



DIOCESE OF BRISTOL ACADEMIES TRUST

LEVEL 1 ON-LINE SAFETY POLICY

Date adopted: 31 January 22

Date for review: January 23

Introduction

Safeguarding is at the heart of the Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust and this Level 1 policy statement reflects the safeguarding needs of the children and young people our organisation works with. This policy should be read alongside DBAT's policies and procedures on child protection and safeguarding. All DBAT schools will hold a Level 2 On-line Safety Policy based on the [SWGfl template](#). This will support schools in taking a proactive stance about teaching young people about safe practice including a named individual in each school who they can turn to for advice.

The purpose of this policy statement

DBAT works with children, families, teaching and support staff, external organisations and education providers. The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
- ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.
- Ensure that our organisation's IT infrastructure and protocols can support our commitment to safeguarding

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in DBAT.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available on:

- online abuse learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse
- bullying learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying
- child protection learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but
- safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

We recognise that:

- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however, it can also present risks and challenges
- we have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online

- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using DBAT's and DBAT schools' network and devices
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- appointing an online Trust safety coordinator
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through schools' behaviour code for adults
- supporting and encouraging the young people using our service to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- developing school specific online safety agreements and a school level e-safety policy (Level 2) for use with young people and their parents/carers
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child/young person
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that usernames, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety
- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)
- providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation into account
- reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

Related policies and procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing

- Dealing with Allegations of abuse made against a child or young person
- Managing Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers
- Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers
- Anti-bullying Policy and procedures
- Photography and image sharing guidance

History of most recent Policy changes

Date	Page	Change	Origin of Change e.g. TU request, Change in legislation
Jan 2022	All	New E-Safety L1 Policy draft to MB	New Trust approach