



Online Safety Policy

Review frequency:	Annually
Last reviewed:	October 2026
Agreed by Directors:	October 2026
Next review date:	October 2027

1. Introduction

At **Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School**, online safety is an important part of safeguarding and the curriculum. Technology provides many opportunities for learning, communication and creativity, but it also presents risks to children and adults.

This policy sets out how Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School promotes safe, responsible and appropriate use of technology and how concerns relating to online safety are identified, reported and managed.

Online safety is embedded across the school's curriculum and safeguarding arrangements rather than being taught as a standalone subject.

2. Aims

The aims of the Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School Online Safety Policy are to:

- protect children and staff from online risks;
 - promote safe, responsible and respectful use of technology;
 - teach children how to recognise and respond to online risks;
 - ensure children know where and how to seek help;
 - support parents and carers in keeping children safe online;
 - ensure staff understand their responsibilities when using technology;
 - provide appropriate filtering and monitoring of the school's internet and IT systems;
 - ensure online safety concerns are identified, recorded and acted upon appropriately.
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3. Four Key Categories of Online Risk

Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School recognises four broad categories of online risk:

Content

Being exposed to inappropriate, harmful or illegal material, including violent, sexual or discriminatory content.

Contact

Being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, including unwanted contact from adults or peers.

Conduct

Online behaviour that may cause harm, including bullying, harassment, sharing inappropriate material or misuse of technology.

Commerce

Risks relating to financial transactions, scams, gambling, inappropriate advertising and the misuse of personal or financial information.

These risks are considered when planning online safety education and when responding to concerns.

4. Legislation and Guidance

Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School will have regard to relevant legislation and statutory guidance, including:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE);
- Education Act 1996;
- Education and Inspections Act 2006;
- Children Act 1989 and 2004;
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR;
- Computer Misuse Act 1990;
- Equality Act 2010;
- Prevent Duty guidance;
- Department for Education guidance relating to filtering, monitoring and online safety.

This policy should be read alongside the school's safeguarding and child protection procedures.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The school community board

The school community board of Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School is responsible for ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place to promote online safety and safeguard children when using technology.

Members of the school community board should receive appropriate information and training to understand the school's approach to online safety.

Headteacher and DSL

The Headteacher and DSL have overall responsibility for ensuring that online safety forms part of the school's safeguarding arrangements.

The DSL will:

- respond to online safety concerns;
- ensure concerns are appropriately recorded and followed up;
- liaise with parents, staff and external agencies where appropriate;
- ensure staff receive appropriate online safety information and training;
- work with ICT4 and other relevant staff to address filtering and monitoring concerns;
- work with the safeguarding team to review monitoring information from SENSO.

ICT4

ICT4 provides IT support and filtering for Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School.

ICT4 will support the school in maintaining appropriate technical safeguards and responding to technical concerns relating to the school's IT systems, filtering and internet access.

All Staff and Volunteers

All staff and volunteers at Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School are responsible for:

- following the school's online safety expectations;
 - modelling safe, responsible and respectful use of technology;
 - reporting online safety concerns promptly;
 - maintaining appropriate professional boundaries when using technology;
 - using school systems and devices appropriately;
 - following safeguarding procedures when concerns involve children.
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6. Educating Children About Online Safety

Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School recognises that online safety education must be appropriate to children's age, needs and stage of development.

Children are taught to:

- use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly;
- keep personal information private;
- recognise inappropriate or harmful content and behaviour;
- understand that people online may not always be who they claim to be;
- recognise risks associated with online communication and relationships;
- think critically about information they find online;
- understand how their online behaviour can affect themselves and others;
- know how to report concerns and seek help.

Online safety is taught through a combination of the Computing curriculum, PSHE, assemblies and wider opportunities across school life.

7. Computing and Purple Mash

The **Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School Computing curriculum is delivered using Purple Mash.**

Online safety is embedded throughout the Computing curriculum as a **golden thread**, ensuring that children regularly revisit and develop their understanding of safe and responsible technology use.

Online safety teaching will be appropriate to the age and developmental stage of pupils and will reflect the technology and online experiences that children are likely to encounter.

8. SMART

At Bishop Bronescombe, children are taught to use the **SMART** framework to support their understanding of online safety:

- **S – Safe:** Keep yourself and your personal information safe.
- **M – Meet:** Be careful about meeting people you have only met online.

- **A – Accept:** Think carefully before accepting messages, requests or files.
- **R – Reliable:** Question whether information and people online are reliable.
- **T – Tell:** Tell a trusted adult if something online worries or concerns you.

SMART provides a consistent language for discussing online safety across Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School.

Children are encouraged to use these principles when working, communicating and playing online.

9. Jigsaw PSHE

Online safety is also addressed through the school's **Jigsaw PSHE curriculum**, where relevant to the themes and needs of pupils.

This provides further opportunities for children to explore issues such as relationships, respectful behaviour, personal responsibility, emotional wellbeing and appropriate use of technology.

Computing and PSHE therefore provide complementary opportunities for children to develop their online safety knowledge and understanding.

10. Educating Parents and Carers

Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School recognises that parents and carers play an important role in supporting children to stay safe online.

The school will provide parents and carers with appropriate information and guidance about online safety where relevant.

Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss online safety with their children and to establish appropriate boundaries around the use of devices, games, apps and online services.

The school may signpost parents and carers towards appropriate online safety resources, including:

- UK Safer Internet Centre;
- Childnet;
- Internet Matters;
- ThinkUKnow.

11. Cyberbullying

Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School recognises that bullying can take place online as well as face-to-face.

Children are taught about respectful online behaviour and the potential impact of their actions on others through Computing, Jigsaw PSHE and wider school life.

Any concerns relating to cyberbullying will be dealt with in accordance with the school's **Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying procedures**.

12. Examining Electronic Devices

Where there are safeguarding or behaviour concerns involving an electronic device, staff will follow the school's safeguarding and behaviour procedures.

Staff should not view, copy or share inappropriate or potentially illegal material unnecessarily.

If a device may contain an indecent image of a child or other potentially criminal material, staff should **not view the material** and should report the concern immediately to the DSL.

Any examination or search of an electronic device will be undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation, safeguarding guidance and school procedures.

13. Acceptable Use

Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School expects all pupils, staff, volunteers and governors to use technology safely, responsibly and appropriately.

The school does **not** require pupils to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement.

Instead, expectations for the safe and responsible use of technology are taught explicitly through the curriculum, particularly through Computing, Purple Mash, SMART and Jigsaw PSHE, and reinforced through the school's behaviour and safeguarding expectations.

Where technology is misused, the school will respond in accordance with the relevant school policies and procedures.

14. Mobile Devices

Pupils may bring mobile devices onto the school site where this is permitted by the school's arrangements.

Mobile phones and other personal devices must not be used inappropriately during the school day.

Where a pupil breaches the school's expectations regarding mobile devices, appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the school's behaviour procedures.

15. Staff Use of Devices

Staff at Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School are expected to use school devices and technology appropriately and professionally.

Staff should:

- keep passwords secure;
- ensure devices are appropriately protected;
- use school systems appropriately;
- keep software and devices updated where required;
- maintain appropriate professional boundaries;
- avoid storing school information on unauthorised personal devices or storage systems;
- report any loss, theft or suspected compromise of a device or account promptly.

Staff should not use technology in a way that could compromise the confidentiality, safeguarding or reputation of the school, its pupils or its staff.

16. Misuse of Technology

Misuse of technology will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School policies, including the Behaviour Policy, Staff Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures where appropriate.

Serious or illegal incidents may be referred to external agencies, including the police, where appropriate.

Children and staff should report inappropriate websites, content, messages or other online concerns to an appropriate member of staff.

17. Filtering and Monitoring

Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School recognises that filtering and monitoring are important parts of its safeguarding arrangements.

ICT4 provides the school's internet filtering and IT support.

The **safeguarding team uses SENSO to monitor online usage** and identify potential safeguarding or inappropriate-use concerns.

Filtering and monitoring arrangements will be reviewed where necessary to ensure that they remain appropriate for the school's pupils, staff and systems.

Where monitoring identifies a concern, this will be considered by the appropriate member of staff and escalated in accordance with safeguarding procedures where necessary.

Staff should report suspected filtering failures, inappropriate content or other technical concerns to the appropriate person.

18. Training

Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School will ensure that staff receive appropriate information and training to understand their responsibilities for online safety.

This will include:

- online safety information as part of staff induction;
- regular updates for all staff;
- safeguarding and online safety training for the DSL and Deputy DSLs;
- appropriate training and information for governors and volunteers.

Training will reflect current risks, school systems and relevant statutory guidance.

19. Monitoring Arrangements

The DSL and safeguarding team at Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School will monitor online safety concerns and ensure that significant concerns are appropriately recorded and followed up.

SENSO monitoring information will be considered alongside concerns reported by staff, pupils and parents.

The effectiveness of this policy and the school's online safety arrangements will be reviewed regularly and formally as part of the school's policy review cycle.

20. Links to Other School Policies

This policy should be read alongside relevant Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School policies and procedures, including:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy;
 - Behaviour Policy;
 - Anti-Bullying Policy;
 - Staff Code of Conduct;
 - Staff Disciplinary Procedures;
 - Data Protection and Privacy arrangements;
 - Complaints Policy;
 - relevant Computing and PSHE curriculum documentation.
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21. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner where there are significant changes to legislation, statutory guidance, technology, school systems or identified online safety risks.

The review will consider the effectiveness of the school's curriculum, filtering and monitoring arrangements, staff training and response to online safety concerns.

Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School is committed to ensuring that children and adults are able to benefit from technology while understanding and managing the risks associated with being online.