Original Date Written	Latest Date Reviewed	Date for Review
July 2022	September 2026	September 2027

MARLBOROUGH
ST MARY'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Online Safety Policy

Together we believe, learn and achieve

Online Safety Policy

Marlborough St. Mary's Primary School works with children and families as part of its activities. These include exploring the internet to find useful information to help with our learning, learning how to utilize email and other communication methods and learning about social networking sites.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
- ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values, our cyber security requirements and within the law in terms of how we use online device

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in Marlborough St. Mary's Primary School's activities.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available on:

- The Children Act 1989 & 2004
- UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018
- The Online Safety Act 2023 (and associated Ofcom Codes of Practice)

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times

We recognise that:

- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however, it can also present risks and challenges
- we have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using Marlborough St. Mary's Primary School's network and devices

- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

Find out more about:

- safeguarding children who come from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities
- safeguarding d/Deaf and disabled children and young people
- safeguarding LGBTQ+ children and young people
- safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- appointing an online safety coordinator (Russell Goodman – Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead DSL)
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults
- supporting and encouraging the young people using our service to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- developing an online safety agreement (Pupil Responsible Internet Use) for use with pupils, who will sign to confirm their understanding (see Appendix 2)
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child or young person
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that usernames, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety
- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)
- providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying or cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation as a whole into account
- reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

The school is supported by our IT Technical providers– Soft Egg

Those with technical responsibilities are responsible for ensuring:

- that the school's technical infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack
- that the school meets required online safety technical requirements and any Local Authority /other relevant body online safety policy that may apply.
- that users may only access the networks and devices through a properly enforced password protection policy
- the filtering policy is applied and updated on a regular basis and that its implementation is not the sole responsibility of any single person
- that they keep up to date with online safety technical information in order to effectively carry out their online safety role and to inform and update others as relevant
- that the use of the networks/internet/digital technologies is regularly monitored in order that any misuse/attempted misuse can be reported to the Headteacher and Senior Leaders; Online Safety Lead for investigation/action/sanction
- that monitoring software/systems are implemented and updated as agreed in school/ policies
- The filtering and monitoring systems are reviewed at least annually against the DfE and UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) appropriate filtering and monitoring standards.

Staff, Governors and Volunteers

Are responsible for ensuring that:

- they have an up to date awareness of online safety matters and of the current school online safety policy and practices
- they report any suspected misuse or problem to the Headteacher/Senior Leader/Online Safety Lead for investigation/action/sanction
- all digital communications with students/pupils/parents/carers should be on a professional level and only carried out using official school systems
- online safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other activities
- pupils understand and follow the Online Safety Policy and acceptable use policies

- pupils have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations
- they monitor the use of digital technologies, mobile devices, cameras, etc. in lessons and other school activities (where allowed) and implement current policies with regard to these devices
- in lessons where internet use is pre-planned students/pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches

Staff Laptop & MSM Network Acceptable Use

Laptops are provided to members of staff for their use in carrying out their professional duties. These devices can be taken off site and connected to home wireless networks subject to the following:

- They must only be used for school business and not personal use, this includes during the school day as well as when at home.
- All information contained on the devices, especially images, video and sensitive data such as assessment is subject to the data protection act.
- Insurance cover provides protection for school owned devices from the standard risks associated with an educational establishment whilst the device is on site or in your home but excludes theft from a car or other establishment. Should the device be left unattended and is stolen, you will be responsible for its replacement, the consequences of any data loss and you may also be subject to a disciplinary procedure.
- Insurance covers damage through accidental damage but not through misuse or where it has been damaged by a member of an employee's family.
- Images taken at school of children, parents, work or staff will not be shared, including being shared via any social media platform.
- The devices may be subject to checks for compliance with school policies. Failure to comply or evidence of misuse will result in disciplinary action and could lead to a criminal prosecution.
- All information should be stored on the shared drives. Under no circumstances should any documents be saved on the C:\drive or Desktop.
- All use of staff assets and the MSM network is subject to monitoring through the Securely filtering system.
- Any misuse of the laptop or network may result in disciplinary action or contract termination.

Pupils:

- are responsible for using Marlborough St Mary's digital technology systems in accordance with the pupil acceptable use agreement (Appendix 2)
- have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations

- need to understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and know how to do so
- will be expected to know and understand policies on the use of mobile devices and digital cameras. They should also know and understand policies on the taking/use of images and on online-bullying.
- should understand the importance of adopting good online safety practice when using digital technologies out of school and realise that the school's online safety policy covers their actions out of school, if related to their membership of the school

Parents/carers

Parents/carers play a crucial role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use the internet/mobile devices in an appropriate way. Marlborough St Mary's will take every opportunity to help parents understand these issues through parents' evenings, newsletters, letters, website, social media and information about national/local online safety campaigns/literature. Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the school in promoting good online safety practice and to follow guidelines on the appropriate use of:

- digital and video images taken at school events
- Class Dojo – our parent communication platform

Community Users

Community Users who access our WiFi will use the guest WiFi and be informed their use will be monitored in line with Marlborough St Mary's Primary School safeguarding procedures.

Policy Statements

Education –Pupils

Whilst regulation and technical solutions are very important, their use must be balanced by educating pupils to take a responsible approach. The education of pupils in online safety/digital literacy is therefore an essential part of the Marlborough St Mary's online safety provision. Children and young people need the help and support of the school to recognise and avoid online safety risks and build their resilience.

In planning their online safety curriculum, the school refers to the following documents

- DfE Teaching Online Safety in Schools
- Education for a Connected Word Framework
- SWGfL Project Evolve – online safety curriculum programme and resources
- Elim Units of work for Computing

Online safety should be a focus in all areas of the curriculum and staff should reinforce online safety messages across the curriculum. The online safety curriculum should be broad, relevant and provide progression, with opportunities for creative activities and will be provided in the following ways:

- A planned online safety curriculum is provided as part of Computing/other lessons and should be regularly revisited
- Key online safety messages should be reinforced as part of a planned programme of assemblies and Online safety or Antibullying weeks.

- Pupils should be taught to be critically aware of the materials/content they access on-line and be guided to validate the accuracy of information.
- Pupils should be taught about Copyright and taught to acknowledge the source of information used to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet
- Pupils should be supported in building resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making.
- Pupils should be helped to understand the need for the pupil acceptable use agreement and encouraged to adopt safe and responsible use both within and outside school.
- Staff should act as good role models in their use of digital technologies, the internet and mobile devices
- In lessons where internet use is pre-planned, it is best practice that pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches.
- Where pupils are allowed to freely search the internet, staff should be vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites the young people visit.
- It is accepted that from time to time, for good educational reasons, pupils may need to research topics (e.g. racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request that the Technical Staff (Soft Egg) can temporarily add specific access to certain sites they wish to use to show the relevant teaching points those sites from the filtered list for a short period of time. Any request to do so, should be auditable, with clear reasons for the need and the time frame for which this should take place.
- Pupils are taught about the safe and ethical use of Generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT), including understanding its limitations and the risks of AI-assisted bullying.

Education – Parents/carers

Marlborough St Mary's will therefore seek to provide information and awareness to parents and carers through:

- Curriculum activities
- Letters, newsletters, web site, Class Dojo
- Parents/carers workshops or parent forums
- High profile events/campaigns e.g. Safer Internet Day or online safety weeks
- Reference to the relevant web sites/publications e.g. swgfl.org.uk, www.saferinternet.org.uk/, http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers

Training – Governors

Governors should take part in online safety training/awareness sessions, with particular importance for those who are members of any committee involved in technology/online safety/health and safety /safeguarding. This may be offered in a number of ways:

- Attendance at training provided by the Local Authority/MAT/National Governors Association/or other relevant organisation (e.g. SWGfL).
- Participation in school training/information sessions for staff or parents
- Recommended governor specific reading and guidance highlighted by the Safeguarding

governor

Mobile Technologies

Mobile technology devices may be school owned/provided or personally owned and might include: smartphone, tablet, notebook/laptop or other technology that usually has the capability of utilising the school's wireless network. The device then has access to the wider internet which may include the school's learning platform and other cloud-based services such as email and data storage.

All users should understand that the primary purpose of the use mobile/personal devices in a school context is educational. The mobile technologies policy should be consistent with and inter-related to other relevant school polices including but not limited to the safeguarding policy, behaviour policy, bullying policy, acceptable use policy, and policies around theft or malicious damage. Teaching about the safe and appropriate use of mobile technologies should be an integral part of the school's online safety education programme.

- The school acceptable use agreements will give consideration to the use of mobile technologies

Use of digital and video images

The development of digital imaging technologies has created significant benefits to learning, allowing staff and pupils instant use of images that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet.

However, staff, parents/carers and pupils need to be aware of the risks associated with publishing digital images on the internet. Such images may provide avenues for online-bullying to take place. Digital images may remain available on the internet forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term. It is common for employers to carry out internet searches for information about potential and existing employees. The school will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement policies to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm:

- When using digital images, staff should inform and educate pupils about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images. In particular they should recognise the risks attached to publishing their own images on the internet e.g. on social networking sites.
- Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of pupils are published on the school website/social media/local press. This will be included in the schools enrolment forms.
- In accordance with guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office, parents/carers are welcome to take videos and digital images of their own children at school events for their own personal use (as such use in not covered by the Data Protection Act).
- To respect everyone's privacy and in some cases protection, these images should not be published/made publicly available on social networking sites, nor should parents/carers comment on any activities involving other pupils in the digital/video images. However, if on occasions the school requests no photographs of an event due to safeguarding procedures parents should respect schools request and not take photos at these events.
- Any outside agencies working with the school should always request written permission from parents if they wish to take photos of children for use in their own publicity.

- Staff and volunteers are allowed to take digital/video images to support educational aims, but must follow school policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images. Those images should only be taken on school equipment; the personal equipment of staff should not be used for such purposes.
- Care should be taken when taking digital/video images that students/pupils are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school/academy into disrepute.
- Pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission
- Photographs published on the website, or elsewhere that include pupils will be selected carefully and will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images.
- Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on a website or blog, particularly in association with photographs.
- Pupil's work can only be published with the permission of the student/pupil and parents or carers.

Personal Data

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the current data protection legislation.

Staff must ensure that they:

- at all times take care to ensure the safe keeping of personal data, minimising the risk of its loss or misuse
- can recognise a possible breach, understand the need for urgency and know who to report it to within the school
- can help data subjects understands their rights and know how to handle a request whether verbal or written. Know who to pass it to in the school
- where personal data is stored or transferred on mobile or other devices (including USBs) these must be encrypted and password protected.
- will not transfer any school personal data to personal devices except as in line with school policy
- access personal data sources and records only on secure password protected computers and other devices, ensuring that they are properly "logged-off" at the end of any session in which they are using personal data

Communications

A wide range of rapidly developing communications technologies has the potential to enhance learning.

When using communication technologies, the school considers the following as good practice:

- The official school email service may be regarded as safe and secure and is monitored. Users should be aware that email communications are monitored. Staff, Governors and pupils should therefore use only the school/academy email service to communicate with others when in school, or on school systems (e.g. by remote access).
- Users must immediately report, to the DSL or whistle Blowing Governor in accordance with the school policy, the receipt of any communication that makes them feel

uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication

- Any digital communication between staff and students/pupils or parents/carers (email, social media, chat, blogs, VLE etc) must be professional in tone and content. These communications may only take place on official (monitored) school systems for example emailing through the admin@marlboroughstmarys.wilts.sch.uk. or through messages on Class Dojo.
- Personal email addresses, text messaging or social media must not be used for these communications.
- Pupils should be taught about online safety issues, such as the risks attached to the sharing of personal details. They should also be taught strategies to deal with inappropriate communications and be reminded of the need to communicate appropriately when using digital technologies.
- Personal information should not be posted on the school website and only official email addresses should be used to identify members of staff.

Marlborough St Mary's provides the following measures to ensure reasonable steps are in place to minimise risk of harm to pupils, staff and the school through:

- Ensuring that personal information is not published
- Training is provided including: acceptable use; social media risks; checking of settings; data protection; reporting issues.
- Clear reporting guidance, including responsibilities, procedures and sanctions
- Risk assessment, including legal risk

School staff should ensure that:

- No reference should be made in social media to students/pupils, parents/carers or school staff
- They do not engage in online discussion on personal matters relating to members of the school community
- Personal opinions should not be attributed to the school or local authority
- Security settings on personal social media profiles are regularly checked to minimise risk of loss of personal information

Personal Use:

- Personal communications are those made via a personal social media accounts (including messaging services). In all cases, where a personal account is used which associates itself with the school or impacts on the school, it must be made clear that the member of staff is not communicating on behalf of the school with an appropriate disclaimer. Such personal communications are within the scope of this policy
- Personal communications which do not refer to or impact upon the school are outside the scope of this policy
- Where excessive personal use of social media in school is suspected, and considered to be interfering with relevant duties, disciplinary action may be taken
- The school permits reasonable and appropriate access to private social media sites

Monitoring of Public Social Media:

- As part of active social media engagement, it is considered good practice to pro-actively monitor the Internet for public postings about the school
- The school should effectively respond to social media comments made by others according to a defined policy or process
- The school's use of social media for professional purposes will be checked regularly by the Online Safety Leader and Governor to ensure compliance with the school policies.

Illegal Incidents

If there is any suspicion that the web site(s) concerned may contain child abuse images, or if there is any other suspected illegal activity, refer to the right hand side of the Flowchart (see Appendix 1) for responding to online safety incidents and report immediately to the police.

Other Incidents

It is hoped that all members of the school community will be responsible users of digital technologies, who understand and follow school policy. However, there may be times when infringements of the policy could take place, through careless or irresponsible or, very rarely, through deliberate misuse.

In the event of suspicion, all steps in this procedure should be followed:

- Have more than one senior member of staff involved in this process. This is vital to protect individuals if accusations are subsequently reported.
- Conduct the procedure using a designated computer that will not be used by young people and if necessary can be taken off site by the police should the need arise. Use the same computer for the duration of the procedure.
- It is important to ensure that the relevant staff should have appropriate internet access to conduct the procedure, but also that the sites and content visited are closely monitored and recorded (to provide further protection).
- Record the URL of any site containing the alleged misuse and describe the nature of the content causing concern. It may also be necessary to record and store screenshots of the content on the machine being used for investigation. These may be printed, signed and attached to the form (except in the case of images of child sexual abuse – see below)
- Once this has been completed and fully investigated the group will need to judge whether this concern has substance or not. If it does, then appropriate action will be required and could include the following:
    - Internal response or discipline procedures
    - Involvement by Local Authority/Academy Group or national/local organisation (as relevant).
    - Police involvement and/or action
- If content being reviewed includes images of child abuse, then the monitoring should be halted and referred to the Police immediately. Other instances to report to the police would include:
    - incidents of 'grooming' behaviour
    - the sending of obscene materials to a child
    - adult material which potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act
    - criminally racist material

    - promotion of terrorism or extremism
    - offences under the Computer Misuse Act (see User Actions chart above)
    - other criminal conduct, activity or materials
- Isolate the computer in question as best you can. Any change to its state may hinder a later police investigation.

It is important that all of the above steps are taken as they will provide an evidence trail for the school and possibly the police and demonstrate that visits to these sites were carried out for safeguarding purposes. The completed form should be retained by the group for evidence and reference purposes.

School actions & sanctions
This will be in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

NSPCC Helpline

0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Appendix: School Based Nursery Update August 2026 – Online Safety

1. Context & Scope This addendum complements the Marlborough St Mary's CE Primary School Online Safety Policy and outlines our specific framework for the school-based Nursery setting. Recognizing that children aged 2, 3, and 4 are increasingly exposed to digital technology, devices, and online media, this procedure sets out developmentally appropriate safeguards, image practices, and parental partnerships to protect early years children.

2. Staff Devices, Images & Digital Media

- **School Devices Only:** Nursery staff and volunteers must only use school-owned equipment (e.g., school iPads or cameras) to record images or videos of children for educational tracking and learning journeys. The use of personal phones or personal digital equipment is strictly prohibited.
- **Image Consent & Privacy:** Photographs and videos of Nursery children are taken and stored solely in accordance with signed parental consent forms obtained upon enrolment. Full names are never published alongside photos on public channels.
- **Online Platforms:** Shared media via official channels (such as ClassDojo or the school website) must focus purely on learning activities, adhering to school data protection guidelines and secure cloud storage practices.

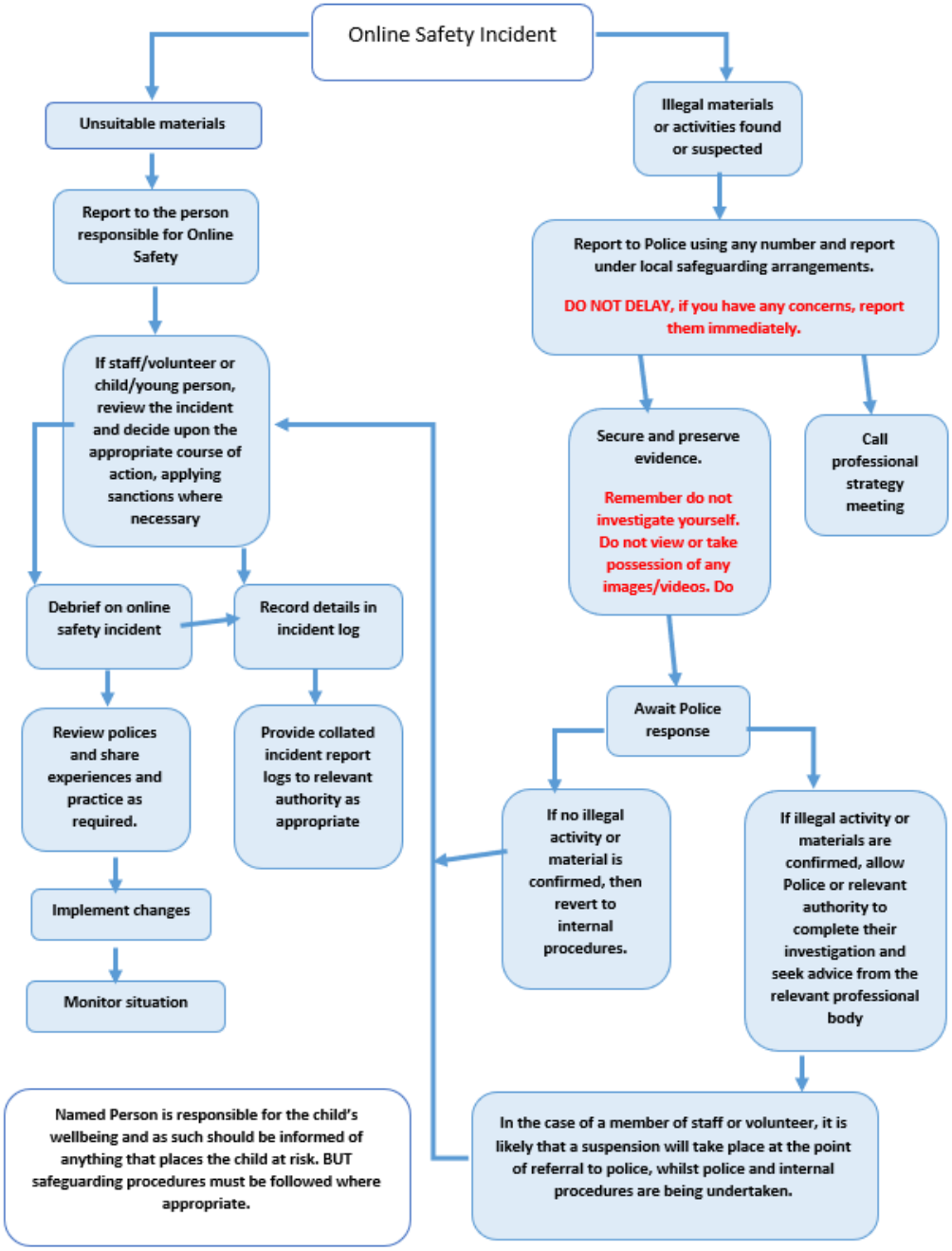
3. Age-Appropriate Technology Use & Supervision

- **Guided Access:** While young children may use interactive software, educational apps, or touchscreens as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, all digital activity in Nursery is closely supervised by practitioners.
- **Filtering & Monitoring:** All internet access within the setting is filtered and monitored through our central school technical infrastructure managed by Soft Egg and Securly. Unsupervised internet browsing is not permitted in Nursery.
- **Digital Literacy Foundations:** Early online safety concepts—such as asking permission before using a device, handling equipment gently, and telling an adult if something on a screen makes them feel unhappy or uncomfortable—are embedded naturally into continuous provision and adult-led interactions.

4. Parent Partnership & Home-School Communication

- **Communication Platforms:** Digital communications between parents and Nursery staff must take place exclusively through official, monitored school channels (such as ClassDojo or official school email addresses). Personal social media accounts or personal mobile numbers must not be used.
- **Digital Image Guidance for Events:** Parents and carers attending Nursery events (e.g., stay-and-play sessions, performances) may take images for personal use only. To protect the privacy and safeguarding of all children, parents must not post images or videos featuring other children on personal social media platforms.
- **Online Safety Awareness:** The school actively supports Nursery families by providing guidance, resources, and advice on managing screen time, age-appropriate content, and smart-device safety at home.

Appendix 1


Online Safety Incident
Unsuitable materials
Report to the person responsible for Online Safety
If staff/volunteer or child/young person, review the incident and decide upon the appropriate course of action, applying sanctions where necessary
Debrief on online safety incident
Record details in incident log
Review polices and share experiences and practice as required.
Provide collated incident report logs to relevant authority as appropriate
Implement changes
Monitor situation
Named Person is responsible for the child's wellbeing and as such should be informed of anything that places the child at risk. BUT safeguarding procedures must be followed where appropriate.
Illegal materials or activities found or suspected
Report to Police using any number and report under local safeguarding arrangements.
DO NOT DELAY, if you have any concerns, report them immediately.
Secure and preserve evidence.
Remember do not investigate yourself. Do not view or take possession of any images/videos. Do
Call professional strategy meeting
Await Police response
If no illegal activity or material is confirmed, then revert to internal procedures.
If illegal activity or materials are confirmed, allow Police or relevant authority to complete their investigation and seek advice from the relevant professional body
In the case of a member of staff or volunteer, it is likely that a suspension will take place at the point of referral to police, whilst police and internal procedures are being undertaken.

Appendix 2

Marlborough St Mary's Primary School

Pupil Responsible Internet Use

These rules help us to be fair to others and keep everyone safe.

- I will ask permission before using the Internet.
- I will only open or delete my own files.
- I understand that I must not bring into school and use software or files without permission.
- I will only e-mail and open attachments from people I know, or my teacher has approved.
- The messages I send will be polite and sensible.
- I understand that I must never give my home address or phone number, or arrange to meet someone.
- If I see anything I am unhappy with or I receive messages I do not like, I will tell a teacher immediately.
- I understand that the school may check my computer files, e-mails I send and the Internet sites I visit.
- I understand that if I deliberately break these rules, I may not be allowed to use the Internet or computers/iPad's
- The school may exercise its right to monitor the use of the school's computer systems, including access to web-sites, the interception of e-mail and the deletion of inappropriate materials where it believes unauthorised use of the school's computer system is or may be taking place, or the system is or may be being used for criminal purposes or for storing unauthorised or unlawful text, imagery or sound. The South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) monitors all Internet use and will notify the police and Local Authority if an illegal website is accessed.

Marlborough St Mary's Primary School

MARLBOROUGH ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pupil Responsible Internet Use

Please complete, sign and return to the school office

Pupil:	Class:

Pupil's Agreement

I have read and I understand the school Rules for Responsible Internet Use. I will use the computer system and Internet in a responsible way and follow these rules at all times.

Signed:	Date: