

Newham Community Learning: Online Safety Principles Statement

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Applies to: Newham Community Learning

Approved by: Trust Board, February 2024

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1. Overview of the Principles Statement Management Process

1.1. Document history

Date	Revision	Version number (substantive revisions are allocated a new whole number; minor revisions are designated by the addition of a consecutive decimal point)
Jan 2024	<p>Whilst all Newham Community Learning schools have context-specific Online Safety Policies in place, the Trust as a whole has an overarching Online Safety Principles Statement - as agreed by the Trust Director of Safeguarding, the IT Director (Primaries) and the school based DSL team.</p> <p>All Trust schools have due regard for this Statement when developing local policy and process.</p> <p>This Statement follows DfE guidance as laid out in KCSiE (Keeping Children Safe in Education) and is updated in line with any changes to this document.</p>	v1.0

1.2. Review and approval

The Online Safety Principles Policy applies to the whole Trust. It is reviewed by the Executive Team (and/or their delegates) and is then presented to the Trust Board for approval (via a relevant board committee if appropriate).

It is reviewed in line with the Trust Policy Review Schedule.

2. Newham Community Learning - Online Safety Principles Statement

2.1. Introduction and purpose

This Statement follows the guidance in [Keeping Children Safe in Education - September 2023](#) - specifically the duties on schools as outlined in paragraphs 138 and 139 of the document. It, along with the local arrangements in place at all Trust schools, should be read in conjunction with the Trust's Safeguarding Policy, available on the [Policies Page](#) of the website.

Our Trust currently consists of two primary schools and four secondary schools. In addition, Portway Primary School has a pre-primary provision on site.

All our schools are responsive to the needs of their unique communities within the borough of Newham. All thus have their own, local, Online Safety Policy in place, which is formulated by the school leadership team and is reviewed by the Local Governing Body on an annual basis. The principles of this Newham Community Learning guidance are reflected in the local school policies.

Oversight of the Trust's approach is ensured through effective communication between the Trust's Director of Safeguarding, the Trust IT Director (Primaries) and the working group of DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads). The Trust's IT and Premises Consultant, working in partnership with the managed IT services procured by the secondary schools and liaising with the IT Director (Primaries), ensures that arrangements across our secondary schools are robust and fit for purpose. Regular meetings of these individuals and Groups, including the Trust's IT, Cyber Security and Data Protection Working Group, ensures that best practice is developed and shared systematically.

2.2. Our Trust

Being part of a family of schools ensures that children and young people who attend any one of our schools are supported and cared for consistently and effectively across their school careers. They will have access to a wide range of educational expertise, as well as the dedicated support of external experts. Across our schools, we are able to offer a broad education and a wide number of subjects, delivered by teachers who work closely together to develop their practice. This curriculum offer is enhanced by a range of extra-curricular activities, many of which are coordinated across our Trust.

Our community of schools across pre school, primary and secondary phases ensures that staff can work collaboratively in order to keep children safe, including keeping them safe online. Staff at our primary and secondary schools work particularly closely to support primary students transferring to secondary schools.

2.3. Safeguarding and online safety at school

Our Trust has a single Safeguarding Policy, applicable across all our schools and published on our Trust website as outlined in Section 2.1 above. Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) work closely together as part of a Trust-wide DSL Network to ensure consistency and to share and develop best practice.

Our Safeguarding Policy reflects the requirements of the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE), updated annually. KCSiE highlights the need for keeping children safe online, and makes it clear that managing access to online materials at school, and teaching children and young people about possible dangers they may encounter online when outside school, plays a critical role in ensuring that schools are safe environments for all children and young people. All relevant school staff are involved in the development of local Online Safety Policies, and understand how these support the whole school approach to safeguarding young people.

All our schools have local filtering and monitoring arrangements in place, as required by KCSiE. These are regularly tested and reviewed to ensure that they remain fit for purpose.

2.4. Aims and objectives

Our Trust and school policies aim to ensure that we:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors;
- Identify and support groups of pupils that are potentially at greater risk of harm online than others;
- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as 'mobile phones'); and
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate.

Across all our schools, our approach to online safety and our development of suitable contextual policies is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

Content – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, radicalisation and extremism

Contact – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as 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, such as 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

2.5. Key online safety principles across Newham Community Learning

At all our schools:

- We have high expectations of pupils' conduct and behaviour - both online and in person - which is commonly understood by staff and pupils and applied consistently and fairly to help create a calm and safe environment;
- All members of the school community create a positive, safe environment in which bullying, physical threats or abuse and intimidation are not tolerated, in which pupils are safe and feel safe and everyone is treated respectfully; this approach helps to ensure that all children and young people understand that the same standards apply regarding behaviour online;
- Any incidents of bullying, discrimination, aggression, and derogatory language (including name calling) are dealt with quickly and effectively - be these in person or online;
- A whole Trust approach to online safety means that throughout the Key Stages, children and young people build on prior learning and are provided with the information, knowledge and skills appropriate to the stage that they are at in their education;
- We ensure that we communicate with parents and carers, specifically by advising them of the filtering and monitoring systems we have in place at school, and by publishing on our school websites the sites that children and young people engage with;
- We ensure that our staff receive appropriate training regarding the use of school digital systems, including on the possible dangers of misuse. Our school digital systems have been set up to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, safety: eg. all students and staff across all our schools use Google Workspace. Staff are also provided with clear guidance as to the use of their own devices in our school settings, as well as the use of Trust issued devices outside of school - staff confirm their understanding of these arrangements via local IT Acceptable Use Agreements, as well as through confirmation that they have read and understood the Trust Staff Code of Conduct and any auxiliary local arrangements in place;
- We ensure that all our students are aware of local arrangements regarding the use and misuse of both Trust devices and personal electronic devices at school, with any misuse followed up in line with local policies and practices in place; and
- Our school staff work together to ensure that they stay up to date with global developments in AI (artificial intelligence), carefully researching ways in which widely available, low cost tools can be used to support teaching and learning, whilst robustly assessing any risks associated with the use of such tools, particularly in school settings.

2.6. Associated policies

This Statement is supported by the local Online Safety Policies in operation at all our schools. These should also be read in conjunction with:

- Local Home/School Agreements
- School based ICT Acceptable Use Agreements
- Trust Staff Code of Conduct (and any local Annexes in place)
- Trust Behaviour Principles Statement
- School Behaviour Policies