



Online Safety Policy

Approved by School Committee..... May 2026

Review Date May 2027

1. Introduction

Holmesdale Infant School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils, staff, volunteers and governors. This commitment extends to the use of digital technologies and the online environment.

We recognise that, even at infant age, children may access online content through a range of means, including school devices, shared family devices and content accessed alongside older siblings. As a result, children may encounter online risks earlier than traditionally expected. It is therefore essential that we establish safe habits, clear guidance and close supervision from the outset.

To keep children safe, we take a layered approach which includes:

- Education – structured, age-appropriate teaching about online safety
- Supervision – careful adult oversight when children are using technology
- Systems and procedures – filtering, monitoring, and clear staff responses
- Staff vigilance – a culture where adults remain alert to potential risks

In line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2025)*, we recognise that online safety is an integral part of safeguarding. Online concerns may be linked to:

- child-on-child behaviour
- exposure to inappropriate or harmful content
- excessive or unregulated screen use impacting wellbeing

All concerns are taken seriously and managed in line with the school's safeguarding procedures.

The 4 Cs of Online Safety

We adapt the national "4 Cs" framework to ensure it is meaningful and accessible for young children:

- Content – children may see things that are upsetting, confusing or not meant for them (for example, scary images, misleading videos or AI-generated content).
- Contact – children may experience unwanted contact online or inappropriate interactions, including with other children.
- Conduct – children learn how to behave appropriately online, including being kind and respectful and not sharing unkind messages or images.
- Commerce – children may encounter prompts to click, purchase or engage with adverts, games or in-app content.

Although many infant-aged pupils do not independently use social media, risks can still arise through:

- video platforms (e.g. autoplay content)
- online games
- shared devices
- access via older siblings

Our aim is to establish a whole-school culture where technology is used safely, respectfully and appropriately.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 School Committee

The Local School Committee has delegated responsibility to provide local oversight and assurance. Together, they will monitor that:

- this policy is in place, reviewed and implemented effectively
- online safety is embedded within the school's safeguarding arrangements
- appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place, effective and regularly reviewed
- the school complies with statutory safeguarding guidance, including *Keeping Children Safe in Education*
- staff receive appropriate training and updates on online safety

The Local School Committee will seek appropriate information and assurance from the Headteacher/ DSL to fulfil its role.

2.2 Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring the policy is implemented consistently across the school. This includes:

- ensuring all staff understand expectations around supervising online use
- embedding online safety within school systems and culture
- overseeing the effectiveness of filtering and monitoring
- ensuring concerns are reported and escalated appropriately

2.3 Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputies

The DSL and deputies take a lead role in all online safety safeguarding matters. They will:

- manage and respond to any online safety incidents or concerns
- liaise with external agencies, including social care and police, where required
- ensure clear and accurate recording of incidents

- monitor alerts from filtering and monitoring systems
- provide training, updates and guidance for staff
- support early intervention for vulnerable pupils

2.4 All Staff and Volunteers

All adults working within the school have a responsibility to contribute to online safety. They must:

- follow this policy
- supervise children carefully when using technology
- model appropriate and professional use of devices
- report any concerns immediately to the DSL
- reinforce simple, consistent safety messages (e.g. "tell an adult", "be kind")
- maintain a safeguarding mindset of "it could happen here"

2.5 Parents and Carers

We recognise that parents and carers play a crucial role in supporting safe online behaviour. We ask that they:

- supervise their child's use of technology at home
- report any concerns promptly to the school
- reinforce key messages, including:
 - telling a trusted adult if something feels wrong
 - being kind to others
 - not clicking or sharing without checking

We work in partnership with parents and carers to promote safe online behaviours beyond school.

We provide:

- regular online safety information through newsletters
- #WakeUpWednesday guidance
- signposting to trusted external resources

3. Teaching Online Safety

Online safety is taught as part of a broad and balanced curriculum through:

- PSHE
- Computing
- assemblies

Teaching is carefully planned so that it is simple, repetitive and developmentally appropriate. The focus is on embedding key habits and behaviours rather than introducing unnecessary detail.

Children are taught to:

- tell a trusted adult if something worries or confuses them
- understand that not everything online is true or real
- behave kindly and respectfully when using technology
- recognise safe and unsafe choices
- avoid clicking or interacting without adult permission

Staff ensure that teaching stays appropriate by focusing on:

- trusted adult support
- emotional understanding
- safe, practical behaviours
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4. Acceptable Use Agreements

All staff, volunteers and governors are expected to follow the school's acceptable use expectations, with agreement confirmed as appropriate.

Pupil expectations are introduced in ways that are suitable for their age and understanding and are regularly reinforced through classroom practice.

5. Use of Mobile and Smart Technology

At Holmesdale Infant School:

- pupils should not bring mobile phones to school unless specifically agreed in exceptional circumstances

This approach supports:

- effective safeguarding
- prevention of access to inappropriate content
- reduction of distractions during the school day

6. Training

All staff receive:

- annual safeguarding updates

- additional briefings to address emerging risks (including AI-generated content)

Training is aligned with:

- KCSIE 2025
- DfE filtering and monitoring expectations

7. Further Information to Support Online Safety

For Parents

- NSPCC Online Safety Guides
- Internet Matters
- Thinkuknow (parent section)
- Report Harmful Content: <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>

For Staff

- UK Safer Internet Centre
- DfE: Teaching Online Safety in Schools
- Internet Matters (teacher resources)

Key Infant School Principles

- Safety is built through strong supervision
- Simple rules are taught and repeated regularly
- “Tell a trusted adult” is central to all messaging
- Kindness and respect underpin all online behaviour
- A strong partnership with parents is essential