

*Be Safe, Belong, Be Inspired*

<b>School:</b>	<b>Haywards Farm &amp; Northcroft School</b>		
<b>Policy:</b>	<b>Online Safety and E-Safety Policy</b>		
<p>This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis; however, should a need arise, it will be reviewed when required.</p> <p>This policy will be read, understood, and signed by all staff yearly and when changes have been made in line with government and DfE guidelines and changes.</p>			
<b>Document Control:</b>			
<p>Subject Policies, Equality Policy, PSHE and RSE Policy, Behaviour Policy, Anti Bullying Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Child-on-Child Abuse Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy.</p>			
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<b>Date of next review:</b>	July 2026	<b>Review schedule:</b>	Annual
<b>Type of policy:</b>	Statutory	<b>Reference:</b>	NC Online Safety and E-Safety Policy 2024-2025
<b>Owner:</b>	Haywards Farm & Northcroft School	<b>Approval:</b>	Proprietors

#### Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
1	July 2024	Created and implemented	RR
2	July 2025	Yearly Update	AW
3	January 2026	Staff changes	AW

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**Rational**

This Online Safety Policy has been developed by Haywards Farm & Northcroft School in consultation with staff and parents/carers.

The policy is informed by the Department for Education statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025, the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, Working Together to Safeguard Children, and local safeguarding arrangements, including the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures.

We recognise that online safety is a fundamental element of safeguarding, pupil wellbeing, and mental health. The school has a duty to protect pupils and staff from harmful or inappropriate online content, behaviours, and interactions, and to support pupils to develop safe, responsible, and resilient engagement with digital technologies.

In line with KCSIE 2025, the school acknowledges that online risks are continually evolving and may include exposure to:

- Harmful or inappropriate online content and interactions.
- The use and misuse of artificial intelligence (AI), including generative AI tools that may produce misleading, inaccurate, or harmful material.
- Misinformation and disinformation, including false or misleading information shared deliberately or unintentionally.
- Fake news, manipulated media, and deepfake content.
- Conspiracy theories or persuasive online narratives that may negatively influence pupils' beliefs, behaviour, emotional wellbeing, or mental health.

We recognise that exposure to such content may contribute to safeguarding concerns including emotional distress, anxiety, low self-esteem, exploitation, radicalisation, coercion, bullying, and the normalisation of harmful ideologies. These risks may be heightened for vulnerable pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), who may be more susceptible to misleading or persuasive online material.

This policy outlines the school's whole-school approach to online safety, which seeks to:

- Protect pupils and staff from online harm.
- Promote positive online behaviour and digital resilience.
- Support pupil wellbeing and mental health in relation to online experiences.
- Ensure clear procedures are in place to identify, respond to, record, and escalate online safety concerns in line with safeguarding procedures.

Online safety is promoted through curriculum delivery, staff training, appropriate filtering and monitoring systems, and a culture of openness where pupils feel safe to report concerns.

To support schools to meet this duty, the Department for Education has published filtering and monitoring standards which set out that schools should:

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- Identify and assign roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems.
- Review filtering and monitoring provision at least annually.
- Block harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning.
- Have effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs. Proprietors should review the standards and discuss with IT staff and service providers what more needs to be done to support school in meeting this standard.
- The Prevent duty Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers and Home Office Statutory guidance: Prevent duty guidance.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School understands that breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:

- content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, 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, for example, consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying.
- commerce: risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises that students are at risk of abuse online as well as face to face. In many cases abuse will take place concurrently via online channels and in daily life. Children can also abuse other children online.

This policy applies to Students, parents and carers and all staff, including the Proprietors, leadership team, teachers, support staff, external contractors, visitors, volunteers, and other individuals who work for, or provide services on behalf of the school.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School identifies that the internet and technology, including computers, tablets, mobile phones, smart watches, games consoles and social media, is an important part of everyday life, and presents positive and exciting opportunities, as well as challenges and risks. This policy applies to all access to and use of technology, both on and offsite.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognise that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected online, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as being abusive or harmful. This should not prevent staff from having professional curiosity and speaking to a DSL if they have any online safety concerns about a child.

**Responding to Emerging Risks**

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Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises that the internet is a constantly changing environment with new apps, devices, websites and material emerging at a rapid pace, we will:

- carry out an annual review of our online safety approaches which will be supported by an annual risk assessment which considers and reflects the specific risks our pupils face.
- regularly review the methods used to identify, assess and minimise online risks.
- examine emerging technologies for educational benefit and undertake appropriate risk assessments before their use is permitted.
- ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring is in place and take all reasonable precautions to ensure that internet access is appropriate.
- recognise that due to the global and connected nature of the internet, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material cannot be accessed via our systems, and as such identify clear procedures to follow if breaches or concerns arise.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is recognised as holding overall lead responsibility for online safety; however, Haywards Farm & Northcroft School identifies that all members of the community have important roles and responsibilities to play with regards to online safety. Whilst activities of the DSL may be delegated to an appropriately trained deputies, the lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection, including online safety remains with them.

Leaders and DSLs access guidance about establishing 'appropriate levels' of filtering and monitoring to help inform their decision making: [Homepage - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Proprietors of Haywards Farm & Northcroft School alongside the Head Teacher will review the standards 142 and discuss the needs of the school on a termly bases within the termly board meeting to decided what more needs to be done to support the schools in meeting this standard. Properties will use DFE'S Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges - Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) which set out that schools to ensure regulations are met and the Safeguarding policy and safety policy are reflected in practise.

When reviewing online safety provision, the board will make reference to UKCIS external visitors guidance and highlights a range of resources which can support educational settings to develop a whole school approach towards online safety. Information and support 148 will be used during this time along with 39 and parents to keep children safe online. Northcroft School will be registered for both girls and boys and they're for will be mindful of this regulation.

### **Filtering and Monitoring**

The Department for Education has published filtering and monitoring standards which Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will evidence below it now follows:

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- Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will review this policy at least annually. The policy will also be revised following any national or local policy updates, any local concerns and/or any changes to our technical infrastructure.
- Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will regularly monitor internet use taking place via our provided devices and systems and evaluate online safety mechanisms to ensure that this policy is consistently applied.
- The Head Teacher and Proprietor will report on online safety practice and incidents, including outcomes, on a six-weekly basis.
- Any issues identified will be incorporated into an action plan.

**The Leadership and Management Team will:**

- Create a whole school culture that incorporates online safety throughout.
- Ensure that online safety is viewed as a safeguarding issue and that practice is in line with national and local recommendations and requirements.
- Implement appropriate and up-to-date policies which address the acceptable use of technology, child on child abuse, use of social media and mobile technology.
- Work with technical staff and IT support to ensure that suitable and appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place.
- Support the DSL and any deputies by ensuring they have enough time and resources to carry out their responsibilities.
- Ensure robust reporting channels are in place regarding online safety concerns.
- Undertake appropriate risk assessments regarding the safe use of technology on site.
- Audit and evaluate online safety practice to identify strengths and areas for improvement.
- Ensure that staff, pupils and parents and carers are proactively engaged in activities which promote online safety.
- Support staff to ensure that online safety is embedded within a progressive whole school curriculum which enables all pupils to develop an appropriate understanding of online safety.

**The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will:**

- Act as a named point of contact on all online safeguarding issues.
- Liaise with other members of staff, such as Deputy DSLs, IT technicians, network managers and the therapeutic team on matters of online safety as appropriate.
- Ensure referrals are made to relevant external partner agencies, as appropriate.
- Work alongside deputy DSLs to ensure online safety is recognised as part of the school's safeguarding responsibilities, and that a coordinated whole school approach is implemented.
- Access regular and appropriate training and support to ensure they understand the unique risks associated with online safety and have the relevant and up-to date knowledge required to keep pupils safe

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online, including the additional risks that pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) face online.

- Ensure all members of staff receive regular, up-to-date and appropriate online safety training and information as part of their induction and child protection training.
- Keep up to date with current research, legislation and trends regarding online safety and communicate this with the community, as appropriate.
- Work with staff to coordinate participation in local and national events to promote positive online behaviour, such as Safer Internet Day.
- Ensure that online safety is promoted to parents and carers and the wider community through a variety of channels and approaches.
- Maintain records of online safety concerns as well as actions taken, as part of the schools safeguarding recording mechanisms.
- Monitor online safety incidents to identify gaps and trends and use this data to update the education response and school policies and procedures.
- Report online safety concerns, as appropriate, to the senior leadership team and proprietors.
- Work with the leadership team to review and update online safety policies on a regular basis (at least annually) with stakeholder input.
- Meet regularly with the proprietor with a lead responsibility for safeguarding.

**It is the responsibility of all members of staff to:**

- Contribute to the development of our online safety policies.
- Read and adhere to our online safety policy and acceptable use of technology policies.
- Take responsibility for the security of IT systems and the electronic data they use or have access to.
- Model good practice when using technology with pupils.
- Maintain a professional level of conduct in their personal use of technology, both on and off site.
- Embed online safety education in curriculum delivery wherever possible.
- Have an awareness of a range of online safety issues and how they may be experienced by the pupils in their care.
- Identify online safety concerns and take appropriate action by following our safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Know when and how to escalate online safety issues, including reporting to the DSL and signposting pupils and parents and carers to appropriate support, internally and externally.
- Take personal responsibility for professional development in this area.

It is the responsibility of staff managing the technical environment to:

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- Provide technical support and perspective to the DSL and leadership team, especially in the development and implementation of appropriate online safety policies and procedures.
- Implement appropriate security measures including Securely - The Student Safety

Company as directed by the leadership team to ensure that the schools IT infrastructure is secure and not open to misuse or malicious attack, whilst allowing learning opportunities to be maximised.

- Ensure that our filtering policy and monitoring systems and approaches are applied and updated on a regular basis; responsibility for its implementation is shared with the leadership team.
- Ensure appropriate technical support and access to our filtering and monitoring systems is given to the DSL to enable them to take appropriate safeguarding action when required.

**It is the responsibility of pupils (at a level that is appropriate to their individual age and ability) to:**

- Engage in age/ability appropriate online safety education.
- Contribute to the development of online safety policies.
- Read and adhere to the acceptable use of technology and behaviour policies.
- Respect the feelings and rights of others, on and offline.
- Take an appropriate level of responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe online.
- Seek help from a trusted adult, if they are concerned about anything, they or others experience online.

**It is the responsibility of parents and carers to:**

- Read our school rules for internet use and share these with their children.
- Support our online safety approaches by discussing online safety issues with their children and reinforcing appropriate and safe online behaviours at home.
- Role model safe and appropriate use of technology and social media and abide by the homeschool agreement and acceptable use of technology policies.
- Seek help and support from the school or other appropriate agencies if they or their child encounter online issues.
- Contribute to the development of our online safety policies.
- Use our systems, such as learning platforms and other IT resources, safely and appropriately.
- Take responsibility for their own awareness in relation to the risks and opportunities posed by the new and emerging technologies that their children access and use at home.
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**Education and Engagement Approaches**

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Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will establish and embed a whole school culture and will empower our pupils to acquire the knowledge needed to use the technology in a safe, considered and respectful way, and develop their resilience so they can manage and respond to online risks. We will raise awareness and promote safe and responsible internet use amongst pupils by:

- Ensuring our curriculum and whole school approach is developed in line with the UK
- Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) 'Education for a Connected World Framework' and DfE 'Teaching online safety in school' guidance.
- Ensuring online safety is addressed in Relationships Education. Using supporting tools from the DfE advice for schools: teaching online safety in school. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachingonline-safety-in-schools>
- Reinforcing online safety principles in other curriculum subjects and whenever technology or the internet is used on site.
- Creating a safe environment in which all pupils feel comfortable to say what they feel, without fear of getting into trouble and/or being judged for talking about something which happened to them online.
- Involving the DSL as part of planning for online safety lessons or activities, so they can advise on any known safeguarding cases, and ensure support is in place for any pupils who may be impacted by the content.
- Making informed decisions to ensure that any educational resources used are appropriate for our pupils.
- Using external visitors, where appropriate, to complement and support our internal online safety education approaches.
- Providing online safety education as part of the transition programme across the key stages and when moving between establishments.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will ensure pupils develop the underpinning knowledge and behaviours needed to navigate the online world safely, in a way which suits their age and ability by:

- Ensuring age-appropriate education regarding safe and responsible use precedes internet access.
- Enabling them to understand what acceptable and unacceptable online behaviour looks like.
- Teaching pupils to evaluate what they see online and recognise techniques used for persuasion, so they can make effective judgements about if what they see is true, valid, or acceptable.
- Educating them in the effective use of the internet to research, including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval, and evaluation.
- Preparing them to identify possible online risks and make informed decisions about how to act and respond.
- Ensuring they know how and when to seek support if they are concerned or upset by something they see or experience online.

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### Vulnerable Pupils

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises that any pupils can be vulnerable online, and vulnerability can fluctuate depending on age, developmental stage, and personal circumstances. However, there are some pupils, for example, looked after children, child who are care leavers, children who are adopted, children who are, or who are perceived to be, lesbian, gay, bi, or trans (LGBT), and those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), who may be more susceptible or may have less support in staying safe online.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will ensure that differentiated and appropriate online safety education, access, and support is provided to all pupils who require additional or targeted education and/or support.

Staff at Northcroft School will seek input from specialist staff as appropriate, including the DSL, SENCO, Designated Teacher to ensure that the policy and curriculum is appropriate to our community's needs.

### Training and Engagement with Staff

All staff at Haywards Farm & Northcroft School during their induction period have full access to online safety training, Volunteers and agency works will also take part in a full induction to ensure that they are fully equipped to work in line with school and company policy. In addition, all staff will receive safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) updates these will take place in our weekly safeguarding bulleting and within staff meetings, as required, and at least annually, to continue to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively, we will:

- provide and discuss the online safety policy and procedures, including our acceptable use procedure, with all members of staff, including proprietors as part of induction.
- Provide up-to-date and appropriate training for all staff, including proprietors which is integrated, aligned, and considered as part of our overarching safeguarding approach.
- Ensure our training for proprietors equips them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that our online safety policies and procedures in place in are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole school approach.
- Ensure that online safety training provided to all staff is regularly updated.
- Ensure our training covers the potential risks posed to pupils (content, contact and conduct) as well as our professional practice expectations.
- Build on existing expertise, by providing opportunities for staff to contribute to and shape our online safety approaches.
- Ensure staff are aware that our IT systems are monitored, and that activity can be traced to individual users. Staff will be reminded to behave professionally and in accordance with our policies when accessing our systems and devices.
- Ensure staff are aware that their online conduct, including personal use of social media, can have an impact on their professional role and reputation.
- Highlight useful educational resources and tools which staff could use with pupils.

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- Ensure all members of staff are aware of the procedures to follow regarding online safety concerns involving pupils, colleagues, or other members of the community.

**Awareness and Engagement with Parents and Carers**

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises that parents and carers have an essential role to play in enabling our pupils to become safe and responsible users of the internet and associated technologies.

**We will ensure parents and carers understand and are aware of:**

- The systems used at school to filter and monitor their child's online use by providing information in our home-school agreement.
- What their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will ask to access by providing information in our home-school agreement.

**We will build a partnership approach and reinforce the importance of online safety through regular contact and communication with parents and carers by:**

- Providing information and guidance on online safety in a variety of formats. This will include offering specific online safety awareness training.
- Drawing their attention to our online safety policy and expectations in our newsletters and other external communication (such as letters and social media channels) as well as on our website.
- Requesting parents and carers read online safety information as part of joining our community, for example, within our home school agreement.
- Requiring them to read our acceptable use of technology policies and discuss the implications with their children.

**Safer Use of Technology**

**Classroom use**

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School uses a wide range of technology. This includes access to:

- Computers, laptops, tablets, and other digital devices
- Internet, which may include search engines and educational websites.
- Digital cameras, webcams, and video cameras.

All school owned devices will be used in accordance with our acceptable use of technology procedures and with appropriate safety and security measures in place.

Members of staff will always evaluate websites, tools, and apps fully before use in the classroom or recommending for use at home.

Use of video sharing platforms will be in accordance with our acceptable use of technology procedures, following an informed risk assessment and with appropriate safety and security measures in place. This includes using supervised educational versions of video sharing platforms with children or for adult educational use. Any videos viewed should be previewed before sharing as a teaching tool with children.

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We will ensure that the use of internet-derived materials by staff and pupils complies with copyright law and acknowledge the source of information.

Supervision of internet access and technology use will be appropriate to pupils age and ability.

This includes:

- Key Stage 2 / Key stage 3 /Key stage 4
- Pupils will use age-appropriate search engines and online tools.
- Pupils will be directed by the teacher to online materials and resources which support the learning outcomes planned for the pupils age and ability.
- Managing internet access
- All users will read and agree and/or acknowledge our acceptable use procedure, appropriate to their age, understanding and role, before being given access to our computer system, IT resources or the internet.
- We will maintain a record of users who are granted access to our devices and systems.

**Decision making**

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will do all we reasonably can to limit children’s exposure to online risks through school provided IT systems/devices and will ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place.

- Northcroft School Proprietors and leaders have ensured that our school has age and ability appropriate filtering and monitoring in place which will limit pupils’ exposure to online risks. Our decision regarding filtering and monitoring systems has been informed by a risk assessment, considering our specific needs and circumstances.
- The leadership team will ensure that regular reviews are undertaken to ensure that our filtering and monitoring methods are effective and appropriate.
- Changes to the filtering and monitoring approach will be risk assessed by staff with educational and technical experience and, where appropriate, with consent from the leadership team; all changes to the filtering process are logged and recorded.
- The leadership team and other relevant staff have an awareness and understanding of the appropriate filtering and monitoring provisions in place, manage them effectively and know how to escalate concerns when identified.
- Proprietors and leaders are mindful to ensure that “over blocking” does not unreasonably restrict access to educational activities and safeguarding materials.
- All members of staff are aware that they cannot rely on filtering and monitoring alone to safeguard pupils; effective classroom management and regular education about safe and responsible use is essential.

**Appropriate Filtering, Monitoring and Management.**

- Haywards Farm & Northcroft School broadband connectivity is provided through EAC.

### **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Protection of Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), the school recognises that the use of artificial intelligence (AI) presents both opportunities and safeguarding risks. AI-generated content may be misleading or harmful, and these risks may be heightened for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). In accordance with statutory duties under KCSIE, the Children Acts 1989 and 2004, and the Equality Act 2010, the school takes reasonable and proportionate steps to protect pupils through staff awareness and training, appropriate supervision and reasonable adjustments, the promotion of digital literacy, and clear safeguarding procedures, including escalation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) where appropriate, ensuring support is inclusive and non-discriminatory.

#### **School uses Securely - The Student Safety Company**

- Securely - The Student Safety Company blocks access to sites which could promote or include harmful and/or inappropriate behaviour or material. This includes content which promotes discrimination or extremism, drugs/substance misuse, malware/hacking, gambling, piracy and copyright theft, pro-self-harm, eating disorder and/or suicide content, pornographic content and violent material.
- Securely - The Student Safety Company is a member of Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and blocks access to illegal Child Abuse Images and Content (CAIC).
- We work with EAC to ensure that our filtering policy is continually reviewed to reflect our needs and requirements.
- If pupils or staff discover unsuitable sites or material, they are required to:
  - Turn off monitor/screen, report the concern immediately to a member of staff, report the URL of the site to technical staff/services.
- Filtering breaches will be reported to the DSL and technical staff and will be recorded and escalated as appropriate in line with existing policies, including child protection, acceptable use and behaviour.
- Parents and carers will be informed of filtering breaches involving pupils.
- Any access to material believed to be illegal will be reported immediately to the appropriate agencies, such as the IWF, the police and/or NCA-Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (NCA-CEOP).

#### **Managing the Safety of our Website**

- We will ensure that information posted on our website meets the requirements as identified by the DfE.
- We will ensure that our school website complies with guidelines for publications, including accessibility, data protection, respect for intellectual property rights, privacy policies and copyright.
- Staff or pupils' personal information will not be published on our website; the contact details on the website will be our school address, email and telephone number.
- The administrator account for our website will be secured with an appropriately strong password.

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- We will post appropriate information about safeguarding, including online safety, on our website for members of the community.

**Publishing Images and Videos Online**

We will ensure that all images and videos shared online are given consent to do so.

**Managing email**

- Access to our email systems will always take place in accordance with data protection legislation and in line with other policies, including confidentiality, acceptable use of technology procedures and the code of conduct/behaviour policy.
- The forwarding of any chain messages/emails is not permitted.
- Spam or junk mail will be blocked and reported to the email provider.
- Any electronic communication which contains sensitive or personal information will only be sent using secure and encrypted email.
- School email addresses and other official contact details will not be used to set up personal social media accounts.
- Members of the community will immediately report offensive communication to a DSL.
- Excessive social email use can interfere with teaching and learning and will be restricted; access to external personal email accounts may be blocked on site.

**Staff email**

All members of staff:

- are provided with an email address to use for all official communication; the use of personal email addresses by staff for any official business is not permitted.
- are encouraged to have an appropriate work life balance when responding to email, especially if communication is taking place between staff, pupils, and parents.

**Management of Remote Learning**

Where children are asked to learn online at home in response to a full or partial closure:

- Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will ensure any remote sharing of information, communication and use of online learning tools and systems will be in line with privacy and data protection requirements.
- All communication with pupils, parents and carers will take place using school provided or approved communication channels.
- Any pre-existing relationships or situations which mean this cannot be complied with will be discussed with the DSL.

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- Staff and pupils will engage with remote teaching and learning in line with existing behaviour principles as set out in our behaviour policy/code of conduct and Acceptable Use procedures.
- Staff and pupils will be encouraged to report issues experienced at home and concerns will be responded to in line with our child protection and other relevant policies.
- When delivering remote learning, staff will follow our Remote Learning and Acceptable Use Procedure.
- Parents and carers will be made aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access. Northcroft School will continue to be clear who from the school their child is going to be interacting with online.
- Parents and carers will be encouraged to ensure children are appropriately supervised online and that appropriate parent controls are implemented at home.

### **Social media expectations**

- Haywards Farm & Northcroft School believes everyone should be treated with kindness, respect, and dignity. Even though online spaces may differ in many ways, the same standards of behaviour are expected online as offline, and all members of our community are expected to engage in social media in a positive and responsible manner.
- All members of our community are advised not to post or share content that may be considered threatening, hurtful or defamatory to others on any social media service.
- We will control pupils and staff access to social media whilst using school provided devices and systems on site.
- The use of social media or apps, for example as a formal remote learning platform will be robustly risk assessed by the DSL and/or Head Teacher prior to use. Any use will take place in accordance with our remote learning Acceptable Use Procedure.
- Concerns regarding the online conduct of any member of Northcroft School community on social media will be taken seriously. Concerns will be managed in accordance with the appropriate policies and procedures, including anti-bullying, allegations against staff, behaviour, home school-agreements, staff code of conduct, Acceptable Use Procedures, and Child Protection.

### **Staff use of social media**

- The use of social media during school hours for personal use is not permitted for staff.
- Safe and professional online behaviour is outlined for all members of staff, including volunteers, as part of our code of conduct policy and acceptable use of technology procedure.

The safe and responsible use of social media sites will be discussed with all members of staff as part of staff induction. Advice will be provided and updated via staff training and additional guidance and resources will be shared with staff as required on a regular basis.

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- Any complaint about staff misuse of social media or policy breaches will be taken seriously in line with our child protection and safeguarding policies.

**Reputation**

All members of staff are advised that their online conduct on social media can have an impact on their role and reputation within the school. Civil, legal or disciplinary action may be taken if staff are found to bring the profession or institution into disrepute, or if something is felt to have undermined confidence in their professional abilities.

All members of staff are advised to safeguard themselves and their privacy when using social media. This may include but is not limited to:

- Setting appropriate privacy levels on their personal accounts/sites.
- Being aware of the implications of using location sharing services.
- Opting out of public listings on social networking sites.
- Logging out of accounts after use.
- Using strong passwords.
- Ensuring staff do not represent their personal views as being that of the school.
- Members of staff are encouraged not to identify themselves as employees of Northcroft School on their personal social networking accounts; this is to prevent information being linked with the setting and to safeguard the privacy of staff members.
- All staff are expected to ensure that their social media use is compatible with their professional role and is in accordance with our policies and the wider professional reputation and legal framework.
- All members of staff are encouraged to carefully consider the information, including text and images, they share and post on social media.
- Information and content that staff members have access to as part of their employment, including photos and personal information about pupils and their family members or colleagues, will not be shared or discussed on social media sites.
- Members of staff will notify the leadership team immediately if they consider that any content shared on social media sites conflicts with their role.

**Communicating with pupils and their families**

- Staff will not use any personal social media accounts to contact pupils or their family members.

All members of staff are advised not to communicate with or add any current or past pupils or their family members, as 'friends' on any personal social media accounts.

- Any communication from pupils, parents and carers received on personal social media accounts will be reported to the DSL (or deputies) or the Head Teacher.

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- Any pre-existing relationships or situations, which mean staff cannot comply with this requirement, will be discussed with the DSL and the Head Teacher. Decisions made and advice provided in these situations will be formally recorded to safeguard pupils, members of staff and the setting.
- If ongoing contact with pupils is required once they have left the setting, members of staff will be expected to use existing alumni networks, or use official setting provided communication tools.

**Official use of social media**

**Haywards Farm & Northcroft School official social media channels are:**

- Facebook, Twitter link; YouTube channel link.
- The official use of social media sites by Haywards Farm & Northcroft School only takes place with clear educational or community engagement objectives and with specific intended outcomes and once the use has been formally risk assessed and approved by the Head Teacher prior to use.
- Official social media sites are suitably protected and, where possible, run and linked to our website.
- Official social media channels have been set up as distinct and dedicated accounts for official educational or engagement purposes only.
- Staff use setting provided email addresses to register for and manage official social media channels.
- Leadership staff have access to account information and login details for our social media channels, in case of emergency, such as staff absence.
- Official social media use will be conducted in line with existing policies, including but not limited to anti-bullying, image/camera use, data protection, confidentiality and child protection.
- All communication on official social media platforms by staff on behalf of the setting will be clear, transparent and open to scrutiny. Public communications on behalf of the setting will, where appropriate and possible, be read and agreed by at least one other colleague.
- Parents and carers and pupils will be informed of any official social media use, along with expectations for safe use and action taken to safeguard the community.
- Parents and carers will be informed of any official social media use with pupils; any official social media activity involving pupils will be moderated if possible and written parental consent will be obtained as required.

We will ensure that any official social media use does not exclude members of the community who are unable or unwilling to use social media channels.

- Members of staff who follow and/or like our official social media channels will be advised to use dedicated professional accounts where possible, to avoid blurring professional boundaries.
- If members of staff are managing and/or participating in online social media activity as part of their capacity as an employee of the setting, they will:
  - Read and understand our Acceptable Use Procedure.
  - Be aware they are an ambassador for the school.

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- Be professional, responsible, credible, fair and honest, and consider how the information being published could be perceived or shared.
- Always act within the legal frameworks they would adhere to within the workplace, including libel, defamation, confidentiality, copyright, data protection and equalities laws.
- Follow our image use procedure at all times, for example ensuring that appropriate consent has been given before sharing images.
- Not disclose information, make commitments or engage in activities on behalf of the setting, unless they are authorised to do so.
- Not engage with any private or direct messaging with current or past pupils or their family members.
- Inform their line manager, the DSL (or deputies) and/or the Head Teacher of any concerns, such as criticism, inappropriate content or contact from pupils.

**Pupils use of social media**

- The use of social media during school hours for personal use is not permitted for pupils.
- Many online behaviour incidents amongst children and young people occur on social media outside the school day and off the school premises. Parents and carers are responsible for this behaviour; however, some online incidents may affect our culture and/or pose a risk to children and young people's health and well-being. Where online behaviour poses a threat or causes harm to another pupil, could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school when the pupil is identifiable as a member of the school, or if the behaviour could adversely affect the reputation of the school, action will be taken in line with our behaviour and child protection/online safety policies.
- Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will empower our pupils to acquire the knowledge needed to use social media in a safe, considered, and respectful way, and develop their resilience
- so they can manage and respond to online risks. Safe and appropriate use of social media will be taught to pupils as part of an embedded and sequenced Curriculum.

progressive safeguarding education approach using age-appropriate sites and resources. Further information is contained within our child protection and relevant specific curriculum policies.

- We are aware that many popular social media sites are not permitted for use by children under the age of 13, or in some cases higher. As such, we will not create accounts for pupils under the required age as outlined in the services terms and conditions.

**Pupils will be advised:**

- to consider the benefits and risks of sharing personal details or information on social media sites which could identify them and/or their location.
- to only approve and invite known friends on social media sites and to deny access to others, for example by making profiles private.
- not to meet any online friends without a parent/carer or other appropriate adults' permission, and to only do so when a trusted adult is present.

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- to use safe passwords.
  - to use social media sites which are appropriate for their age and abilities.
  - how to block and report unwanted communications.
  - how to report concerns on social media, both within the setting and externally.
- Any concerns regarding pupil's use of social media will be dealt with in accordance with appropriate existing policies, including anti-bullying, child protection and behaviour.
  - The DSL (or deputies) will respond to social media concerns involving safeguarding or child protection risks in line with our child protection policy.
  - Sanctions and/or pastoral/welfare support will be implemented and offered to pupils as appropriate, in line with our child protection and behaviour policy. Civil or legal action may be taken if necessary.
  - Concerns regarding pupils use of social media will be shared with parents and carers as appropriate, particularly when concerning underage use of social media services and games.

### **Mobile and Smart Technology**

Safe use of mobile and smart technology expectations

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises that use of mobile and smart technologies is part of everyday life for many pupils, staff and parents and carers. Electronic devices of any kind that are brought onto site are the responsibility of the user. All members of the Northcroft School community are advised to:

- take steps to protect their mobile phones or personal devices from loss, theft or damage; we accept no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of such items on our premises.
- use passwords/PIN numbers to ensure that unauthorised access, calls or actions cannot be made on their phones or devices.
- Mobile phones and personal devices are not permitted to be used by children in any area on the school site. Staff may use their mobile phone in the staffroom or a room where no child is present.
- The sending of abusive or inappropriate messages or content, including via personal smart devices and mobile phones is forbidden by any member of the community; any breaches will be dealt with in line with our anti-bullying, behaviour, and child protection policies.
- All members of the Northcroft School community are advised to ensure that their mobile phones and personal devices do not contain any content which may be offensive, derogatory or illegal, or which would otherwise contravene our behaviour or child protection policies.

### **School provided mobile phones and devices.**

- Members of staff will be issued with a work phone number in addition to their work email address, where contact with pupils or parents and carers is required.
- Staff providing formal remote/online learning will do so using school provided equipment in accordance with our Acceptable Use and Remote Learning

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Procedures.

- School mobile phones and devices will be suitably protected via a passcode/password/PIN and must only be accessed or used by members of staff.
- School mobile phones and devices will always be used in accordance with our staff code of conduct/behaviour policy, acceptable use of technology and other relevant policies/procedures.

**Staff use of mobile and smart technology**

Members of staff will ensure that use of any mobile and smart technology, including personal phones and mobile devices, will take place in accordance with the law, as well as relevant school policy and procedures.

Staff will be advised to:

- Keep mobile phones and personal devices in a safe and secure place (for example, locked in a locker/drawer) during lesson time.
- Keep personal mobile phones and devices switched off or set to 'silent' mode during lesson times.
- Ensure that Bluetooth or other forms of communication, such as 'airdrop', are hidden or disabled during lesson times.
- Not use personal devices during teaching periods unless written permission has been given by the Head Teacher, such as in emergency circumstances.
- Ensure that any content bought onto site via personal mobile phones and devices is compatible with their professional role and our behaviour expectations.
- Members of staff are not permitted to use their own personal phones or devices for contacting pupils or parents and carers without prior arrangement with the Head

Teacher.

- Any pre-existing relationships or circumstance, which could compromise staff's ability to comply with this, will be discussed with the Head Teacher.

Staff will only use school provided equipment (not personal devices):

- To take photos or videos of pupils in line with our image use policy.
- To work directly with pupils during lessons/educational activities.
- To communicate with parents and carers.

Where remote learning activities take place, staff will use school provided equipment. If this is not available, staff will only use personal devices with prior approval from the Haywards Farm & Northcroft School, following a formal risk assessment. Staff will follow clear guidance outlined in the Acceptable Use and/or remote learning procedure. If a member of staff breaches our policy, action will be taken in line with our staff code of conduct and policy.

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If a member of staff is thought to have illegal content saved or stored on a mobile phone or personal device or have committed a criminal offence using a personal device or mobile phone, the police will be contacted, and the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) will be informed in line with our allegation's procedure.

**Pupils use of mobile and smart technology**

Pupils will be educated regarding the safe and appropriate use of mobile and smart technology, including mobile phones and personal devices, and will be made aware of behaviour expectations and consequences for policy breaches.

Safe and appropriate use of mobile and smart technology will be taught to pupils as part of an embedded and progressive safeguarding education approach using age appropriate sites and resources. Further information is contained within our child protection and relevant specific curriculum policies. Mobile phones and/or personal devices will not be used on site by pupils.

**Haywards Farm & Northcroft School expects pupils' personal devices and mobile phones to be kept safe and secure when on site.**

**This means:**

- Phones will be switched off and handed in to a member of staff and they will be stored in a secure locker.
- If a pupil needs to contact their parents or carers whilst on site, they will be allowed to use a school phone.
- Parents are advised to contact their child via the school office; exceptions may be permitted on a case-by-case basis, as approved by the Head Teacher.
- If a pupil requires access to a personal device in exceptional circumstances, for example medical assistance and monitoring, this will be discussed with the Head Teacher prior to use being permitted.
- Any arrangements regarding access to personal devices in exceptional circumstances will be documented and recorded by the school.
- Any specific agreements and expectations (including sanctions for misuse) will be provided in writing and agreed by the learner and their parents or carers before use is permitted.
- Where pupils' mobile phones or personal devices are used when learning at home, this will be in accordance with our Acceptable Use and/or Remote Learning

Procedure.

**Screening, searching and confiscation of electronic devices:**

- Electronic devices, including mobile phones, can contain files or data which relate to an offence, or which may cause harm to another person. This includes, but is not limited to, indecent images of children, pornography, abusive messages, images or videos, or evidence relating to suspected criminal behaviour.
- Where there are any concerns regarding pupil's use of mobile technology or policy breaches, they will be dealt with in accordance with our existing policies, including anti-bullying, child protection, online safety and behaviour.

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- Staff may confiscate a pupil's mobile phone or device if they believe it is being used to contravene our child protection or behaviour policy and with the support of parents/carers.
- Mobile phones and devices that have been confiscated will be held in a secure place and released to parents and carers at the end of the school day.
- Where a concern involves a potentially indecent image or video of a child, staff will respond in line with our child protection policy and will confiscate devices, avoid looking at any content, and refer the incident to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputies) urgently as they will be most appropriate person to respond.
- If there is suspicion that data or files on a pupil's personal device or mobile phone may be illegal, or may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the device will be handed over to the police for further investigation.
- If deemed to be necessary and appropriate, searches of mobile phones or personal devices may be carried out in accordance with our behaviour policy and the DfE 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation' guidance
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputies) will always be informed of any searching incidents where authorised members of staff have reasonable grounds to suspect a pupil was in possession of prohibited items, as identified in our behaviour policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputies) will be involved without delay if staff believe a search of a pupils device has revealed a safeguarding risk.

- In exceptional circumstances and in accordance with our behaviour policy and the DfE 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation' guidance, the Head Teacher or authorised members of staff may examine or erase data or files if there is a good reason to do so.
- If the Head Teacher or a member of staff finds any data or files that they suspect might constitute a specified offence, they will be delivered to the police as soon as is reasonably practicable.

**Visitors' use of mobile and smart technology**

Parents and carers and visitors, including volunteers and contractors, are expected to ensure that:

- They do not use a mobile phone in the school.
- Parents/Carers when coming into school will be asked to leave mobile phones in the car or hand them into, the office.

**Responding to Online Risks and/or Policy Breaches**

All members of the community:

- Are made aware of our expectations regarding safe and appropriate behaviour online and the importance of not posting any content, comments, images or videos which could cause harm, distress or offence.
- Are informed of the need to report policy breaches or concerns in line with existing school policies and procedures.

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- Will respect confidentiality and the need to follow the official procedures for reporting concerns.
- Will be informed of our complaints procedure and staff will be made aware of the whistleblowing procedure.
- Will be made aware of how the school will monitor policy compliance by Northcroft School evidencing the governance structure.
- If appropriate, after any investigations are completed, the DSL and leadership staff will debrief, identify lessons learnt and implement any policy or curriculum changes, as required.
- If we are unsure how to proceed with an incident or concern, the DSL or Head Teacher will seek advice from the local authority, Education Safeguarding Service, or other agency in accordance with our child protection policy.
- Where there is a concern that illegal activity has taken place, we will contact the police using 101, or 999 if there is immediate danger or risk of harm.
- If information relating to a specific incident or a concern needs to be shared beyond our community, for example if other local schools are involved or the wider public may be at risk, the DSL or Head Teacher will speak with the police and/or the Local Authority first, to ensure that potential criminal or child protection investigations are not compromised.

**Concerns about pupils' online behaviour and/or welfare**

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises that an initial disclosure to a trusted adult may only be the first incident reported, rather than representative of a singular incident and that trauma can impact memory, so children may not be able to recall all details or timeline of abuse. All staff will be aware certain children may face additional barriers to telling someone, for example because of their vulnerability, disability, sex, ethnicity, and/or sexual orientation.

All concerns about pupils will be responded to and recorded in line with our child protection policy:

- The DSL will be informed of all online safety concerns involving safeguarding or child protection risks in line with our child protection policy.
- The DSL will ensure that online safety concerns are escalated and reported to relevant partner agencies in line with local policies and procedures.

Abuse that occurs online and/or offsite will not be dismissed or downplayed; concerns will be treated equally seriously and in line with relevant policies/procedures, for example antibullying, behaviour, child protection, online safety.

Northcroft School recognises that the law is in place to protect children and young people rather than criminalise them, and this will be explained in such a way to pupils that avoids alarming or distressing them.

Appropriate sanctions and/or pastoral/welfare support will be implemented and/or offered to pupils as appropriate. Civil or legal action will be taken if necessary.

We will inform parents and carers of online safety incidents or concerns involving their child, as and when required.

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**Concerns about staff online behaviour and/or welfare**

- Any complaint about staff misuse will be managed in accordance with our staff code of conduct policy.
- Any allegations regarding a member of staff's online conduct will be discussed with the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) 01635 503090
- Where appropriate, welfare support will be offered, and where necessary, disciplinary, civil and/or legal action will be taken in accordance with our staff code of conduct.

**Concerns about parent/carer online behaviour and/or welfare**

- Concerns regarding parents and carers behaviour and/or welfare online will be reported to the Head Teacher and/or DSL and dealt with in line with existing policies and procedures, including but not limited to child protection, antibullying, complaints, allegations against staff, home-school agreements, acceptable use of technology and behaviour policy.
- Where appropriate, welfare support will be offered, and where necessary, civil and/or legal action may be taken.

**Online child-on-child abuse**

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises that whilst risks can be posed by unknown individuals or adults online, pupils can also abuse their peers; all online child-on-child abuse concerns will be responded to in line with our child protection and behaviour policies.

We recognise that online child-on-child abuse can take many forms, including but not limited to:

- Bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers
- Physical abuse, this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment, which may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as 'sexting' or 'youth produced sexual imagery')
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party
- Up skirting (which is a criminal offence), which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm - initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School adopts a zero-tolerance approach to child-on-child abuse. We believe that abuse is abuse and it will never be tolerated or dismissed as "just banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys"; this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and can create an

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unsafe environment for children and a culture that normalises abuse, which can prevent children from coming forward to report it.

- Haywards Farm & Northcroft School believes that all staff have a role to play in challenging inappropriate online behaviours between children. Staff recognise that some online child-on-child abuse issues may be affected by gender, age, ability and culture of those involved.
- Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises that even if there are no reported cases of online child on child abuse, such abuse is still likely to be taking place, and it may be the case that it is just not being reported. As such, it is important that staff speak to the DSL (or deputies) about any concerns regarding online child-on-child abuse.
- Concerns about child-on-child abuse taking place online offsite will be responded to as part of a partnership approach with pupils' and parents and carers; concerns will be recorded and responded to in line with existing appropriate policies, for example anti-bullying, acceptable use, behaviour and child protection policies.
- Haywards Farm & Northcroft School wants children to feel able to confidently report abuse and know their concerns will be treated seriously. All allegations of online child-on child abuse will be reported to the DSL and will be recorded, investigated, and dealt with in line with associated policies and procedures, including child protection, anti-bullying and behaviour. Pupils who experience abuse will be offered appropriate support, regardless of where the abuse takes place.

**Child on child online sexual violence and sexual harassment**

- When responding to concerns relating to online child on child sexual violence or harassment, Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will follow the guidance outlined in Part Five of KCSIE.
- Online sexual violence and sexual harassment exists on a continuum and may overlap with offline behaviours; it is never acceptable. Abuse that occurs online will not be downplayed and will be treated equally seriously.
- All victims of online sexual violence or sexual harassment will be reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting online sexual violence or sexual harassment or be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises that sexual violence and sexual harassment between children can take place online. Examples may include:

- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and videos
- Sharing of unwanted explicit content
- 'upskirting' (which is a criminal offence and typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm)

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- sexualised online bullying or unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media.
- Sexual exploitation, coercion, and threats.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises that sexual violence and sexual harassment occurring online (either in isolation or in connection to face to face 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.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will respond to concerns regarding online sexual violence and sexual harassment between children, regardless of whether the incident took place on our premises or using our equipment.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will ensure that all members of the community are made aware of the potential social, psychological and criminal consequences of online sexual violence and sexual harassment and the support available, by implementing a range of age and ability appropriate educational methods as part of our curriculum.

When there has been a report of online sexual violence or harassment, the DSL will make an immediate risk and needs assessment which will be considered on a case-by-case basis which explores how best to support and protect the victim and the alleged perpetrator, and any other children involved/impacted.

The risk and needs assessment will be recorded and kept under review and will consider the victim (especially their protection and support), the alleged perpetrator, and all other children, and staff and any actions that are required to protect them.

Reports will initially be managed internally by the DSL, and where necessary will be referred to Children's Social Care and/or the police. West Berkshire Schools can access specific advice via the Education Safeguarding Service.

The decision making and required action taken will vary on a case by case basis but will be informed by the wishes of the victim, the nature of the alleged incident (including whether a crime may have been committed), the ages and developmental stages of the children involved, any power imbalance, if the alleged incident is a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse, if there are any ongoing risks to the victim, other children, or staff, and any other related issues or wider context.

If content is contained on pupils personal devices, they will be managed in accordance with the DfE 'searching screening and confiscation' advice. Following an immediate risk assessment, the school will:

- provide the necessary safeguards and support for all pupils involved, such as implementing safety plans, offering advice on blocking, reporting and removing online content, and providing appropriate counselling/pastoral support.
- inform parents and carers for all children involved about the incident and how it is being managed and provide support and signposting, as appropriate, unless to do so would place a child at risk of significant harm.
- if the concern involves children and young people at a different educational school, the DSL will work in partnership with other DSLs to ensure appropriate safeguarding action is taken in the wider local community.

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- If a criminal offence has been committed, the DSL will discuss this with the police first to ensure that investigations are not compromised.
- review the handling of any incidents to ensure that best practice was implemented, and policies/procedures are appropriate.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises that internet brings the potential for the impact of any concerns to extend further than the local community, and for a victim or alleged perpetrator to become marginalised and excluded by online communities. Haywards Farm & Northcroft School also recognises the potential for repeat victimisation in the future if abusive content continues to exist somewhere online.

**Nude or semi-nude image sharing**

The term 'sharing nudes and semi-nudes' is used to mean the sending or posting of nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams of/by young people under the age of 18. Creating and sharing nudes and semi nudes of under-18s (including those created and shared with consent) is illegal which makes responding to incidents complex. The UKCIS 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people' guidance outlines how schools and colleges should respond to all incidents of consensual and non-consensual image sharing, and should be read and understood by DSLs working with all age groups, not just older pupils.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises that consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as youth produced/involved sexual imagery or "sexting") is a safeguarding issue; all concerns will be reported to and dealt with by the DSL (or deputies).

This policy defines sharing nude or semi-nude image sharing as when a person under the age of

- creates and/or shares nude and/or semi-nude imagery (photos or videos) of themselves with a peer(s) under the age of 18.
- shares nude and/or semi-nude imagery created by another person under the age of 18 with a peer(s) under the age of 18.
- possesses nude and/or semi-nude imagery created by another person under the age of

When made aware of concerns regarding nude and/or semi-nude imagery, Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will follow the advice as set out in the non-statutory UKCIS guidance: 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people' Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will ensure that all members of the community are made aware of the potential social, psychological and criminal consequences of creating or sharing nude or semi-nude images and sources of support, by implementing preventative approaches, via a range of age and ability appropriate educational methods.

We will respond to concerns regarding nude or semi-nude image sharing, regardless of whether the incident took place on site or using school provided or personal equipment.

When made aware of concerns involving consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos by children, staff are advised to:

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- Report any concerns to the DSL immediately.
- Never view, copy, print, share, forward, store or save the imagery, or ask a child to share or download it – this may be illegal. If staff have already inadvertently viewed imagery, this will be immediately reported to the DSL.
- Not delete the imagery or ask the child to delete it.
- Not say or do anything to blame or shame any children involved.
- Explain to child(ren) involved that they will report the issue to the DSL and reassure them that they will receive appropriate support and help.
- Not ask the child or children involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery and not share information about the incident with other members of staff, the child(ren) involved or their, or other, parents and/or carers. This is the responsibility of the DSL.

If made aware of an incident involving nude or semi-nude imagery, DSLs will:

- act in accordance with our child protection policies and the relevant local procedures and in line with the UKCIS guidance.
- carry out a risk assessment in line with the UKCIS guidance which considers the age and vulnerability of pupils involved, including the possibility of carrying out relevant checks with other agencies.
- a referral will be made to Children’s Social Care and/or the police immediately if:
- The incident involves an adult (over 18).
- There is reason to believe that a child has been coerced, blackmailed, or groomed, or there are concerns about their capacity to consent, for example, age of the child or they have special educational needs.
- The image/videos involve sexual acts and a child under the age of 13, depict sexual acts which are unusual for the child’s developmental stage, or are violent.
- A child is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of nudes and semi-nude.

**The DSL may choose to involve other agencies at any time if further information/concerns are disclosed at a later date.**

If DSLs are unsure how to proceed, advice will be sought from the local authority. West Berkshire schools can access specific advice via the Education Safeguarding Service. Store any devices securely:

- If content is contained on pupils personal devices, they will be managed in accordance with the DfE ‘searching screening and confiscation’ advice.
- If a potentially indecent image has been taken or shared on our network or devices, we will act to block access to all users and isolate the image.
- inform parents and carers about the incident and how it is being managed and provide support and signposting, as appropriate, unless to do so would place a child at risk of significant harm.

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- provide the necessary safeguards and support for pupils, such as offering counselling or pastoral support.
- implement sanctions where necessary and appropriate in accordance with our behaviour policy but taking care not to further traumatise victims where possible.
- consider the deletion of images in accordance with the UKCIS guidance.
- Images will only be deleted once the DSL has confirmed that other agencies do not need to be involved and are sure that to do so would not place a child at risk or compromise an investigation.
- Pupils will be supported in accessing the Childline 'Report Remove' tool where necessary: Report Remove Tool for nude images.
- review the handling of any incidents to ensure that best practice was implemented; the leadership team will also review and update any management procedures, where necessary. We will not:
  - view any imagery, unless there is no other option, or there is a clear safeguarding need or reason to do so. Note, DSLs should follow 'Sharing nudes and semi nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people' If it is deemed necessary, the imagery will only be viewed where possible by the DSL in line with the national UKCIS guidance, and any decision making will be clearly documented.
- send, share, save or make copies of content suspected to be an indecent image/video of a child and will not allow or request pupils to do so.

### Cyberbullying

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School Education is directly responsible for ensuring they have the appropriate level of security protection procedures in place in order to safeguard their systems, staff and learners and review the effectiveness of these procedures periodically to keep up with evolving cyber-crime technologies. Northcroft School follows guidance on e-security from the national Education Network. Northcroft School has sourced guidance on cyber security including at Cyber security training for school staff - NCSC.GOV.UK.

Cyberbullying, along with all other forms of bullying, will not be tolerated at Haywards Farm School & Northcroft School.

Full details of how we will respond to cyberbullying are set out in our anti-bullying policy.

### Online child abuse and exploitation

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises online abuse and exploitation, including sexual abuse and sexual or criminal exploitation, as a safeguarding issue and all concerns will be reported to and dealt with by the DSL, in line with our child protection policy.

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will ensure that all members of the community are aware of online child abuse and sexual or criminal exploitation, including the possible grooming approaches which may be employed by offenders to target pupils, and understand how to respond to concerns. Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will implement preventative approaches for online child abuse and exploitation via a range of age and ability appropriate education for pupils, staff and parents and carers.

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Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will ensure that all members of the community are aware of the support available regarding online child abuse and exploitation, both locally and nationally.

**If made aware of an incident involving online child abuse and/or exploitation, we will:**

- act in accordance with our child protection policies and the relevant local safeguarding children partnership procedures.
- store any devices containing evidence securely:
- If content is contained on pupils' personal devices, they will be managed in accordance with the DfE 'searching screening and confiscation' advice.
- If any evidence is stored on our network or devices, we will act to block access to other users and isolate the content.
- if appropriate, make a referral to Children's Social Work Service and inform the police via 101, or 999 if a pupil is at immediate risk, West Berkshire Schools can access specific advice via the Education Safeguarding Service.
- carry out a risk assessment which considers any vulnerabilities of pupils involved, including carrying out relevant checks with other agencies.
- inform parents and carers about the incident and how it is being managed and provide support and signposting, as appropriate.
- provide the necessary safeguards and support for pupils, such as, offering counselling or pastoral support.
- review the handling of any incidents to ensure that best practice is implemented; leadership team will review and update any management procedures, where necessary.
- We will respond to concerns regarding online abuse and exploitation, regardless of whether the incident took place on our premises or using school provided or personal equipment.
- Where possible and appropriate, pupils will be involved in decision making. If appropriate, they will be empowered to report concerns themselves with support, for example if the concern relates to online sexual abuse via the  
  
National Crime Agency CEOP Command (NCA-CEOP): [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/)
- If we are unclear whether a criminal offence has been committed, the DSL will obtain advice immediately through the Local Authority and/or police.
- We will ensure that the NCA-CEOP reporting tools are visible and available to pupils and other members of our community via the school website.
- If made aware of intelligence or information which may relate to child sexual exploitation (on or offline), it will be passed through to the police by the DSL.

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- If members of the public or pupils at other schools or settings are believed to have been targeted, the DSL, will seek advice from the police, Education Safeguarding Service and/or the Local Authority before sharing specific information to ensure that potential investigations are not compromised.

**Indecent Images of Children (IIOC)**

Haywards Farm & Northcroft School will ensure that all members of the community are made aware of the possible consequences of accessing Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) as appropriate. We will respond to concerns regarding IIOC on our equipment and/or personal equipment, even if access took place off site.

We will seek to prevent accidental access to IIOC by using an Internet Service Provider (ISP) which subscribes to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) block list and by implementing appropriate filtering, firewalls and anti-spam software.

- If we are unclear if a criminal offence has been committed, the DSL will obtain advice immediately through the police, Education Safeguarding Service and/or the Local Authority.
- If made aware of IIOC, we will:
- act in accordance with our child protection policy and the relevant local safeguarding children partnership procedures.
- store any devices involved securely, until advice has been sought. If content is contained on pupils' personal devices, they will be managed in accordance with the DfE 'searching screening and confiscation' advice.
- immediately inform appropriate organisations, such as the IWF and police.

If made aware that a member of staff or a pupil has been exposed to indecent images of children, we will:

- ensure that the DSL is informed, ensures that the URLs (webpage addresses), which contain the suspect images, are reported to the IWF via [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk) and/or police.
- inform the police as appropriate, for example if images have been deliberately sent to or shared by pupils.
- report concerns as appropriate to parents and carers.

**If made aware that indecent images of children have been found on school provided devices, we will:**

- ensure that the DSL is informed.
- ensure that the URLs (webpage addresses), which contain the suspect images, are reported to the IWF via [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk).
- inform the police via 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm, and any other agencies, as appropriate.
- only store copies of images (securely, where no one else has access to them and delete all other copies) following a written request from the police.
- report concerns, as appropriate to parents and carers.

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If made aware that a member of staff is in possession of indecent images of children, we will:

- ensure that the Head Teacher is informed in line with our child protection and safeguarding policies.
- inform the LADO and other relevant organisations, such as the police in accordance with our managing allegations against staff procedure.
- quarantine any involved school provided devices until police advice has been sought.

**Online Hate**

- Online hate content, directed towards or posted by specific members of the community will not be tolerated at Haywards Farm & Northcroft School and will be responded to in line with existing policies, including child protection, anti-bullying and behaviour.
- All members of the community will be advised to report online hate in accordance with relevant policies and procedures.
- The police will be contacted if a criminal offence is suspected.
- If we are unclear on how to respond, or whether a criminal offence has been committed, the DSL will obtain advice through the Education Safeguarding Service, Local Authority and/or the police.

**Online Radicalisation and Extremism**

- We will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that pupils and staff are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet on site.
- If we are concerned that a child or adult may be at risk of radicalisation online, the DSL will be informed immediately, and action will be taken in line with our child protection policy:

If the concerns relate to a member of staff, the Head Teacher will be informed immediately, and action will be taken in line with the child protection and allegations procedures. The LADO will be informed, and guidance will be followed.

**Cybercrime**

- Haywards Farm & Northcroft School recognises that children with particular skills and interests in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately stray into 'cyber enabled' (crimes that can happen offline but are enabled at scale and at speed online) or 'cyber dependent' (crimes that can be committed only by using a computer/internet enabled device) cybercrime.
- If staff are concerned that a child may be at risk of becoming involved in cyber dependent cybercrime, the DSL will be informed, and consideration will be given to accessing local support and/or referring into the Cyber Choices programme, which aims to intervene when young people are at risk of committing, or being drawn into, low level cyber-dependent offences and divert them to a more positive use of their skills and interests.

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**Reporting Helplines**

- NCA-CEOP Safety Centre: [www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre)
- Internet Watch Foundation (IWF): [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)
- ChildLine: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) o Report Remove Tool for nude images:  
[www.childline.org.uk/infoadvice/bullying-abuse-safety/onlinemobile-safety/sexting/report-nudeimage-online](http://www.childline.org.uk/infoadvice/bullying-abuse-safety/onlinemobile-safety sexting/report-nudeimage-online)
- Stop it now! [www.stopitnow.org.uk](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk)
- The Marie Collins Foundation: [www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk)
- Action Fraud: [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)
- [Report Harmful Content: https://reportharmfulcontent.com](https://reportharmfulcontent.com)

**Support for Children, Parents and Carers**

- Childnet: [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)
  - Internet Matters: [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)
  - Parent Zone: <https://parentzone.org.uk>
  - NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)
- Net Aware: [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)

**Online Safety Flow Chart**

All staff during their induction have e-safety training and shared filter system.

**Student accessing concerning material procedure:**

