



Online Safety (E-Safety) Policy

Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment in which all pupils can learn and thrive. As part of this commitment, we recognise the importance of safeguarding children in an increasingly digital world and promoting positive, responsible use of technology for all.

We will provide an environment where all pupils feel safe, valued, and respected, both offline and online. We are committed to the fundamental principle that education, early intervention, and strong partnership working with families are crucial in ensuring the online safety, protection, and wellbeing of all children.

The school will follow national and local safeguarding guidance, including that provided by Keeping Children Safe in Education and Hwb, in relation to online safety and digital safeguarding. This includes responding effectively to any concerns related to online behaviour, content, or contact that may place a child at risk.

To enable pupils to reach their full potential, we recognise that they must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to navigate the online world safely and confidently. We will consistently promote safe, responsible, and respectful use of technology, and will work in partnership with pupils, parents, and carers to reinforce the importance of positive online behaviours.

Aims

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils in a digital world
- Ensure safe, responsible, and respectful use of technology
- Support staff in identifying and responding to online safety concerns
- Educate pupils to become informed and resilient digital citizens

Key Principles

- Online safety is a whole-school safeguarding responsibility
- Education is central to prevention
- All members of the school community have a role to play
- Concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon promptly

Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

- Ensure this policy is implemented and reviewed annually
- Ensure appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Lead on all online safety concerns
- Record and respond to incidents
- Provide guidance and training for staff

Staff

- Model safe and appropriate use of technology
- Deliver online safety education
- Report concerns immediately to the DSL

Governors

- Monitor the effectiveness of this policy
- Ensure safeguarding responsibilities are met

Pupils

- Follow acceptable use agreements
- Report any concerns to a trusted adult

Education and Curriculum

Online safety is embedded across the Curriculum for Wales, particularly within:

- Health and Well-being
- Science and Technology

Pupils will learn about:

- Staying safe online
- Respectful communication
- Recognising risks (e.g. scams, misinformation)
- Managing screen time and wellbeing

The school uses high-quality external resources to support teaching e.g. Jigsaw, Thinkuknow, NSPCC

Acceptable Use

Staff

- Use school systems professionally and in line with safeguarding expectations
- Do not communicate with pupils via personal devices or social media

Pupils

- Use technology for learning purposes
- Treat others with respect online
- Report anything that makes them feel uncomfortable

Filtering and Monitoring

The school ensures that:

- Appropriate filtering systems are in place to block harmful content
- Monitoring systems alert staff to potential risks
- Systems are reviewed regularly

Responding to Concerns

Any online safety concern will be:

- Taken seriously
- Recorded in line with safeguarding procedures
- Reported to the DSL immediately

Actions may include:

- Speaking with pupils
- Informing parents/carers
- Escalating to external agencies where necessary

Use of Images and Social Media

- Parental consent is obtained for use of images
- Images are used appropriately and stored securely
- Staff do not use personal social media to interact with pupils

Working with Parents and Carers

The school will:

- Share guidance and resources
- Support parents in keeping children safe online at home
- Provide links to trusted websites for advice

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to new guidance.

Appendix: Useful Links

- Thinkuknow
- NSPCC Online Safety
- Hwb resources