



Parent and Carer Summary LGS Online Safety Policy



Welcome to Our Parent Summary on Online Safety

Hello, and welcome. This guide helps explain our school's approach to the Laleham Gap School 'Online Safety Policy'.

Please note that this is an easy-to-read summary and not the full, official policy document. It is intended to give parents and carers a quick overview of how we support you and your children to stay safe in the digital world.

The full policy is published on the school website. We urge you to read the relevant sections of the full policy if you have a concern.

A UNICEF Rights Respecting School

Laleham Gap is a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. We learn, teach and live the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The full version of this policy contains the UNCRC Articles which underpin our child protection approach.

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What This Means For You and Your Child

- **Your child's safety in our priority:** We actively protect your child from harmful content, unsafe contact with others, poor online behaviour, and scams by monitoring their activity and educating them on how to stay safe.
- **Working in partnership with parents and carers:** We need your support to talk about online safety at home and to ensure safe digital habits continue after the school day ends.
- **Parent training and guidance:** To support parents and carers, we offer free access to our National College Portal which contains useful guides and video explainers. We also provide advice and helpful information on our school website.
- **Support and education:** If your child makes a mistake online, or if someone harms them, our focus is on giving them support, keeping them safe, and helping them learn from the experience.

The digital world is always evolving. Families, schools and our partner agencies all have role in helping children to stay safe online and supporting them when things go wrong.

Key Terms Explained

- **Filtering and Monitoring:** The technical systems we use on school internet to block bad websites, check the content and searches being viewed on our school network, and alert if a child sees or searches for something unsafe.
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** A senior member of staff who has overall, day-to-day responsibility for keeping children safe at school.
- **Deputy DSL:** Other leaders and senior members of staff, trained to the same standard of child protection as the Lead DSL.
- **Cyberbullying:** Using phones, devices, games, or the internet to upset, tease, or harm another person- repeatedly and with bad intention.
- **Child-on-Child Abuse:** When children are harmed by other children. Online, this can include behaviours such as bullying, coercion to engage in sexual activity or sharing private information and pictures without permission.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Powerful computer tools that can create text, pictures and more from written prompts. In school, we only use approved AI safely for teaching and learning.

Quick Reference: Our Safety Net

Stage	What We Do to Protect Your Child
1. In the Classroom	Staff always supervise children when they use the internet and only use approved, safe tools.
2. School Technology	We strictly block harmful websites and track online activity on all school devices. We have approved internet providers who are recognised by online safeguarding bodies and support us to do this.
3. Phones and Devices	Personal mobile phones are not allowed during the school day and must be handed in or kept in secure pouches. Children with medical needs will be supported to use devices for medical apps as needed.
4. If things go wrong.	We step in quickly to stop bullying or harmful behaviour and will always keep you informed.
5. Parent Support	As parents and carers, you must monitor the devices you allow your children to have and be prepared to have supportive conversation with them. We ask you follow device and social media advice aimed at parents. However, we will always aim to help where we can.

Policy Summary by Section

Our Child-Focused Approach and Key Responsibilities

- **A team effort:** Keeping children safe online involves everyone. School staff, governors, parents, carers and the children themselves all have a part to play
- **Online Safety Staff:** We have a trained CEOP Ambassador who helps train staff in Online Safety and teach the children about this. We also an experienced Network Manager who support the DSL with Online Safety issues.
- **Clear rules:** We have strict rules to protect children from seeing illegal or harmful content, speaking to dangerous people, or joining in bad online behaviour.
- **Specialist Training:** We invite specialist organisations and charities to speak with our staff and have age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety and grooming.

Education and Learning

- **Teaching safety:** Online Safety is a core part of our curriculum. We teach children how to navigate the internet safely, spot risks, and ask for help through dedicated lessons.
- **Extra help:** We know that children with special needs are particularly vulnerable online. We give them extra support and guidance to help them stay safe.

Filtering and Monitoring

- **Blocking bad sites:** Our school network uses strong software to stop children from viewing illegal, extreme, or harmful websites.
- **Tracking alerts:** If a child tries to search for something unsafe, our systems immediately alert our safety team so we can check on the child and offer support. Our systems also monitor content that appears on our desktops and laptops.

Social Media

- **Being kind online:** We expect everyone to treat each other with kindness and respect on social media, just like they would face-to-face.
- **Clear boundaries:** Staff will never use their personal social media to contact you or your child. Children are not allowed to use social media for personal reasons during lessons.

- **Issues outside of school:** While school staff can support issues that occur outside of school, we ask all parents and carers to play an active role in monitoring devices and social media. It is important you know how to use parent controls and help your children use apps and devices safely.

Mobile and Smart Technology

- **Phone in school:** Personal mobile phones are not allowed during the school day and must be handed in or kept in secure pouches. Children with medical needs will be supported to use devices for medical apps as needed. Phones brought into school will always be handed back at the end of the day for journeys and contact with families. If there is a problem regarding your child's device, we will contact you.
- **Right to check:** If we believe a phone has been used to break the rules or harm someone, staff have the right to confiscate it with the permission of the Headteacher. In serious cases, we may safely search the device or hand it to the police should they request it.

Responding to Concerns

- **Acting quickly:** If we learn about cyberbullying, sharing inappropriate pictures, or online abuse, we take it very seriously and act immediately.
- **Keeping you informed:** We will always talk to you if we are worried about your child's online behaviour, unless doing so would put the child in further danger. We also have an expectation that parents support us with these issues.
- **Getting expert help:** When a child is at risk of serious harm, we work closely with the police and Children's Integrated Services to protect them.

Please contact the school office if you need further information or support understanding our policies or guides. Our office staff will be happy to connect you with a member of staff who can help.