

## Online safety policy

We recognise that the use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues, including child-on-child abuse. We recognise that children need to be safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material and the school's role within this.

To address this, all schools within the ACT MAT strive to:

- Have clear procedures in place to ensure the online safety of all staff and students
- Educate the school community in the safe and responsible use of online technology
- Set clear expectations for the use of online technology, including mobile phones

Our approach to online safety is framed by four main areas of risk:

- content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism
- contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes'
- conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying
- commerce: risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.

To address the risks above, each school within the ACT MAT will:

- Teach students about online safety through computing and PSHE lessons and other relevant subjects
- Inform parents about what their child is being asked to do online by the school
- Train all staff on online safety, including filtering and monitoring
- Train all staff in online safety, including at induction

Each school in the ACT MAT has clear guidance for the school community on acceptable use of technology and the use of mobile phones and smart technology and the behaviour policy and staff code of conduct aligns with this. Please see each of the school's individual policies for more information on this.

## Filtering and monitoring

Each school within the ACT MAT School uses a filtering and monitoring system for all of its IT. This filters and monitors for any inappropriate, sexual, harmful, violent or racial content. This includes keyword searches as well as URL's, websites and images. This covers our school network and pupil and staff devices.

The DSL has lead responsibility for understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place. The DSL and deputies monitor the effectiveness of this system. The school takes care to not 'over block' content so that there are not unreasonable restrictions on what students can be taught regarding online safety.

The processes we have in place have been informed by our risk assessment as required by the Prevent Duty.

The DfE has published filtering and monitoring standards which set out that schools should:

- 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 reasonable impacting teaching and learning
- Have effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs

All schools within the ACT MAT have done the following in relation to this: When the filtering and monitoring system detects concerning usage, DSL's and DDSL's within the school will identify the level of risk, record this on My Concern and take appropriate action, including a referral to children's social care when necessary.