St. Andrew's Junior School, Hatfield Peverel

E-Safety Policy Statement

1. Introduction

The use of modern technology both at home and in school offers increasing benefits and advantages for parents, children and staff. Computers, laptops, tablets and mobile phones and the associated on-line communication software, apps, websites, social media, texting and photos can make a positive contribution to day to day living and learning. Together with all the positive aspects that modern media technology offers comes the need to ensure that everybody is kept safe from those who might choose to abuse it in a variety of ways, in particular those ways which might bring harm to individuals.

The purpose of this E-Safety Policy is inform governors, staff, parents and children of how the school seeks to address all aspects of safe use of modern communication technology and what procedures are in place should there be any inappropriate use.

2. Policies and procedures

The school's approach to E-Safety is integrated with a number of other policies and procedures which aim to address the safe and appropriate use of on-line communication technology. These polices include;

- **Staff Code of Conduct** which sets out the expectations and guidelines for staff and their use of communication media both in and outside school.
- **National Curriculum Computing** lessons which help pupils to *"use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private; identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies."*
  (DfE 2013)
- **Acceptable Use Policy** for pupil use of the internet in school which forms part of the Computing Policy. This reinforces the need for safe procedures when working on-line in school. This is given to all new parents as part of the Year 3 induction process and includes links to NSPCC and DfE support websites for parents.
- **PSHE Policy and Scheme of Work** which addresses e-safety with each year group in terms of staying safe and using technology responsibly.
- **Cyberbullying** appendix to the Anti-bullying Policy which addresses how the school deals with children who experience cyberbullying, usually happening outside school but which may have an impact on behaviour and attitude at school.
- **Newsletters and other letters** are sent home on a regular basis or if a specific issue arises which aim to inform parents of the school's approach and direct them to links such as the NSPCC and DfE to support their understanding of e-safety issues at home.
- **Home-School Agreement** includes statements of support for school e-safety procedures signed by both parents and pupils.
- **School Prospectus** advises parents on the accepted ways to contact the school.
- **Complaints Procedure** advises parents on the procedures for making a formal complaint to the school staff and governors.

3. **Social Media and Parental criticism and complaints**

In recent years it has become apparent that parents (and sometimes children) may use social media in their appraisal of what they perceive to be happening at school in various situations. Essentially, this is the transfer of "old fashioned school gate gossip" to on-line, formally recorded comments (positive and negative) about the school, the staff and pupils. This is potentially damaging to the school but also to individuals if they are named and referred to in a defamatory manner. There are laws against such behaviour and the school reserves the right to pursue derogatory on-line comments by referring the matter to the police. If parents or children wish to make a complaint about the school or something that is happening at school they should do this through the accepted channels which means contacting the school directly and asking to speak to class teachers, the headteacher or governors. They should refrain from using social networking sites to voice concerns regarding school issues.

4. **Links to other sources of advice and support**
There are many organisations who provide advice for schools on these issues and also advice for parents at home. The following links have proved useful in compiling the school's approach to e-safety.
For schools;
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/374850/Cyberbullying_Advice_for_Headteachers_and_School_Staff_121114.pdf

http://www.naht.org.uk/welcome/news-and-media/key-topics/child-protection/social-media-and-online-safety-a-brief-guide/

http://www.naht.org.uk/welcome/advice/advice-home/parents-and-pupils-advice/guidance-on-online-safety-updated-february-2014/

http://ceop.police.uk

For parents;
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/375420/Advice_for_Parents_on_Cyberbullying_131114.pdf

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

http://ceop.police.uk

All these links contain further links to other useful websites.

5. **Monitoring and Evaluation**
Staff and Governors review this policy on an annual basis as part of their commitment to the safety and well-being of all pupils and staff.

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