

E-SAFETY POLICY

This policy operates in conjunction with the **Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy** and the **Behaviour Policy**. There are also a number of documents and resources that are used to support this policy's implementation (please see the Annex).

Low-tech Stance

St Alban's Classical Academy prides itself in operating as a low-tech school where technology use is intentionally limited. Interactive whiteboards and handheld devices such as tablets are not used as resources by teachers or students. Some digital technology and electronic tools are sometimes used as recording equipment, speaker systems, etc. where it is necessary and appropriate to do so such as for capturing learning with photographs, playing music for Music lessons.

One of our primary goals at St Alban's Classical Academy is to educate our students in their cultural and academic inheritance and cultivate a wide range of skills and interests. Technology is not a vital component in achieving this and the same can be accomplished without. We believe in the importance of fostering skills and intelligence that separates humans from technology – the ability to think independently and creatively, problem solve, make important decisions and use social intelligence in communicating with others, collaborating, empathising and forming positive relationships. In line with our school values of pursuing and appreciating Truth, Goodness and Beauty, we know that knowledge and understanding through human experience, creativity and imagination outweighs any attained through means of artificial intelligence.

In the same way, a good maths curriculum teaches the skills to first master calculating with written methods and mental strategies before introducing the use of a calculator. We believe technology ought to be the successor in a child's learning journey. We believe that building our students' prime skills will first enable them to successfully navigate the digital world with confidence and ease.

We are confident that our students, as with anyone, can become tech-fluent at any point in their childhood and even adulthood. In fact, with such a strong foundation in all other areas, both personally and academically, and as well-rounded individuals equipped with intelligence and virtue, we feel they will be sufficient to apply responsibility and safety in their use of technology. And so, with that being said, when the school provides education for Key Stage Three students, we recognise the pertinence for our secondary-aged students to have a broad range of skills and experiences that will equip them for their lives post education.

Purpose of this policy

St Alban's Classical Academy recognises that being online is an integral part of many people's daily life. In our ever-increasing digital world, children are likely to be interacting with a variety of technologies on a daily basis outside of school, which includes not only internet technologies but also electronic communications via mobile phones, games consoles and wireless technology. Social media, online games, websites and apps can be accessed through mobile phones, computers, laptops, tablets and gaming devices – all of which form a part of many young people's online world.

Although we recognise that the use of some technologies can be beneficial, there are also a number of potential risks that can place children in danger. The internet is predominantly an unmanaged, open communications channel where anyone can publish and distribute information and material from all across the world and with

little restriction. Some of this material on the internet is published for an adult audience that may be unsuitable for children.

St Alban's Classical Academy e-Safety policy therefore encompasses the safeguarding strategies needed to ensure the school's online procedures keep students safe; as well as educate our staff so that students are taught in a way that they are equipped, aware, responsible and safe when they are accessing online systems anywhere, anytime.

Potential risks

- Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the internet, facilitated through technology like computers, tablets, mobile phones and other internet-enabled devices. It can happen anywhere online that allows digital communication, such as:
- social networking websites and apps
- text messages and messaging apps
- email and private messaging
- online chats
- comments on live streaming sites
- voice and/or text chat in games via websites, gaming devices/consoles and apps.

Current* potential risks and abuse children may face can include, but are not limited to:

- Bullying/cyberbullying via text messaging, email, social networking, etc.
- Emotional blackmail such as pressure to comply with sexual requests via technology.
- Sexual abuse and exploitation in a variety of forms including grooming, sexting, including pressure or coercion to create and share sexual images. Perpetrators may use online platforms to build a trusting relationship with the child in order to abuse them. This abuse may happen online or the perpetrator may arrange to meet the child in person with the intention of abusing them.
- Children can be revictimised (experience further abuse) when abusive content is recorded, uploaded or shared by others online. This can happen if the original abuse happened online or offline.
- Access and exposure to explicit content including violence, drug and alcohol usage and pornographic material.
- Access and exposure to inappropriate content of an adult nature including offensive/controversial ideas and advice.
- Misuse of personal information including loss of control over personal images, videos and details.
- Viruses, hacking and computer security.

**St Alban's Classical Academy recognises that with the ever-changing technological world, new opportunities, challenges and risks are appearing all the time. This can make it difficult to stay up to date with the latest devices, platforms, apps, trends and related threats. The DSL will keep up to date with changes and adapt the policy and training needs as necessary.*

School procedures

St Alban's Classical Academy recognises it has a dual responsibility to safeguard our students; firstly, by ensuring the school's online procedures keep students safe:

- school systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk. In line with updates to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023, suitable filtering and monitoring systems are in place both for all devices used within school so that pupils are never exposed to unsuitable material while in school.
- staff are protected from potential risk in their use of technology in their everyday work.
- all staff and volunteers agree to be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other communications technologies for educational and professional use only.

Secondly, St Alban's Classical Academy is diligent in educating our students so that they are aware, responsible and safe when they are accessing online systems in- and outside of school. This can be seen through a whole-

school approach both in classrooms and in the wider school. As part of the statutory relationships and health education in primary schools and relationships, sex and health education in secondary schools, students are taught about online safety and harms. This includes being taught:

- what positive, healthy and respectful online relationships look like
- the effects of their online actions on others
- how to recognise and display respectful behaviour online

There are also other curriculum subjects which include content relevant to teaching pupils how to use the internet safely. For example, sessions that teach British Values and citizenship explores:

- freedom of speech
- the role and responsibility of the media in informing and shaping public opinion
- the concept of democracy, freedom, rights, and responsibilities

Throughout these subjects, class teachers will address online safety and appropriate behaviour in an age-appropriate way, with progression in the content to reflect the different and escalating risks that students face, that is relevant to their students' lives. This includes:

- how to use technology safely, responsibly, respectfully and securely
- how to evaluate and analyse content online including recognising persuasive techniques and forms of manipulation
- where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies

Planning for e-Safety Awareness:

- Class teachers should plan sufficient opportunities for students to be taught and apply specific skills in understanding potential risks they may face online and how to use technology safely and responsibly.
- Opportunities to deliver e-Safety awareness should be planned to be delivered within the assembly plans.

Delivering e-Safety - lessons/activities should:

- incorporate education about the potential risks and harmful online behaviours (at age-related pitch and suitability) as well as clear guidance on how to manage such risks and report breaches of e-Safety.
- emphasise ways to develop safe, conscientious online behaviours that promote students as confident, responsible users anytime, anywhere.
- teach students to develop critical skills to access online systems that do not compromise the safety and security of themselves and that of others.

Embedding e-Safety:

- The ethos of a 'listening and talking' school is communicated to pupils so that they are encouraged and feel safe to report any e-Safety violation, whether they are victims or bystanders, to a member of staff.
- Opportunities to deliver e-Safety awareness should be interwoven in whole school situations where possible such as school assemblies, family assemblies, parent workshops, etc.
- Any appropriate and useful advice and support materials will be distributed to parents/guardians to support families in consolidating e-Safety practice at home.

Roles and responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that they use communications technology, on-line systems and the internet safely and responsibly.

Class teachers are responsible for planning for and delivering e-Safety awareness in their medium-term plans. The staff member who has encountered an e-Safety violation will investigate and report it to the Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mr Jermain Constantine, depending on the nature of the breach.

The Designated Safeguarding Leader is responsible for investigating incidents after they have been reported.

e-Safety training is an essential element of staff induction and part of an on-going CPD programme, delivered at least once annually. It is the responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Leader to review and update this policy annually.

The rapid development and accessibility of the internet and new technologies, such as personal publishing and social networking, means that e-Safety is an ever-growing and changing area of interest and concern. Therefore, the Designated Safeguarding Leader is responsible for refreshing their knowledge and skills and keeping up to date with any changes, editing and updating this policy and arranging training and/or support for staff where needed.

Supporting families

St Alban's Classical Academy is committed to proactively engaging our parents and families to promote and agree on principles of online safety. Therefore, in line with our parental agreement, the school requires at least one parent/adult member of each family to attend one of our Tech Talks which helps to educate families on the increasing digital world with its current trends and challenges, and strategies to reduce these risks and prevent harm. This Tech Talk also provides families with the opportunity to learn more about the school's stance on technology, the strategies for safeguarding students and the expectations for parents' responsibility in managing their child's online behaviour outside of school.

Reviewed and updated: February 2024
Mrs L Sediles

Annex

Related guidance is available on:

- [relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education](#)
- [national curriculum in England computing programmes of study](#)
- [national curriculum in England citizenship programmes of study](#)
- [keeping children safe in education](#)
- [behaviour in schools](#)
- [searching, screening and confiscation at school](#)

Support and resources are also available from:

- [CEOP Thinkuknow Programme](#)
- [NCA's Click CEOP](#)
- [National Centre for Computing Education \(NCCE\)](#)
- [UK Council for Internet Safety](#)
- [Education for a Connected World](#)

Advice from national organisations:

- [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#)
- [Association for Citizenship Teaching](#)
- [Childnet](#)
- [The Diana Award](#)
- [DotCom Charity](#)
- [Hopes and Streams](#)
- [Internet Matters](#)
- [Internet Watch Foundation](#)
- [NSPCC learning](#)
- [Parent Zone's school resources](#)
- [PSHE Association](#)
- [SWGfL](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Parent Zone](#)

Students can be referred to the following national organisations for support:

- [BBC Own It](#)
- [Childline](#)