



East Bergholt

CEVC Primary School

'I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full' John 10:10

Online Safety Policy

2026-2027

Prepared by:	Clare Sampson Headteacher
Approved by:	Full Governing Body
Signature of Chair of Governors:	Chris Burns
Status & review cycle	Statutory Annual Review
Date approved:	January 2026
Review date:	January 2027

Introduction

At East Bergholt CEVC Primary School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is our highest priority. Online safety is recognised as an integral part of safeguarding, and this policy sets out how the school protects pupils, staff and the wider school community from risks associated with the use of digital technology and online platforms.

Guided by our Christian vision and values of respect, compassion, responsibility and care for others, we aim to support pupils to use technology safely, responsibly and respectfully, both within school and beyond.

Aims of the Policy

This policy aims to:

- safeguard children and young people from online harm
- ensure safe and responsible use of technology
- provide clear expectations for pupils, staff, governors, parents and visitors
- support staff in responding appropriately to online safety concerns
- ensure compliance with statutory duties and national guidance

Legislation and Guidance

This policy is informed by and complies with the following statutory legislation and guidance:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Education Act 2002
- Behaviour in Schools: Advice for Headteachers and School Staff
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education statutory guidance
- DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards for Schools and Colleges
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Prevent Duty)
- UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018
- Ofsted Education Inspection Framework

This policy should be read alongside the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Behaviour and Relationships for Learning Policy, Data Protection Policy, Acceptable Use Agreements and RSHE Policy.

Roles and Responsibilities

The governing body has strategic responsibility for ensuring that effective online safety arrangements are in place and that filtering and monitoring systems meet statutory requirements.

The headteacher has overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for ensuring that staff receive appropriate training.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) takes lead responsibility for online safety concerns, including liaison with external agencies where required.

The Computing and IT lead is responsible for the day-to-day management of filtering and monitoring systems, supported by the DSL and senior leaders.

All staff are responsible for modelling safe and appropriate use of technology and for reporting online safety concerns in line with safeguarding procedures.

Parents and carers are encouraged to support online safety at home and to engage with the school regarding any concerns.

Filtering and Monitoring Systems

The school ensures that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place to protect pupils from harmful or inappropriate online content. These systems meet the requirements set out in the DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards.

Filtering and monitoring arrangements are designed to:

- prevent access to harmful content
- identify safeguarding concerns through monitoring alerts
- support early intervention where risks are identified

The effectiveness of filtering and monitoring systems is reviewed regularly by senior leaders, with oversight from the governing body. Any concerns arising from monitoring alerts are logged, reviewed and escalated in line with safeguarding procedures.

Education and Curriculum

Online safety is embedded within the curriculum through Computing, RSHE, PSHE and wider safeguarding education. Teaching is age-appropriate and supports pupils to:

- understand how to stay safe online
- recognise and report concerns
- behave respectfully and responsibly online
- develop digital resilience and critical thinking

Additional support is provided for vulnerable pupils and those with SEND where required.

Acceptable Use of Technology

All members of the school community are expected to follow the school's Acceptable Use Agreements. These set out clear expectations for the use of digital devices, online platforms and communication tools.

Separate agreements are in place for pupils, staff and visitors and are reviewed regularly.

Responding to Online Safety Incidents

Any online safety concerns are treated as safeguarding matters and responded to promptly. Staff must report concerns to the DSL in line with safeguarding procedures.

Where online behaviour raises concerns relating to extremism or radicalisation, the school will follow Prevent Duty procedures and make referrals where appropriate.

Sanctions for misuse of technology are applied in line with the Behaviour and Relationships for Learning Policy, taking account of age, understanding and individual needs.

Data Protection and Privacy

Online safety procedures operate in line with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. Monitoring and filtering are lawful, proportionate and necessary to safeguard pupils. Personal data is handled securely and appropriately at all times.

Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

Online safety arrangements are monitored through:

- review of filtering and monitoring reports
- analysis of incidents and safeguarding concerns
- staff training records
- pupil and parent feedback

The policy is reviewed at least every two years, or sooner if required, to ensure continued compliance with statutory guidance and emerging risks.

Conclusion

East Bergholt CEVC Primary School is committed to maintaining a strong culture of online safety. Through effective systems, education, partnership with parents and clear leadership, we aim to ensure that all members of our community are protected and supported in their use of digital technology.