



Online Safety Policy

This policy was drafted by N Coleman. It was presented in draft version to the full staff compliment for discussion and revision. The final version was presented to Governors for consideration, approval and adoption.

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Person responsible for review:	Headteacher / Computing Lead
Signed by Chair of Governors	December 2024

1 Teaching and learning

1.1 Why is Internet use important?

- The purpose of Internet use in school is to raise educational standards, to promote pupil achievement, to support the professional work of staff and to enhance the school's management functions.
- Internet use is part of the statutory curriculum and is a necessary tool for learning.
- The Internet is a part of everyday life for education, business and social interaction.
- The school has a duty to provide students with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience.
- Pupils use the Internet widely outside school and need to learn how to evaluate Internet information and to take care of their own safety and security.
- Internet access is an entitlement for students who show a responsible and mature approach to its use.

1.2 How does Internet use benefit education?

Benefits of using the Internet in education include:

- Access to worldwide educational resources including museums and art galleries;
- Inclusion in the National Education Network which connects all UK schools;
- Educational and cultural exchanges between pupils worldwide;
- Vocational, social and leisure use in libraries, clubs and at home;
- Access to experts in many fields for pupils and staff;
- Professional development for staff through access to national developments, educational materials and effective curriculum practice;
- Collaboration across networks of schools, support services and professional associations;
- Improved access to technical support including remote management of networks and automatic system updates;
- Exchange of curriculum and administration data with Warwickshire County Council and DfE;
- Access to learning wherever and whenever convenient.

1.3 How can Internet use enhance learning?

- The school's Internet access will be designed to enhance and extend education.
- Pupils will be taught what Internet use is acceptable and what is not and given clear objectives for Internet use.
- The schools will ensure that the copying and subsequent use of Internet-derived materials by staff and pupils complies with copyright law.
- Access levels to the internet will be reviewed to reflect the curriculum requirements and the age and ability of pupils.
- Staff should guide pupils to online activities that will support the learning outcomes planned for the pupils' age and ability.
- Pupils will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation.
- Pupils will be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using Internet material in their own work.

1.4 How will pupils learn how to evaluate Internet content?

- Pupils will be taught to be critically aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.
- Pupils will use age-appropriate tools to research Internet content.

- The evaluation of online materials is a part of teaching and learning in every subject and will be viewed as a whole-school requirement across the curriculum.

2. Managing Information Systems

2.1 How will information systems security be maintained?

- Users must act reasonably — e.g. the downloading of large files during the working day will affect the service that others receive.
- Users must take responsibility for their network use. Flouting electronic use policy is regarded as a potential reason for dismissal.
- Workstations should be secured against user mistakes and deliberate actions.
- Servers must be located securely and physical access restricted.
- The server operating system must be secured and kept up to date.
- Virus protection for the whole network must be installed and current.
- Access by wireless devices must be proactively managed and secured with a minimum of WPA2 encryption.

Wide Area Network (WAN) security issues include:

- Central KPSN Schools Broadband firewalls and local CPEs are configured to prevent unauthorised access between schools.
- Decisions on WAN security are made on a partnership between schools and WCC.

The Schools Broadband network is protected by a cluster of high performance firewalls at the Internet connecting nodes in Warwickshire. These industry leading appliances are monitored and maintained by a specialist security command centre.

- The security of the school information systems and users will be reviewed regularly.
- Virus protection will be updated regularly.
- Portable media may not be used without specific permission followed by an anti-virus / malware scan.
- Unapproved software will not be allowed in work areas or attached to email.
- Files held on the school's network will be regularly checked.
- The Computing coordinator/network manager will review system capacity regularly.
- The use of user logins and passwords to access the school network will be enforced.

2.2 How will email be managed?

- Pupils may only use approved email accounts for school purposes.
- Pupils must immediately tell a designated member of staff if they receive offensive email.
- Pupils must not reveal personal details of themselves or others in email communication, or arrange to meet anyone without specific permission from an adult.
- Whole class or group email addresses will be used in primary schools for communication outside of the school.
- Access in school to external personal email accounts may be blocked.
- Excessive social email use can interfere with learning and will be restricted.
- Email sent to external organisations should be written carefully and authorised before sending, in the same way as a letter written on school headed paper would be.
- The forwarding of chain messages is not permitted.
- Schools will have a dedicated email for reporting wellbeing and pastoral issues. This inbox will be managed by designated and trained staff.

2.3 How will published content be managed?

- The contact details on the website should be the school address, email and telephone number.
- Staff or pupils' personal information must not be published.
- Email addresses will be published carefully online, to avoid being harvested for spam (e.g. by replacing '@' with 'AT')
- The headteacher will take overall editorial responsibility for online content published by the school and will ensure that content published is accurate and appropriate.
- The school website will comply with the school's guidelines for publications including respect for intellectual property rights, privacy policies and copyright.

2.4 How will the use of digital images and videos be managed?

The development of digital imaging technologies has created significant benefits to learning, allowing staff and pupils instant use of images and videos that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet. However, staff and pupils need to be aware of the risks associated with sharing images and with posting digital images and videos on the internet.

- Photographs published on the website, or elsewhere that include pupils will be selected carefully and will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images.
- When using digital images, staff should inform and educate students/pupils about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images. In particular they should recognise the risks attached to publishing their own images on the internet e.g. on social networking sites.
- Staff are allowed to take digital/video images to support educational aims, but must follow school policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images. Those images should only be taken on school equipment; the personal equipment of staff should not be used for such purposes.
- Care should be taken when taking digital/video images to ensure that pupils are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.
- Pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without adult permission.
- Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on the public facing website, particularly in association with photographs.
- Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before images/videos of pupils are electronically published.
- Pupils work can only be published with their permission or the parents.
- Written consent will be kept by the school where pupils' images are used for publicity purposes, until the image is no longer in use.
- The School will have a policy regarding the use of photographic images of children which outlines policies and procedures.

2.5 How will social networking, social media and personal publishing be managed?

- The school will control access to social media and social networking sites.
- Pupils will be advised never to give out personal details of any kind which may identify them and/or their location. Examples would include real name, address, mobile or landline phone numbers, school attended, IM and email addresses, full names of friends/family, specific interests and clubs etc.
- Staff wishing to use Social Media tools with students as part of the curriculum will risk assess the sites before use and check the sites terms and conditions to ensure the site is age appropriate.

- Staff will obtain consent from the Senior Leadership Team before using Social Media tools in the classroom.
- Staff official blogs or wikis should be password protected and run from the school website with approval from the Senior Leadership Team. Members of staff are advised not to run social network spaces for pupil use on a personal basis.
- Personal publishing will be taught via age appropriate sites that are suitable for educational purposes. They will be moderated by the school where possible.
- Pupils will be advised on security and privacy online and will be encouraged to set secure passwords, deny access to unknown individuals and to block unwanted communications. Pupil will be encouraged to approve and invite known friends only on social networking sites and to deny access to others by making profiles private.
- All members of the school community are advised not to publish specific and detailed private thoughts, especially those that may be considered threatening, hurtful or defamatory.
- Newsgroups will be blocked unless a specific use is approved.
- Concerns regarding students' use of social networking, social media and personal publishing sites (in or out of school) will be raised with their parents/carers, particularly when concerning students' underage use of sites.
- Staff personal use of social networking, social media and personal publishing sites will be discussed as part of staff induction and safe and professional behaviour will be outlined in the school Acceptable Use Policy.

2.6 How will filtering be managed?

Access controls fall into several overlapping types (commonly described as filtering):

- Blocking strategies prevent access to a list of unsuitable sites. Maintenance of the blocking list is a major task as new sites appear every day.
- A walled garden or "allow list" restricts access to a list of approved sites. Such lists inevitably limit pupils' access to a narrow range of content.
- Dynamic content filtering examines web page content or email for unsuitable words.
- Keyword lists filter search engine searches and URLs for inappropriate results and web addresses. Rating systems give each web page a rating for sexual, profane, violent or other unacceptable content.
- URL monitoring records the Internet sites visited by individual users. Reports can be produced to investigate pupil access.
- Key loggers record all text sent by a workstation and analyse it for patterns.

It is the Senior Leadership Team's responsibility to ensure appropriate procedures are in place and all members of staff are suitably trained to supervise Internet access.

It is important that schools recognise that filtering is not 100% effective. There are ways to bypass filters (such as using proxy websites, using a device not connected to the network e.g. mobile phone).

Occasionally mistakes may happen and inappropriate content may be accessed. It is therefore important that children should always be supervised when using internet access and that Acceptable Use Policies are in place. In addition, Internet Safety Rules should be displayed, and both children and adults should be educated about the risks online and should recognise acceptable and unacceptable behavior, and be aware of a range of ways to report concerns about content.

Any material that the school believes is illegal must be reported to appropriate agencies such as WWC, Police or CEOP (see online safety contacts and references).

Websites which schools believe should be blocked centrally should be reported to the Schools Broadband Service Desk. Teachers should always evaluate any websites/search engines

before using them with their students; this includes websites shown in class as well as websites accessed directly by the pupils. Often this will mean checking the websites, search results etc just before the lesson. Remember that a site considered safe one day may be changed due to the Internet being a dynamic entity. Particular attention should also be paid to advertisements as they can change each time the web page is accessed.

- The school's broadband access will include filtering appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils.
- The school will work with WCC and the Schools Broadband team to ensure that filtering policy is continually reviewed.
- The school will have a clear procedure for reporting breaches of filtering. All members of the school community (all staff and all pupils) will be aware of this procedure.
- If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL will be reported to the School Online Safety Coordinator who will then record the incident and escalate the concern as appropriate.
- The School Senior Leadership Team will ensure that regular checks are made to ensure that the filtering methods selected are effective.
- Any material that the school believes is illegal will be reported to appropriate agencies such as WCC, Police or CEOP

2.7 How are emerging technologies managed?

- Emerging technologies will be examined for educational benefit and a risk assessment will be carried out before use in school is allowed.
- Pupils will be instructed about safe and appropriate use of personal devices both on and off site in accordance with the school Acceptable Use or Mobile Phone Policy.

2.8 How should personal data be protected?

The Data Protection Act 1998 ("the Act") gives individuals the right to know what information is held about them and provides a framework to ensure that personal information is handled properly. It promotes openness in the use of personal information.

Under the Act every organisation that processes personal information (personal data) must notify the Information Commissioner's Office, unless they are exempt.

The Data Protection Act 1998 applies to anyone who handles or has access to information concerning individuals. Everyone in the workplace has a legal duty to protect the privacy of information relating to individuals. The Act sets standards (eight data protection principles), which must be satisfied when processing personal data (information that will identify a living individual). The Act also gives rights to the people the information is about i.e. subject access rights let individuals find out what information is held about them. The eight principles are that personal data must be:

- Processed fairly and lawfully
- Processed for specified purposes
- Adequate, relevant and not excessive
- Accurate and up-to-date
- Held no longer than is necessary
- Processed in line with individual's rights
- Kept secure
- Transferred only to other countries with suitable security measures

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the Data Protection Act 1998.

3. Policy Decisions

3.1 How will Internet access be authorised?

- The school will maintain a current record of all staff and pupils who are granted access to the school's electronic communications.
- All staff will read and sign the School Acceptable Use Policy before using any school ICT resources.
- Parents will be asked to read the School Acceptable Use Policy for pupil access and discuss it with their child, where appropriate.
- All visitors to the school site who require access to the schools network or internet access will be asked to read and sign an Acceptable Use Policy.
- Parents will be informed that pupils will be provided with supervised Internet access appropriate to their age and ability.
- When considering access for vulnerable members of the school community (such as with children with special education needs) the school will make decisions based on the specific needs and understanding of the pupil(s).
- At Key Stage 1 pupils' access to the Internet will be by adult demonstration with subsequent direct supervision and access to specific and approved online materials.
- At Key Stage 2 pupils will be supervised. Pupils will use age-appropriate search engines and online tools and online activities will be teacher-directed where necessary.

3.2 How will risks be assessed?

- The school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users access only appropriate material. However, due to the global and connected nature of Internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that access to unsuitable material will never occur via a school computer. Neither the school nor WCC can accept liability for the material accessed, or any consequences resulting from Internet use.
- The school will audit ICT use to establish if the online safety policy is adequate and that the implementation of the online safety policy is appropriate.
- The use of computer systems without permission or for inappropriate purposes could constitute a criminal offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and breaches will be reported to Police.
- Methods to identify, assess and minimise risks will be reviewed regularly.

3.3 How will the school respond to any incidents of concern?

Online Safety risks can be experienced unintentionally or deliberately by people acting inappropriately or even illegally. Any potential concerns must be dealt with at a personal level. Teachers are the first line of defence; their observation of behaviour is essential in recognising concerns about pupils and in developing trust so that issues are reported.

Staff should also help develop a safe culture by observing each other's behaviour online and discussing together any potential concerns. Incidents of concern may include unconsidered jokes and comments or inappropriate actions. Any illegal activity would need to be reported to the school Designated Child Protection Coordinator.

Where there is cause for concern or fear that illegal activity has taken place or is taking place involving the use of computer equipment, schools should determine the level of response necessary for the offence disclosed. The decision to involve Police should be made as soon as possible, after contacting the Children Safeguard Team or online safety officer, if the offence is deemed to be out of the remit of the school to deal with.

- All members of the school community will be informed about the procedure for reporting online safety concerns (such as breaches of filtering, cyberbullying, illegal content etc).
- The Online Safety Coordinator will record all reported incidents and actions taken in the School online safety incident log and other in any relevant areas e.g. Bullying or Child protection log.
- The Designated Child Protection Coordinator will be informed of any online safety incidents involving Child Protection concerns, which will then be escalated appropriately.
- The school will manage online safety incidents in accordance with the school behaviour policy where appropriate.
- The school will inform parents/carers of any incidents of concerns as and when required.
- After any investigations are completed, the school will debrief, identify lessons learnt and implement any changes required.
- Where there is cause for concern or fear that illegal activity has taken place or is taking place then the school will contact the Children's Safeguard Team or Online Safety Officer and escalate the concern to the Police

3.4 How will online safety complaints be handled?

- Complaints about Internet misuse will be dealt with under the School's complaints procedure.
- Any complaint about staff misuse will be referred to the head teacher.
- All online safety complaints and incidents will be recorded by the school, including any actions taken.

3.5 How is the Internet used across the community?

- The school will be sensitive to Internet-related issues experienced by pupils out of school, e.g. social networking sites, and offer appropriate advice.
- The school will provide appropriate levels of supervision for students who use the internet and technology whilst on the school site.
- In accordance with the Computing programme of study, the school will educate children on how to use technology safely and respectfully, impacting on school, home and community behaviour.

3.6 How will Cyberbullying be managed?

Cyberbullying can be defined as "The use of Information Communication Technology, particularly mobile phones and the internet to deliberately hurt or upset someone" DCSF 2007

Many young people and adults find that using the internet and mobile phones is a positive and creative part of their everyday life. Unfortunately, technologies can also be used negatively. When children are the target of bullying via mobiles phones, gaming or the Internet, they can often feel very alone, particularly if the adults around them do not understand cyberbullying and its effects. A once previously safe and enjoyable environment or activity can become threatening, harmful and a source of anxiety.

It is essential that young people, school staff and parents and carers understand how cyberbullying is different from other forms of bullying, how it can affect people and how to respond and combat misuse. Promoting a culture of confident users will support innovation and safety.

Cyberbullying (along with all other forms of bullying) of any member of the school community will not be tolerated. Full details are set out in the school's policy on anti-bullying and behaviour.

- There are clear procedures in place to support anyone in the school community affected by cyberbullying.
- All incidents of cyberbullying reported to the school will be recorded.
- There will be clear procedures in place to investigate incidents or allegations of Cyberbullying.
- Pupils, staff and parents/carers will be advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence.
- The school will take steps to identify the bully, where possible and appropriate. This may include examining school system logs, identifying and interviewing possible witnesses, and contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.
- Pupils, staff and parents/carers will be required to work with the school to support the approach to cyberbullying and the school's online safety ethos.

Sanctions for those involved in cyberbullying may include:

- The bully will be asked to remove any material deemed to be inappropriate or a service provider may be contacted to remove content if the bully refuses or is unable to delete content.
- Internet access may be suspended at school for the user for a period of time. Other sanctions for pupils and staff may also be used in accordance to the schools anti-bullying, behaviour policy or Acceptable Use Policy.
- Parent/carers of pupils will be informed.
- The Police will be contacted if a criminal offense is suspected.

3.7 How will Learning Platforms be managed?

- SLT and staff will regularly monitor the usage of the LP by pupils and staff in all areas, in particular message and communication tools and publishing facilities such as blogging.
- Pupils/staff will be advised about acceptable conduct and use when using the LP.
- Only members of the current pupil, parent/carers and staff community will have access to the LP.
- All users will be mindful of copyright issues and will only upload appropriate content onto the LP.
- When staff, pupils etc leave the school their account or rights to specific school areas will be disabled or transferred to their new establishment.

3.8 How will mobile phones and personal devices be managed?

- See separate mobile phone policy

3.9 How will staff iPads and laptops be managed?

- See separate Staff iPad Acceptable Use Policy and Laptop Acceptable Use Policy

4. Communication Policy

4.1 How will the policy be introduced to pupils?

Consideration must be given as to the curriculum place for teaching online safety. This could be taught through the Computing programme of study, PSHE, part of the pastoral programme or part of every subject whenever pupils are using the internet.

- All users will be informed that network and Internet use will be monitored.
- An online safety training programme will be established across the school to raise the awareness and importance of safe and responsible internet use amongst pupils.
- Pupil instruction regarding responsible and safe use will precede Internet access.

- An online safety module will be included in the PSHE and/or Computing programmes covering both safe school and home use.
- Online safety training will be part of the transition programme across the Key Stages and when moving between establishments.
- Online safety rules will be posted in all rooms with Internet access.
- Safe and responsible use of the Internet and technology will be reinforced across the curriculum and subject areas.
- Particular attention to online safety education will be given where pupils are considered to be vulnerable.

4.2 How will the policy be discussed with staff?

It is important that all staff feel confident to use new technologies in teaching and the School Online Safety Policy will only be effective if all staff subscribe to its values and methods.

ICT use is widespread and all staff including administration, midday supervisors, caretakers, governors and volunteers should be included in awareness raising and training. Induction of new staff should include a discussion about the school Online Safety Policy.

- The Online Safety Policy will be formally provided to and discussed with all members of staff.
- To protect all staff and pupils, the school will implement Acceptable Use Policies.
- Staff will be made aware that Internet traffic can be monitored and traced to the individual user.
- Discretion and professional conduct is essential.
- Up-to-date and appropriate staff training in safe and responsible Internet use, both professionally and personally, will be provided for all members of staff.
- The School will highlight useful online tools which staff should use with children in the classroom. These tools will vary according to the age and ability of the pupils.
- All members of staff will be made aware that their online conduct out of school could have an impact on their role and reputation within school. Civil, legal or disciplinary action could be taken if they are found to bring the profession or institution into disrepute, or if something is felt to have undermined confidence in their professional abilities.

4.3 How will parents' support be enlisted?

Internet use in pupils' homes is increasing rapidly, encouraged by low cost access and developments in mobile technology. Unless parents are aware of the dangers, pupils may have unrestricted and unsupervised access to the Internet in the home. The school will help parents plan appropriate, supervised use of the Internet at home and educate them about the risks. Parents should also be advised to check whether their child's use elsewhere in the community is covered by an appropriate use policy.

- Parents' attention will be drawn to the school Online Safety Policy in newsletters, the school prospectus and on the school website.
- A partnership approach to online safety at home and at school with parents will be encouraged. This will include offering parent evenings with demonstrations and suggestions for safe home Internet use, or highlighting online safety at other attended events e.g. parent evenings, seasonal events and sports days.
- Information and guidance for parents on online safety will be made available to parents in a variety of formats.
- Advice on useful resources and websites, filtering systems and educational and leisure activities which include responsible use of the Internet will be made available to parents.

Online Safety Contacts and References

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre): www.ceop.police.uk

Childline: www.childline.org.uk

Childnet: www.childnet.com

Click Clever Click Safe Campaign: <http://clickcleverclicksafe.direct.gov.uk>

Cybermentors: www.cybermentors.org.uk

Digizen: www.digizen.org.uk

Internet Watch Foundation (IWF): www.iwf.org.uk

Kidsmart: www.kidsmart.org.uk

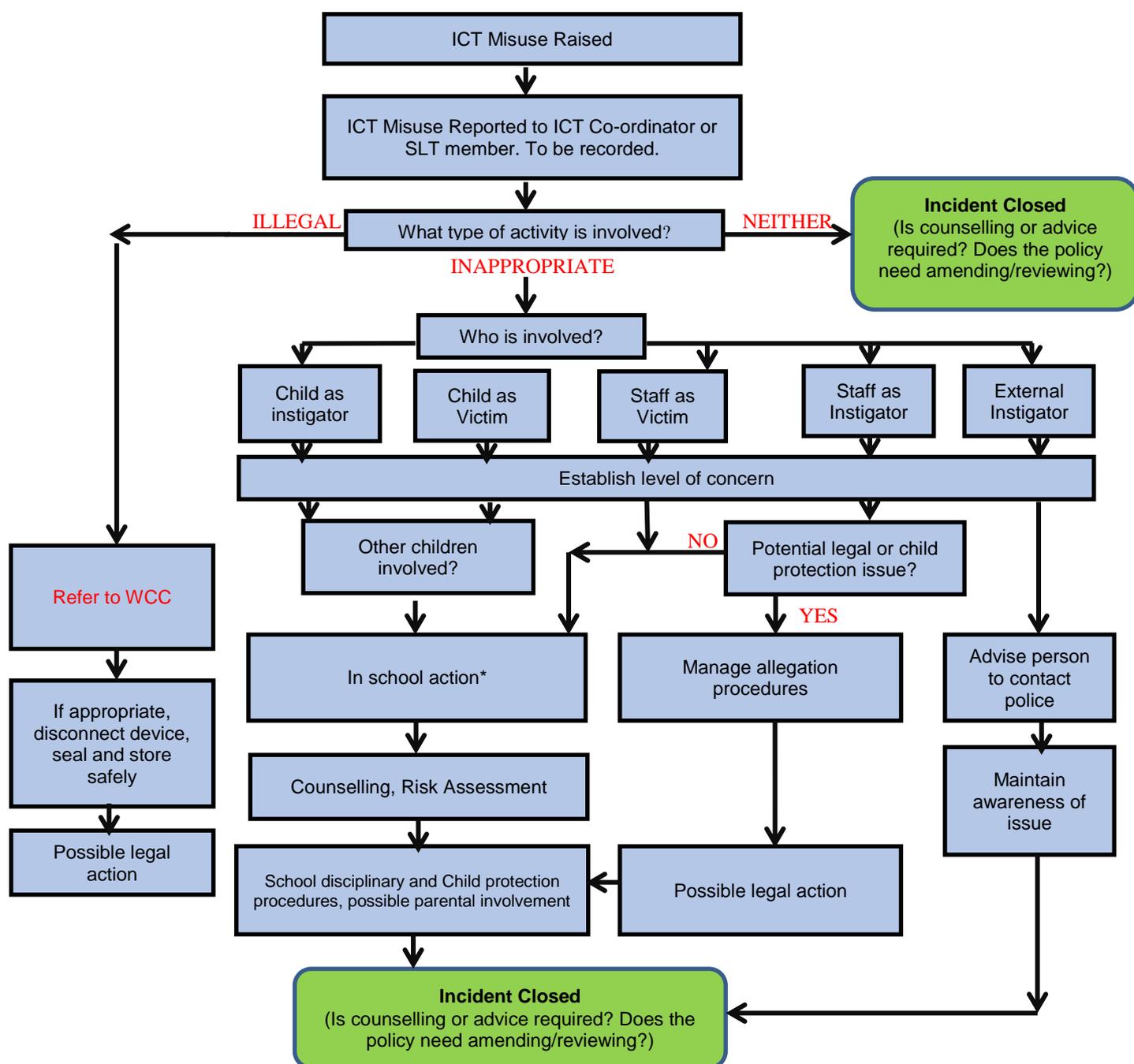
Teach Today: <http://en.teachtoday.eu>

Think U Know website: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Virtual Global Taskforce — Report Abuse: www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com

ICT Misuse/Online Safety breach Reporting Protocol

All Staff should follow the reporting protocol when dealing with concerns that they feel are either illegal (involving sexual abuse images, adult material, criminally racist material or criminal activity) or inappropriate (involving cyber bullying, use of restricted websites, revealing personal information or incorrect use of electronic devices, etc.). It is important that any incidents are dealt with as soon as possible in a proportionate manner. Incidents of misuse will be recorded and managed using the 'ICT Misuse Form'.



* **In School Action** will be related to the level of concern but may include the following:

- Discussions regarding online safety with pupils involved, classes, year groups or whole school (in conjunction with behaviour policy).
- Phone call, meeting with parents/carers and children involved.
- Withdrawal of ICT privileges including internet use, electronic device use or certain elements of lessons.
- Review of ICT policies, procedures and restrictions on website/device use.

