



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

*'With Jesus, we learn together
through faith and love'*

Primary Child-friendly Online Safety Policy

Updated 8/02/22

Feeling safe and happy at school

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, we want to make sure that you feel looked after, safe and happy when you are in and out of school.

Internet safety is an important part of keeping you safe at our school. We have lots of safety measures in place, both in and outside of school, to help safeguard children.

Computers and mobile phones help us all to share things and talk to friends or family, but they can also make it easier for bullies and other people to hurt you or to get close to you. It is important to know how to keep yourself safe on your computer, your phone and on websites.

We want everybody to use the internet safely both in school and outside of school and speak to somebody if they have concerns

We want everybody to treat others with respect when they are communicating with each other online at all times. We want everybody to treat each other as they would want to be treated online

We can help you by:

- Teaching you what internet safety is.
- Teaching you what to do if you feel worried or scared.
- Making sure you know who you can speak to if you are worried.



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What does online safety mean?

Online safety is about protecting children while they are online.

Online safety is an important part of our curriculum as it helps us to protect and educate you when you are using technology, as well as well as making sure we have tools in place to support you if things go wrong.

Computers and mobile phones help us all to share things and talk to friends or family, but they can also make it easier for bullies and other dangerous people to hurt you or to get close to you. It is important to know how to keep yourself safe on your computer, your phone and on websites.



The school will help if you are sent unkind messages or if someone on the internet has asked you to do anything that has made you feel uncomfortable.

If you are unhappy with any comments or photographs you have seen on your computer or mobile, you can tell a staff member in school.

Follow the **SMART** rules to keep safe online:

S - SAFE: Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information to people, including your full name, address and phone number.

M - MEETING: Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous, you should never meet up with someone you have met online.

A - ACCEPTING: Accepting emails and instant messages or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems, they may contain dangerous viruses. If you are not sure about something you have received, delete it and then find a grown up you trust and tell them.

R - RELIABLE: Remember that information you find on the internet may not be true, and that someone you are talking to online may be lying about who they are.

T - TELL: Tell your parents or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried online. Examples of trusted adults could be your teacher or your headteacher.

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Online dangers

The internet is great because you can chat to family, play games and learn new things, but there are some dangers you should be aware of while online. These include:

- Cyberbullying, including receiving nasty text messages and emails.
- People who are lying about who they are so that they can talk to you.



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- Looking at online material which is not suitable for children and may upset you.
- Being exposed to viruses that can damage devices by opening emails and messages.
- Strangers finding out your personal or private information that you have shared online.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying includes any kind of bullying which takes place online; cyberbullies send insulting messages over the internet and sometimes share secret information online to hurt someone's feelings.

Cyberbullying can include the following:

- Sending threatening, scary or upsetting text messages, emails or instant messages.
- Sending threatening, private or embarrassing pictures and video clips sent via mobile phone cameras
- Making prank phone calls or using the victim's phone to harass others, to make them think the victim is responsible
- Posting other private, unpleasant or untrue information about other people to blogs, personal websites and social networking sites

Cyberbullying is not tolerated under any circumstances and incidents of cyberbullying will be dealt with quickly by the St. Mary's wherever they occur, in line with the Behaviour Policy.

Cyberbullying is not always done by one person and can often involve a group of people 'ganging up' on someone – if you ever see someone being cyberbullied, **never** join in and **always** tell a teacher.

The cyberbully could be one of your peers, an older or younger child or an adult. It is important that you tell someone if you think you are being cyberbullied.



Who to talk to

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If you are worried about something, you can talk to an adult in school. This could be your teacher or any other staff member. Please also talk to your parents if you are worried about anything you see online or communicating using any apps. We will provide a safe environment for you to learn in as we want to make sure you remain safe, at home as well as in school. **If you need to talk, we will listen.**

We think it is important for you to know where to get help if you are worried or unhappy about something, and we will do our best to spot if there is a problem.

We will always make time to listen and talk if you need us, please remember:



- You are important to us.
- It's never your fault if someone is upsetting you.
- There is always someone that can help you and you will not be in trouble.
- Every child should enjoy the right to a happy and safe childhood, so do not be scared to tell someone if there is anything worrying you.

It's important that you tell someone you trust if someone is:

- Cyberbullying you.
- Saying things to you online that make you feel upset or uncomfortable.
- Sending unkind messages on the internet or to your phone.
- Asking you to do things online that you are uncomfortable with.

DSL stands for **Designated Safeguarding Lead**. In every school there is always somebody who has the responsibility to keep you safe and all staff have to tell that person if they are worried about you. IN St. Mary's this person is Miss Shevlin but all staff are there to help you.

Staff have training and are taught how to keep children safe as it is the **most important** part of their job.

If you ever wish to seek further help, you can call or visit:

- Childline on 0800 11 11 or visit www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC on 0800 800 5000 or visit www.nspcc.org.uk



Remember there is always somebody to talk to at school. We want everybody to be happy and treat each other with respect and care at St. Mary's.



