware of the potential issues this could cause. Staff must not post anything onto social networking sites that would offend any other member of staff or parent using the setting. If any of the above points are found to be happening, then the member of staff involved will face disciplinary action, which could result in dismissal. Where email contact is initiated by pupils who have left LIFE Wirral Sports School, employees may reply from a school email address only with blind copies to line managers **and** the DSL. Staff must not accept friendship requests from pupils on roll and we advise staff not to accept requests from former pupils.

Guidance on Use of Mobile Devices by Pupils (3G, 4G and 5G access): The school recognises that by using devices which have access to 3G, 4G and 5G mobile phone networks, this can result in children having unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet, which could lead to some children, whilst at school or college, sexually harassing their peers via their mobile and smart technology, sharing

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indecent images: consensually and non-consensually (often via large chat groups), and viewing and sharing pornography and other harmful content. The school takes precautions to ensure that pupils do not have access to their personal mobile devices during the school day, and reserves the right to confiscate and monitor personal devices. All pupils' mobile devices should be kept securely in the school. In the event of a mobile phone being used without permission, the phone should be confiscated and given to the Headteacher.

Mobile devices must not be used to directly take photographs, video or sound clips of any person who is unaware of the action and who has not given their permission. Pupils and staff are informed about the statutory framework regarding the sharing and publishing of photographs and videos, regardless of the media chosen. Staff must adhere to the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and Staff Code of Conduct.

Any use of mobile technology to intimidate, bully, harass, threaten or attempt to radicalise others or breach copyright laws will be counted as an infringement of network use and breach of discipline and will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behaviour Management Discipline and Sanctions Policy. This may result in disconnection from the school network, confiscation of the mobile technology and/or legal or civil disciplinary action. Uploading images and sound is only permissible if the subject involved gives permission and if in doing so, School and statutory guidelines are not breached.

Pupils are reminded that 'sexting' (sending or posting images or videos of a sexual or indecent nature) is strictly prohibited by the school and may constitute a criminal offence. The school will treat incidences of sexting (both sending and receiving) as a safeguarding issue and pupils concerned about images that they have received, sent or forwarded should speak to any member of staff for advice.

The School has the right to confiscate and search any mobile electronic device (personal or school-issued) if it suspects that a pupil or staff member is in danger or has misused a device. This will be done in accordance with the School's policy on searching and confiscation as set out in the Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

Use of images: displays etc

We will only use images of our pupils for the following purposes:

- Internal displays (including clips of moving images and yearbooks) on digital and conventional notice boards within School premises.
- Communications with LIFE Wirral Sports School community (parents, pupils, staff), for example newsletters and E-learning Journals.
- Marketing LIFE Wirral Sports School, both digitally by website, by prospectus [which includes a DVD and YouTube channel], by displays at educational fairs and other marketing functions [both inside the UK and overseas] and by other means.

Images that we use in displays and on our web site: The images that we use for displays and communications purposes never identify an individual pupil. Instead, they name the event, the term and year that the photograph was taken (for example, 'Sports Day, Summer Term 2020'). We only use images of school activities such as school trips, sports events etc. in their proper context. We never use any image that might embarrass or humiliate a pupil. Pupils are always properly supervised when professional photographers visit LIFE Wirral Sports School.

The pupils take part in various events throughout the year, such as sporting events, field trips etc. Parents present often take photographs of these memorable events, which may include groups of pupils. If a child takes part in the events, the parents are consenting to their child possibly being photographed or included in a group photograph by other parents.

Media coverage: We will always aim to notify parents in advance when we expect the press to attend an event in which our pupils are participating, and will make every effort to ensure that images including pupils whose parents or guardians have refused permission for such images of their pupils to be used are not used. We will always complain to the Press Complaints Council (PCC) if the media fails to follow the appropriate code of practice for the protection of young people, including the pupils of celebrities.

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Staff induction: All new teaching and office staff are given guidance on the school's policy on taking, using and storing images of pupils.

Parents/Visitors and Volunteers use of mobile phones/cameras within the school buildings (Including Photographing Pupils: The growth of hand-held mobile technology and interconnectivity has implications for the safety of pupils, so in order to reflect the policy on safeguarding and child protection, it is essential parents/visitors and volunteers do not use their mobile phones/cameras in the school building, apart from circumstances as outlined below. Parents must ensure mobile phones/cameras are not on display (switched off or silent mode) while in the presence of pupils or in public areas of the school such as during meetings and school events. If staff observe that parents are using their mobile phones whilst in school, we will politely remind visitors as to why we do not permit the use of mobile phones in and around the school. The exception to this would be at an organised event. Staff should remind parents regularly of school policy with regard to mobile phone use with the following statement on weekly emails, when announcing events: "You are welcome to photograph your child at this event providing the images are for personal use only (e.g. a family album) and so are exempt from data protection Laws. Please be aware these images (which may include other pupils) must not be shared on social networking sites or other web-based forums since we regard this as 'making the image public'. Sharing images, or uploading them into a 'public space', is likely to be in breach of data protection." If they wish to make or take an emergency call, they may use the office and the school phone.

The school records images of pupils, both through moving pictures and stills, for assessment and reporting of progress, as well as celebration of their activities. It goes to some lengths to photograph events and performances, particularly in order to avoid distraction of pupils while performing and disturbance within the audience.

Parents are welcome to take photographs of their own pupils taking part in sporting and outdoor events. When an event is held indoors, such as a play or a concert, parents should be mindful of the need to use their cameras and recording devices with consideration and courtesy for the comfort of others. Flash photography can disturb others in the audience, or even cause distress for those with medical conditions; we therefore ask that it is not used at indoor events. Parents are also reminded that copyright issues may prevent us from permitting the filming or recording of some plays and concerts. We always print a reminder in the programme of events where issues of copyright apply. Additionally, the school records images of pupils, both through moving pictures and stills, for assessment and reporting of progress, as well as celebration of their activities. It goes to some lengths to photograph professionally events and performances, which are available on request particularly in order to avoid distraction of pupils while performing and disturbance within the audience.

When pupils join LIFE Wirral Sports School, we ask parents to sign consent for photographs and videos to be taken for such purposes. If consent is withheld, this must be made clear when the consent form is returned to school so that photographs/videos are not published of the individual child concerned. The pupils take part in various events throughout the year, such as sporting events, field trips, etc. Parents are welcome to take photographs of these memorable events, which may include groups of pupils. If a child takes part in the events, the parents are consenting to their child possibly being photographed or included in a group photograph by other parents. Wherever possible, parents who take photographs of groups of children who are in the care of the school should gain consent first, ensuring that once any photographs are taken, they are stored safely and not posted to social media. The school recognises that it cannot police parents taking photographs of pupils who are outside school grounds and not in the school's care, however posting such pictures online may be in breach of data protection laws without consent of all people within the photograph.

Other mobile technology: Any personal device that pupils bring to the school must be used appropriately in line with the Pupils' Acceptable Use Policy and must be kept securely. Where a pupil is found to be misusing a school or personal device, or accessing inappropriate content, the device may be confiscated by the school and appropriate action taken. When accessing the school WiFi, staff and pupils must adhere to their ICT Acceptable Use Policy. Staff, pupils, volunteers and parents are responsible for their own mobile devices and the school is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage.

Driving and the law: The use of hand-held phones while driving, whether to make or receive a call, is prohibited. The only exception to this will be in the event of a genuine emergency call to 999 or 112, if it would be unsafe for the driver to stop. Hand-held mobile phones used with an earphone and microphone are covered under the ban, as they still require the user to hold the phone to press buttons or to read a message on the phone's screen. The Chief Executive Officer will not require any employee to receive or make calls on a mobile phone while driving. Mobile phones must instead be directed to the message/voicemail service while driving. The Headteacher will not assist in the payment of any fine levied against anyone using a hand-held mobile phone while driving. An employee will be regarded as driving if the engine is running, even if the vehicle is stationary. Notification of any contravention of these requirements may be regarded as a disciplinary matter.



APPENDIX 4

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF PUPILS AND DATA PROTECTION FORM (to be completed by all parents)

Photographs

LIFE Wirral Sports School would like your permission to use photographs of your child for marketing and publicity purposes including our website, prospectus, adverts, press releases and other marketing literature such as brochures and leaflets. We will not use names next to photographs of pupils on the website (in accordance with the DfE guidelines).

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Pupil's name: _____

Pupil's year group: _____

I **give my permission** for LIFE Wirral Sports School to use photographs of my child for marketing and publicity purposes (please tick if applicable)

I **do not give my permission** for LIFE Wirral Sports School to use photographs of my child for marketing and publicity purposes (please tick if applicable)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Data Protection Statement

Information about parents/carers is collated, stored and used by LIFE Wirral Sports School for the purposes of keeping you informed of events and activities concerning LIFE Wirral Sports School and for fundraising. By signing this form, you consent to LIFE Wirral Sports School using your data in this way. This information will not be used for any other purpose or passed to any person outside the school without your consent.

I **consent** to LIFE Wirral Sports School using my data for the stated purposes

I **do not consent** to LIFE Wirral Sports School using my data for the stated purposes

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 5: Online safety FAQs

How will the policy be introduced to Pupils?

- Rules for Internet access will be posted in all rooms where computers are used
- Pupils will be informed that Internet use will be monitored
- Instruction in responsible and safe use should precede Internet access
- A module on responsible Internet use will be included in the PSHE programme covering both home and school use.
- Pupils will be informed that network and Internet use will be monitored and appropriately followed up.
- Pupils will be made aware of the acceptable use of technology and sign upon enrolment

How will ICT system security be maintained?

- The school ICT systems will be reviewed regularly with regard to security
- Security strategies will be discussed at staff meetings.
- Virus protection will be installed and updated regularly.
- Personal data sent over the Internet will be encrypted or otherwise secured.
- Use of portable media such as USB sticks, SD Cards and Hard Drives to carry work should be kept confidential by staff and not used in public computers.
- Files held on the school network will be regularly checked
- All network system and administration passwords are to be recorded by the IT Department and kept in a secure place with regular updates

How will staff be consulted and made aware of this policy?

- All staff must accept the terms of the 'Responsible Internet Use' statement included in the staff handbook before using any Internet resource in school.
- All new staff will be taken through the key parts of this policy as part of their induction.
- All staff including teachers, learning support assistants and support staff will be provided with the School online safety Policy and have its importance explained as part of the child protection training requirement.
- Staff will be informed that network and Internet traffic can be monitored and traced to the individual user.
- Staff development in safe and responsible Internet use, and on the school Internet policy will be provided as required.
- Breaching this online safety policy may result in disciplinary action being taken and access to ICT being restricted or removed.
- Staff will read the ICT Acceptable Use Policy and sign the form prior to using school ICT equipment in the school

How will complaints regarding Internet use be handled?

- Responsibility for handling complaints that have progressed to Stage 2 will be delegated to a relevant member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- Complaints of Internet misuse will be dealt with by the Headteacher.
- Any complaint about staff misuse must be referred to the Headteacher.
- Complaints of a child protection nature must be dealt with in accordance with our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and procedures.
- Pupils and parents will be informed of the complaint procedure which is available on the LIFE Wirral Sports School website.
- Parents and Pupils will need to work in partnership with staff to resolve issues.
- There may be occasions when the police must be contacted. Early contact could be made to establish the legal position and discuss strategies.

How will parents' support be enlisted?

- Parents' attention will be drawn to the responsible Internet use policy in newsletters, and internet safety guidance on the school website.
- Internet issues will be handled sensitively to inform parents without undue alarm.

- A partnership approach will be encouraged with parents and could include information booklets, practical sessions and suggestions for safe Internet use at home.
- Advice on filtering systems and educational and leisure activities that include responsible use of the Internet will be made available to parents.
- We will maintain a list of online safety resources for parents.

Why is the use of Internet and ICT important?

Not only is familiarity with the use of ICT equipment a core requirement, but the efficient use of the equipment and available resources is also considered key – for example, the use of email for efficient communication and the correct use of the Internet for research. Staff across the school are making increased use of ICT, which benefits not only the quality of teaching and support services but also their professional development. It is equally important that staff are properly equipped and supported to make the most efficient use of ICT resources. In particular, ICT is extremely beneficial in engaging our pupils, who have learning and physical disabilities. It can also help them to access parts of the curriculum, which they might not otherwise be able to engage with.

All pupils deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential; in our modern society this should incorporate the use of “Appropriate and Safe” ICT facilities including online resources and services. Internet use is a part of the statutory curriculum and a necessary tool for staff and Pupils. The school has a duty to provide Pupils with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience. In order for the school to maintain such an environment for learners (pupils and adults) everybody must be aware of the need to ensure online protection (online safety) and subsequently understand the principles of this policy and the expectations of school practice as documented below.

How is the Safe Use of ICT and the Internet Promoted?

LIFE Wirral Sports School takes very seriously the importance of teaching pupils (and staff) to use ICT - and especially the Internet - in a safe and responsible manner. This will have a positive impact on not only the use of ICT in school, but also outside school in the wider community. LIFE Wirral Sports School has in place an Internet firewall, Internet content filtering and antivirus software, and various IT security policies, which help to ameliorate the risk of accessing inappropriate and unauthorised material. However, no system is 100% safe and LIFE Wirral Sports School will further promote safe use of ICT and the Internet by educating pupils and staff about the risks and the ways they can be mitigated by acting sensibly and responsibly. The school will ensure that the use of Internet derived materials by staff and Pupils complies with copyright law. LIFE Wirral Sports School will help pupils to understand the risks posed by adults or young people, who use the Internet and social media to bully, groom, abuse or radicalise other people, especially pupils, young people and vulnerable adults. Internet safety is integral to the school’s ICT curriculum and is also be embedded in our PSHEE and SMSC provision. The latest resources promoted by the DfE can be found at:

- The UK Safer Internet Centre (www.saferinternet.org.uk)
- CEOP’s Thinkuknow website (www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- PSHE Association (<https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/>)
- Google Legends (KS2) (https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk)

How does the Internet and use of ICT benefit education in our school?

- Pupils learn effective ways to use ICT and the Internet including safe and responsible use.
- Access to worldwide educational resources including museums and art galleries.
- Educational and cultural exchanges between Pupils worldwide.
- Access to experts in many fields for pupils and staff.
- Staff professional development through access to national developments, educational materials and good curriculum practice.
- Communication with support services, professional associations and colleagues.
- Improved access to technical support.
- Exchange of curriculum and administration data with LA and DfE.
- Support of the wider curriculum through the use of word processing, spreadsheet and presentation tools, specialist applications, and the use of the Internet for research purposes.

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How will Pupils learn to evaluate Internet content?

- Pupils will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location, evaluation and retrieval.
- Pupils will be taught what Internet use is acceptable and what is not and given clear guidelines for Internet use.
- If staff or Pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address) and content must be reported to the teacher or the online safety officer.
- Staff and Pupils should ensure that their use of Internet derived materials complies with copyright law
- Pupils will be taught to be critically aware of the materials they read and show how to validate and evaluate information before accepting its accuracy.
- Pupils will be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright.

How is Filtering Managed?

Having Internet access enables pupils to explore thousands of global libraries, databases and bulletin boards. They are also able to exchange messages with other learners and teachers throughout the world. All unsuitable websites will be filtered and automatically blocked by our security systems and will not be made accessible to pupils. Filtering will be tailored to suit the individual needs of subjects and the school generally appropriate to the age of pupils. Although this filtering uses the latest security technology, parents/guardians will wish to be aware that some pupils may find ways to access material that is inaccurate, defamatory, illegal or potentially offensive to some people.

However, at LIFE Wirral Sports School we believe that the benefits to pupils having access to the Internet in the form of information, resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed any disadvantages. However, as with any other area, parents and guardians of minors along with LIFE Wirral Sports School share the responsibility for setting and conveying the standards that pupils should follow when accessing and using these media information sources at school and/or at home. During school time, teachers will guide pupils towards appropriate material on the Internet. Outside school, families bear the same responsibility for guidance as they exercise with other information, sources such as television, telephones, films and radio.

- The school will work in partnership with parents/guardians, the Local Authority (LA) and Department for Education (DfE) to ensure systems to protect pupils are reviewed and improved.
- If staff or pupils come across unsuitable on-line materials, they must report it to the DSL immediately.
- The school will take every step to ensure that appropriate filtering systems are in place to protect pupils from unsuitable material and the methods used will be reviewed regularly.
- Any material that the school believes is illegal must be referred to the Internet Watch Foundation (www.iwf.co.uk).

How are Emerging Technologies Managed?

ICT in the 21st Century has an all-encompassing role within the lives of pupils and adults. New technologies are enhancing communication and the sharing of information. Current and emerging technologies used in school and, more importantly in many cases, used outside of school by pupils may include:

- The Internet
- E-mail
- Instant messaging / video messaging apps (WhatsApp / WeChat / iMessage)
- Social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok)
- Blogs (an on-line interactive diary)
- Podcasting (radio / audio broadcasts downloaded to computer or MP3/4 player)
- Video broadcasting sites (Popular: <http://www.youtube.com/> ,Twitch)
- Chat Rooms (Popular www.teenchat.com, Discord)
- Gaming Sites
- Music download sites (Popular Apple, Spotify,)
- Smart Phones (where all of the above can be accessed)

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- Mobile technology (e.g. games consoles)

How to React to Misuse by Pupils and Young People

- **Step 1:** Should it be considered that a child or young person has deliberately misused ICT, a letter will be sent to the parent or carer outlining the issue. The child or young person may be temporarily suspended from a particular activity.
- **Step 2:** If there are to be further incidents of misuse, the child or young person will be suspended from using the Internet or other relevant technology for an increased period of time. The parent or carer will be invited to discuss the incident in more detail with a member of the Leadership Team and the most appropriate course of action will be agreed.
- **Step 3:** The sanctions for misuse can be escalated at any stage, should it be considered necessary. In the event that misuse is deemed to be of a serious nature, steps 1 and 2 can be omitted. Should a child or young person be considered to be at risk of significant harm, the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy must also be applied. Allegations of serious misuse will be reported to the most appropriate agency, for example, the Police or Children's Social Care.

In the event that a child or young person should accidentally access inappropriate material, it must be reported to an adult immediately. Appropriate action is to be taken to hide or minimise the window. The computer will not be switched off nor will the page be closed, as it may be necessary to refer to the site during investigations to allow effective filters to be put in place to prevent further inadvertent access.

How is Printing Managed?

The use of the ICT printers may be monitored on an individual basis to encourage careful use of printing resources. As well as being a significant capital cost, the consumables (ink, laser printer toner and drums, and paper) associated with printing represent one of the most expensive ongoing costs associated with ICT. Whilst the school would not wish to discourage the proper use of printers, it is important to ensure that printing facilities are used efficiently and effectively. Pupils and staff are asked to take care not to waste printing resources, for example by using "Print Preview" to check work before sending it to the printer and by using colour print only when necessary.

What are the categories of Cyber-Bullying? Seven categories of cyber-bullying have been identified:

- **Text message bullying** involves sending unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort;
- **Picture/video-clip bullying via mobile phone cameras** is used to make the person being bullied feel threatened or embarrassed, with images usually sent to other people. 'Happy slapping' involves filming and sharing physical attacks;
- **Phone call bullying via mobile phone** uses silent calls or abusive messages. Sometimes the bullied person's phone is stolen and used to harass others, who then think the phone owner is responsible. As with all mobile phone bullying, the perpetrators often disguise their numbers, sometimes using someone else's phone to avoid being identified;
- **Email bullying** uses email to send bullying or threatening messages, often using a pseudonym for anonymity or using someone else's name to pin the blame on them.
- **Online grooming, Chat room and Social Networking Site abuse** involves sending menacing or upsetting responses to pupils or young people, or posting inappropriate material in a public digital locale.
- **Bullying through instant messaging (IM)** is an Internet-based form of bullying where pupils and young people are sent unpleasant messages as they conduct real-time conversations online.
- **Bullying via websites** includes the use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal polling sites. There has also been a significant increase in social networking sites for young people, which can provide new opportunities for cyber-bullying.

General Housekeeping:

The ICT equipment used by the school represents a considerable financial investment. It makes sense to treat it well so that it will remain in good working order. In addition, the ICT resource is finite e.g. computers can run out of disk space; users should be encouraged to think about the amount of file storage they use and the need to keep it well organised. The school does not currently operate a quota system for disk space or mailboxes, but will consider doing so should the need arise.

The following will apply:

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- Treat ICT equipment with respect and keep areas around ICT equipment clean and tidy.
- Normal school rules and consideration of others applies.
- Keep the amount of storage you use to a minimum. Clear out old and unused files regularly.

Pupil Rules when using school ICT: Due to the variety of resources throughout the school, including the use of portable digital equipment, the following rules are to be considered as appropriate to the location and the resource.

- Obtain permission to access school-issued ICT resources.
- Food and drink must not be consumed near any computer equipment anywhere in the school.
- Any person found defacing or wilfully damaging ICT equipment will be required to correct the damage caused or pay for replacement.
- Computer/device faults should be promptly reported to the ICT Co-ordinator. Please do not attempt to repair them yourself.
- Be aware of correct posture. Always ensure that your chair is at the optimum height for you and that you are sitting correctly at a workstation when possible.
- At the end of a session using a computer:
- Log off/shut down according to instructions.
- Replace laptops/equipment as directed.
- Wind up and put away any headsets.

What has Research into Cyber Bullying Found?

Because of the anonymity that new communications technologies offer, anyone with a mobile phone or Internet connection can be a target for cyber-bullying. Furthermore, bullies can reach much larger numbers within a peer group than they can with conventional bullying. Vindictive comments posted on a website, for instance, can be seen by a large audience, as can video clips sent by mobile phone. Most cyber-bullying is done by pupils in the same class or year group and although it leaves no visible scars, cyber-bullying of all types can be extremely destructive.

- Between a fifth and a quarter of pupils have been cyber-bullied at least once over the previous few months.
- Phone calls, text messages and email are the most common forms of cyber-bullying.
- There is more cyber-bullying outside school than in.
- Girls are more likely than boys to be involved in cyber-bullying in school, usually by phone.
- For boys, text messaging is the most usual form of cyber-bullying, followed by picture/video clip or website bullying.
- Picture/video clip and phone call bullying are perceived as the most harmful forms of cyber-bullying.
- Website and text bullying are equated in impact to other forms of bullying.
- Around a third of those being cyber-bullied tell no one about the bullying.

What is the impact on a child of ICT based sexual abuse?

The impact on a child of ICT based sexual abuse is similar to that for all sexually abused pupils. However, it has an additional dimension in that there is a visual record of the abuse. ICT based sexual abuse of a child constitutes significant harm through sexual and emotional abuse. Recognition and response is recognising a situation where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer a degree of physical, sexual and/or emotional harm (through abuse or neglect) which is so harmful that there needs to be compulsory intervention by child protection agencies into the life of the child and their family.

Why is Promoting Safe Use of ICT Important?

LIFE Wirral Sports School takes very seriously the importance of teaching pupils (and staff) to use ICT - and especially the Internet - in a safe and responsible manner. This will have a positive impact on not only the use of ICT in school, but also outside school in the wider community.

What does the school's Mobile Phone Policy Include?

- The commitment to keep the pupils safe.

- How we manage the use of mobile phones at LIFE Wirral Sports School taking into consideration staff, pupils on placement, volunteers, other professionals, Proprietor, visitors and parents/carers.
- How we inform parents/carers, visitors and other professional of our procedures.
- What type of mobile phones will be used on educational visits and learning outside the classroom.
- The consequences of any breaches of this policy.
- Reference to other policies, such as Whistleblowing and Safeguarding Children-Child Protection Policies.

What are the rules for publishing content online?

- Staff or Pupil personal contact information will not be published on the school website. The only contact details given on our website will be the school address and telephone number.
- Pupil's full names will not be used anywhere on the school website or other on-line space.
- We may use photographs of pupils or their work when communicating with parents and the wider community, in newsletters and in the school prospectus.
- Photographs will be checked to ensure that they are suitable (photos of pupils in swimwear would be unsuitable).

Appendix 6 - Acceptable Use Policy of Mobile Phones and 3G/4G/5G compatible devices

It is our intention to provide within this policy an environment in which children, parents, and staff are safe from images being recorded and inappropriately used, in turn eliminating the potential use to interfere with the dignity and privacy of all individuals and thus compromise the confidentiality of the children in our care.

Purpose: The widespread ownership of Mobile phones and 3G/4G/5G compatible devices (referred to throughout this document as mobile devices) among young people requires that school administrators, teachers, pupils, parents and carers take steps to ensure that these devices are used safely and responsibly at school. This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile devices can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that they can provide can continue to be enjoyed by our pupils.

LIFE Wirral Sports School has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile devices that provides teachers, pupils, parents and carers guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of these devices during the time pupils are under the care of LIFE Wirral Sports School, inclusive of the academic day, on the school grounds and all educational visits. Pupils, their parents or carers must read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy as a condition upon which permission is given to bring mobile devices to school.

Rationale: The school recognises that personal communication through mobile devices such as mobile technologies is an accepted part of everyday life, therefore such technologies are to be used responsibly and in accordance with the LIFE Wirral Sports School Acceptable Use Policy. LIFE Wirral Sports School accepts that parents/carers give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently.

Responsibility: It is the responsibility of pupils who bring mobile devices to school to follow the guidelines outlined in this document. The decision to provide any mobile devices to their children should be made by parents or carers. It is important that parents understand the capabilities of these devices and the potential uses or misuses of those capabilities. If needed, guidance to this information can be signposted by the school. Parents/carers should be aware that if their child brings any device, including a mobile phone to school, the school does not accept responsibility for any loss, damage or costs. Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached in a relevant and appropriate way. Parents/carers are requested that in cases of emergency they contact the school first so we are aware of any potential issue and may make any necessary arrangements.

Acceptable Uses: Mobile phones should not be used during the school day. Students are permitted to bring phones to school but phones will be placed in a portable safe on arrival and locked away whilst at LIFE. Students will be given back their phones as the end of the school day. Staff are required to keep their phones in staffroom lockers or in offices for the duration of the school day.

Unacceptable Uses: In order to protect one's privacy and respect to others, unless express permission is granted, mobile phones, laptops and mobile devices should not be used by students to make calls, send messages, use the internet, take photos or use any other application during the school day.

- Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other pupils is unacceptable. Cyber bullying will not be tolerated. In some cases, it can constitute criminal behaviour. If the use of technology humiliates, embarrasses or causes offence it is unacceptable regardless of whether 'consent' was given. (Please refer to the Anti-bullying and Online safety and IT Policies.)
- Safeguarding, privacy and respect are paramount at LIFE Wirral Sports School. To this end, it is prohibited to take a picture of or record a member of staff without their permission. In the event that this happens the pupil will be asked and expected to delete those images and may be requested to turn over the device to the Headteacher and/or the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

LIFE Wirral Sports School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.

Theft or damage: Mobile phones or any mobile devices that are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to the office. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged devices. The school accepts no responsibility for damage to or loss of mobile phones or mobile devices while travelling to and from school. **It is strongly advised that pupils use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones or other mobile devices. Pupils must keep their password/pin numbers confidential.**

Inappropriate conduct: Under exam regulations, mobile phones are prohibited from all examinations. Any pupil found in possession of a mobile phone during an examination will have that paper disqualified. Such an incident may result in all other exam papers being disqualified. Pupils with mobile phones may not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person using messages, taking/sending photos or objectionable images, and phone calls. Pupils using mobile phones to bully other pupils will face disciplinary action. (It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the police). Pupils must ensure that files stored on their phones do not contain violent, degrading, racist or pornographic images. The transmission of such images is a criminal offence, and the school is obliged to report any findings of this nature to the police and local authority. Similarly, 'sexting' – which is the sending of personal sexual imagery - is also a criminal offence, which obliges the school to report to the police and local authority.

Measures: The following measures may be used in consultation and conjunction with the Anti-bullying, Child Protection and Safeguarding, Online Safety and IT Policies. The LIFE Wirral Sports School Online Safety Officer and DSL must be consulted when inappropriate conduct requires a mobile phone to be confiscated and searched.

Violation of the rules set out in this document are subject to the disciplinary measures set out in the Behaviour Management Policy.

I have read and understand this policy:

Pupil signature: _____ Parents: Informed via email communication