St James C of E Academy

Online Safety Policy

"Here at St James we believe that 'everyone is loved, this will allow all to flourish and unlock their potential promoting joy in lifelong learning. We will use our faith, Gods words and the light he gives to support this."

Unlocking potential and flourishing

"I can do all things through Christ; who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

Joy in Lifelong learning

"Put these abilities to work; throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone may notice your improvement and progress."

1Timothy 4:15

Everyone is Loved

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you"

John 15:12

Policy adopted: October 2026

Policy reviewed: October 2027

St James CE Academy

Online Safety Policy

Our Vision

At St James CE Academy, our theologically rooted vision is simple and powerful:

"Here at St James, you are loved."

Inspired by God's love for all people, we strive to create a safe, nurturing and inclusive community where every child is valued, respected and empowered to flourish. We believe that every member of our school family deserves to feel safe, both in person and online.

As technology continues to play an increasingly important role in children's lives, we are committed to helping our pupils become responsible, respectful and discerning digital citizens. Through education, partnership with families and robust safeguarding procedures, we seek to ensure that all members of our community can navigate the online world safely, confidently and with integrity.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils when using digital technologies.
- Create a culture where online safety is everyone's responsibility.
- Equip pupils with the knowledge and skills to stay safe online.
- Promote positive online behaviour that reflects our vision and values.
- Support pupils in making wise choices when engaging with digital content and communication.
- Prevent, identify and respond effectively to online safety concerns.
- Work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure consistency between home and school.

Our Christian Foundation

At St James, we believe that every individual is created in the image of God and deserves to be treated with dignity, kindness and respect.

We encourage pupils to consider how their actions online reflect our Christian values and the way we treat others. Through Collective Worship, our curriculum and daily interactions, children are taught that:

- Their words have power and should be used kindly.
- Everyone deserves respect online and offline.
- Digital technology should be used positively to support learning, communication and creativity.
- They have a responsibility to speak up if something online makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.
- Being a good digital citizen means showing the same care and compassion online as they would face to face.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governors

Governors will:

- Ensure the school meets statutory safeguarding requirements.
- Monitor the effectiveness of online safety arrangements.
- Receive updates regarding online safety incidents and developments.
- Support leaders in maintaining a safe digital environment.

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Lead a strong culture of online safety.
- Ensure appropriate policies, procedures and training are in place.
- Respond to serious online safety concerns.
- Ensure online safety forms part of the safeguarding culture of the school.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL will:

- Oversee the management of online safety incidents.
- Maintain records and make referrals where necessary.

- Provide advice and support to staff, pupils and families.
- Work with external agencies when concerns arise.

Staff

All staff will:

- Model safe and professional use of technology.
- Teach and reinforce online safety messages.
- Follow school policies and safeguarding procedures.
- Report concerns immediately to the DSL.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Use technology responsibly and respectfully.
- Keep passwords secure.
- Report anything that causes concern.
- Treat others kindly when communicating online.
- Follow school expectations when using devices and the internet.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers play a vital role in promoting online safety by:

- Monitoring their child's online activity at home.
- Encouraging age-appropriate use of technology.
- Discussing online safety regularly.
- Informing school of any concerns that may impact a child's wellbeing, safety or learning.

Online Safety Education

Online safety is taught throughout the curriculum and is embedded across school life.

Children learn about:

- Keeping personal information private.
- Healthy screen time habits.

- Managing online friendships.
- Respectful online communication.
- Cyberbullying and how to respond.
- Digital footprints and online reputation.
- Fake news and misinformation.
- Online scams and persuasive technologies.
- Safe gaming and social media use.
- Consent and seeking help.

Teaching is delivered through:

- Computing lessons.
- RSHE lessons.
- Collective Worship.
- Safeguarding assemblies.
- National awareness events such as Safer Internet Day.
- Responsive teaching linked to emerging concerns.

Cyberbullying

At St James, we do not tolerate bullying in any form, including online bullying.

Cyberbullying can include:

- Sending hurtful messages.
- Sharing images without permission.
- Excluding others online.
- Creating fake accounts.
- Threatening or intimidating behaviour.

Any reports of cyberbullying will be investigated promptly and addressed in line with our Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Safeguarding Policies.

Use of Digital Devices

School devices and networks are provided to support learning.

Pupils must:

- Use technology only for approved educational purposes.
- Follow staff instructions.
- Respect school equipment.
- Access only age-appropriate content.

The school reserves the right to monitor the use of school systems in accordance with safeguarding and legal requirements.

Mobile Phones and Smart Technology

Where pupils bring mobile phones or smart devices to school, they must be managed in accordance with the school's Mobile Phone Policy.

Personal devices must not be used to:

- Photograph or record others without permission.
- Access inappropriate content.
- Contact others during the school day unless authorised.

Filtering and Monitoring

The school uses appropriate filtering and monitoring systems to:

- Reduce the risk of exposure to harmful content.
- Identify safeguarding concerns.
- Support the safe use of technology.

While every effort is made to provide secure systems, no filtering system can provide complete protection. Therefore, education remains the most effective safeguarding tool.

Reporting Concerns

Pupils are encouraged to speak to a trusted adult if they:

- See something upsetting online.

- Receive unkind messages.
- Feel pressured to share information.
- Encounter inappropriate content.
- Are worried about a friend.

Staff will respond promptly, sensitively and in line with safeguarding procedures.

Working with Families

We recognise that online safety is most effective when schools and families work together.

The school will:

- Provide guidance and updates for families.
- Share information about emerging risks.
- Signpost support and resources.
- Encourage open conversations about online activity.

Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they have concerns regarding their child's online safety or wellbeing.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by school leaders and governors, or sooner if required by changes in legislation, guidance or local need.

In keeping with our vision, we will continue to nurture a culture where every member of our community is safe, valued and respected.

"Here at St James, you are loved."

Through education, partnership and vigilance, we seek to ensure that every child can engage with the online world safely, responsibly and confidently, enabling them to flourish and live life in all its fullness.