# E-Safety Policy

| Approved by: | LGB | **Date:** September 2024 |
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| **Last edited:** | November 2024 | |
| **Next review due by:** | November 2025 | |

## Policy Statement

The college's Online/E-safety/Acceptable Use policy clearly outlines the way in which the college uses technology and the measures in place to ensure safe, responsible and respectful use by all. This policy also includes appropriate filtering and monitoring on college devices and networks. There is a clear code of conduct for staff and volunteers which sets out the use of new technologies, mobile phones and personal photographic equipment around children. The college will consider, in particular, Looked after Children (Children in Care) who might be put at risk by being included in publicity materials or college photographs.

This procedure is intended to be read and understood by all users accessing LIPA MAT information in electronic or paper format, IT systems, networks or software using any LIPA MAT or personally owned device.

## The purpose of this policy statement

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people this 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 and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in LIPA Sixth Form College's activities.

## New Technologies

The DfE highlights the risks of new technologies. 'An effective approach to online safety empowers a college to protect and educate learners and staff in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate. The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable and ever evolving but can be categorised into four 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, and
- Commerce - Risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams'

The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues such as young person sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, radicalisation and sexual abuse. Technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm.

## Reporting

LIPA Sixth Form College should ensure online safety is a running and interrelated theme whilst devising and implementing policies and procedures. This will include considering how online safety is reflected as required in all relevant policies and considering online safety whilst planning the curriculum, any teacher training, the role and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead and any parental engagement.

Staff should bring immediately to the attention of the Principal, Designated Safeguarding Lead or senior leadership team any behaviours by adults, children or young people themselves that may be risky or harmful.

Our Board of Trustees will ensure that our college has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place and will regularly review their effectiveness. (KCSIE paragraph 141, September 2024). The college will adhere to the DFE Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges which sets 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 unreasonably impacting teaching and learning.
- Have effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs.

LIPA Sixth Form College recognises that technology, and risks and harms related to it, evolve and change rapidly. College will carry out an annual review of our approach to online safety and will conduct a risk assessment as part of our annual 175 Audit, which considers and reflects the risks our children and young people face. LIPA Sixth Form currently uses SMOOTHWALL, which provides web filters and tools to monitor and report on website uses.

The DfE guidance Teaching Online Safety in Schools (2023) also outlines how schools can ensure their pupils understand how to stay safe and behave online as part of forthcoming and existing curriculum requirements.

Where children and young people are asked to learn online at home, LIPA Sixth Form ensures this is done safely by referencing key guidance such as Providing Remote Education: guidance for schools, Safeguarding and remote education and advice from the London Grid for Learning

## Legal Framework

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

- Online abuse
- Bullying
- Child protection

## Beliefs and Recognitions

We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- Children and young people 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 LIPA MATs 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 and young people 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.

### Child/young person Safety

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

- Utilising filtering and monitoring software that is compliant with KCSIE 2024 (currently SMOOTHWALL)
- Appointing an online safety coordinator- this will ordinarily be the DSL
- Providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our Staff Code of Conduct
- 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 for use with young people and their parents or carers
- 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.

### Abuse Response

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.


## Related Policies and Procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

• LSFC Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

• LSFC Staff Code of Conduct