



E-Safety Policy

September 2024

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Policy

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This E-safety Policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant College policies to which it refers e.g. Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, ICT Acceptable Use Policy, Anti-bullying Policy, child on child Abuse Policy, Staff Handbook, the Prevent Policy, PSE and RSE Policies, the Conducting a Search and Use of Physical Force Policy Healthy Body and the College Good Behaviour and Sanctions Policy.
- 1.2 In drafting the policy, the College have responded to guidance;
 - Enhancing digital resilience in education: An action plan to protect children and young people online (2021)
 - Teaching on-line safety in schools, 2023
 - Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024
 - Sharing. Nudes and semi-nudes: Responding to incidents and safeguarding children and young people
 - E-Safety for Schools. NSPCC, updated January 2024
 - The online safety: Five key questions for governing bodies to help challenge their schools and colleges to effectively safeguard their learners
- 1.3 Cardiff Sixth Form College, Cambridge recognises the benefits and opportunities which new technologies offer to teaching and learning. We provide internet access to all pupils and staff and encourage the use of technologies in order to enhance skills, promote achievement and enable lifelong learning. However, the accessibility and global nature of the internet and different technologies available mean that we are also aware of potential risks and challenges associated with such use.
- 1.4 Our approach is to implement the appropriate safeguards within the College while supporting staff and pupils to identify and manage risks independently and with confidence. We believe this can be achieved through a combination of security measures, training, guidance and implementation of our policies. In furtherance of our duty to safeguard pupils and we will do all that we can to make our pupils and staff stay e-safe and to satisfy our wider duty of care. E-safety is part of the College induction and through PHSE and RSE (Personal, Social Education and Relationships and Sexuality Education) and College assembly sessions pupils are informed about the importance of staying safe online.
- 1.5 The college also actively promotes Safer Internet Day advertises support to learners on online safety and harmful online content including the Professionals Online safety Helpline (POSH), the Report Harmful Content national reporting centre and Childline's Report and Remove Tool.

2.0 Creation, Monitoring and Review

- 2.1 The impact of the E-Safety Policy will be monitored regularly with a full review being carried out at least once a year by SMT, the Designated Safeguarding Lead staff who is responsible for MIS at the College. The policy will also be reconsidered where particular concerns are raised, when government legislation or recommendations are

noted; for example, via the Prevent agenda, and/or where an e-safety incident has been recorded previously in the College. This will then allow for reflective practice and for any future College practices to be appropriately reviewed in line with welfare and pastoral care.

3.0 Policy Scope

- 3.1 The E-safety Policy applies to all users/all pupils and staff/all members of the College community who have access to the College IT systems, whether on the premises or remotely in the halls of residences.
- 3.2 The E-safety Policy applies to all use of the internet and forms of electronic communication such as email, mobile phone, social media sites and use of images/video of the College community. In addition to this, students are asked upon enrolment to sign a student charter in which acceptable use of all IT is noted and students are required to abide by.

4.0 Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.1 There are clear lines of responsibility for E-safety within the College. The first point of contact should be the Designated Safeguarding Lead for all concerns of breaches of internet safety.
- 4.2 All staff are responsible for ensuring the safety of pupils and should report any concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. All teaching staff are required to deliver E-safety guidance when using online technology in the classroom. Within classes, pupils will be encouraged to question the validity and reliability of materials researched, viewed or downloaded. They will also be encouraged to respect the copyright of other parties and to cite references properly. In addition to this, provisions are put in place to ensure that students are aware of harmful sites and the dangers of using the internet through police talks and guest speaker sessions as part of PSHE and RSE (Personal, Social Education and Relationships and Sexuality Education) and pupils are given external links that can also offer support if they have concerns about online safety or wish to learn more about how to keep themselves safe online.
- 4.3 All students with responsibilities are also be given key information about e-safety in order to effectively signpost those students who may be in need of advice or support, this includes online harms associated with child on child Abuse.
- 4.4 In addition to the abuse, staff should also be alert to risk factors which include but are not limited to:
 - Virtual Identities
 - Unsupervised Contact
 - Online Communities
 - Ease of Sharing Information
 - Violent Extremism
- 4.5 When informed about an e-safety incident, staff members must take particular care not to guarantee any measure of confidentiality towards either the individual reporting it, or

to those involved. The College's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy should be referred to and followed at all times.

- 4.6 Where any report of an e-safety incident is made, all parties should know what procedure is triggered and how this will be followed up. Where management considers it appropriate, additional support from external agencies may be required, such as Cambridge Children's Services, the Police and CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre).
- 4.7 The E-safety (Designated Safeguarding Lead) Officer is responsible for keeping up to date with new technologies and their use, as well as attending relevant training. They will be expected to record incidents in line with the College's Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures and report any developments and incidents to the Principal and or/Head of School and liaise with the local authority and external agencies to promote e-safety within the College community. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will also liaise with the Company Safeguarding Lead for additional guidance and good practice, as cited within the College Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- 4.8 In line with the above, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will make available to staff key guidance from local and national organisations involving e-safety such as 'sexting' and youth produced sexual imagery.
- 4.9 Any new or temporary users, such as visitors will receive a new password or temporary password and will be required to accept and agree to the College ICT Acceptable Use Policy. All staff are responsible for using College IT systems and mobile devices in accordance with the College's ICT Acceptable Use Policy and the E-safety Policy Statements. The College uses a filtering and monitoring system, across sites and all staff and students have access to the internet. Staff and/or students accessing inappropriate material will be flagged to the Operations Manager and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be informed if an investigation needs to take place. Staff are responsible for displaying a model example to pupils at all times through good practice.
- 4.10 All digital communications with pupils must be professional at all times and be carried out in line with the College Safeguarding Policy. Online communication with pupils is restricted to the college network only. External platforms not hosted by the college, such as social media sites, may only be used when they are linked directly to a curriculum area for educational purposes e.g. Twitter, Facebook and should not be used for the promotion of materials or personal use. All College accounts must be led by a curriculum member of staff.
- 4.11 This policy will, however, be monitored and kept under review, by the E-Safety Cross College Working Group, which consists of the Head, Operations Manager, Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Company Safeguarding Lead.
- 4.12 **Students** are responsible for using the College IT systems and mobile devices in accordance with the College ICT Acceptable Use Policy and E-safety Policy Statements. Online e-safety awareness campaigns run by the College Digital Leaders and Wellness Officers aim to make pupils aware of the dangers of online usage along with an understanding of their own responsibilities in order to stay safe online. PSE and RSE sessions with Heads of Houses also make pupils aware of the issues connected to using online platforms, digital footprints and promotion on how and where support can be accessed throughout their sessions.
- 4.13 **Students** must act safely and responsibly at all times when using the internet and/or mobile technologies in their own time. They are expected to know and act in line with other relevant College policies. They must follow reporting procedures where they are

worried or concerned, or where they believe an e-safety incident has taken place involving them or another member of the College community.

- 4.14 E-safety promotion will be widely available at the College through the pastoral team, PSE and RSE lessons, guest speakers, noticeboards, online student platforms such as the Wellbeing Hub and through the promotion of awareness days and weeks by the college Wellbeing Officer through assemblies.
- 4.15 **Students** are signposted to The UK Safer Internet Centre www.saferinternet.org.uk and CEOP's Thinkuknow Website – www.thinkuknow.co.uk.
- 4.16 The College's Anti-bullying, child on child Abuse Policy and the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy make reference to cyberbullying and the processes that need to be followed. In cases where online bullying has been found to have occurred, the college will follow procedures outlined in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, along with the Anti-bullying and Good Behaviour and Sanctions Policy.

5.0 Security

- 5.1 The College will do all that it can to make sure the College network is safe and secure. Every effort will be made to keep security software up to date. Appropriate security measures include the use of enhanced filtering and protection of firewalls, servers, routers, work stations etc. to prevent accidental or malicious access of College systems and information. Digital communications, including email and internet postings, over the College network, will be monitored in line with the ICT Policies.

6.0 Behaviour

- 6.1 Cardiff Sixth Form College, Cambridge will ensure that all users of technologies adhere to the standard of behaviour as set out in the student charter as outlined in the Student Handbook and the Staff Code of Conduct as outlined in the Staff Handbook.
- 6.2 The College will not tolerate any abuse of IT systems. Whether offline or online, communications by staff and pupils should be courteous and respectful at all times.
- 6.3 Any reported incident of bullying or harassment or other unacceptable conduct will be treated seriously and in line with the student and staff disciplinary codes and the College Anti Bullying, child on child Abuse Policy and Good Behaviour and Sanctions Policies.
- 6.4 Where conduct is found to be unacceptable, the College will deal with the matter internally.
- 6.5 Where conduct is considered illegal, the college will report the matter to the police. The flowchart in the appendix makes it clear what sanctions will be applied for specific behaviours.

7.0 Use of Images and Video

- 7.1 The use of images, or photographs, is popular in teaching and learning and should be encouraged where there is no breach of copyright or other rights of another person (e.g. images rights or rights associated with personal data). This will include images

downloaded from the internet and those belonging to staff or pupils. The college's Data Protection Policy should be referred to at all times.

- 7.2 All pupils and staff receive training on the risks when taking, downloading and posting images online and making them available to others. There are particular risks where personal images of themselves or others are posted onto social networking sites. For the learner this is embedded in to the pastoral programme and through promotional awareness programmes such as PSE and RSE (Personal, Social Education and Relationships and Sexuality Education), assembly slots and awareness weeks and days.
- 7.3 Cardiff Sixth Form College, Cambridge's curriculum staff and Head of Houses will provide information to pupils on the appropriate use of images; this includes photographs of pupils and staff as well as using third party images. Our aim is to reinforce good practice as well as offer further information for all users on how to keep their personal information safe. Use of photographs of activities on the College premises should be considered carefully. Pupils sign a consent form during the application process, either allowing or withdrawing consent for the College's use of a learner's image. Approved photographs should not include names of individuals without consent.

8.0 Incidents and Response

- 8.1 Where an e-safety incident is reported to the College, the matter will be dealt with very seriously. The College will act immediately to prevent, as far as reasonably possible, any harm or further harm occurring. If a learner wishes to report an incident, they can do so to any staff member who has a duty to inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with the College's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- 8.2 Following any incident, the College will review what has happened and decide on the most appropriate and proportionate course of action. Sanctions may be put in place; external agencies may be involved or the matter may be resolved internally depending on the seriousness of the incident.
- 8.3 The e-safety incident reporting procedure flowchart in the appendix lists behaviours and their consequences. This is in line with the College's ICT Acceptable Use Policy. Serious incidents will be dealt with by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other members of SMT, in consultation with appropriate external agencies.

Appendix 1

E-Safety Policy Statements for Students

- I will not visit sites which contain items that are illegal, defamatory, pornographic or in any way offensive.
- I will observe the rules and laws regarding copyright and plagiarism.
- I will observe the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and take appropriate steps to protect all personal data.
- I will report any information that I come across which makes me feel uncomfortable or unsafe to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- I agree never to write or send malicious or offensive e-mails and accept that offenders will be reported to, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Principal and/or Head of School; depending on the severity of the incident.
- I understand that downloading and/or distributing offensive/illegal materials will lead to exclusion and possibly the involvement of the police.
- I agree to use photographs and video clips only with the specific permission of staff and students and only for educational purposes.
- I understand that if I am found to be involved in on-line bullying, that this will be dealt with in line with the College's Anti bullying policy.
- I will never give my log in details to anyone else or attempt to access the network using a log in that is not my own.
- I will never slander staff, students or the College on any social networking site, e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat etc.

Appendix 2

E-Safety Incident Reporting Procedure Flowchart

