


# Burnt Tree Primary School



## Online Safety Policy

Signed by Chair of Governors	
Date	14/04/2026
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### **Key Details**

**Online Safety Lead (SLT): Matt Brazier – Deputy Head Teacher**

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Joanne Gamwell – Family Support Worker**

**Governor with responsibility for Online Safety: H Sood – Chair of Governors**

**Date written: November 2021**

**Date updated: April 2026**

**Date of next review: February 2027**

This policy will be reviewed at least annually. It will also be revised following any concerns and/or updates to national and local guidance, procedure or technology.

## Online Safety Policy

### 1. Policy Aims

- This online safety policy has been written by Burnt Tree Primary School.
- It takes into account the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2025, the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework 2025 and 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2026.
- It also reflects relevant non-statutory guidance, including DfE filtering and monitoring standards, DfE guidance on generative artificial intelligence (AI) in education and UKCIS guidance on sharing nudes and semi-nudes.
- The purpose of Burnt Tree Primary School's online safety policy is to:
  - Safeguard and protect all members of Burnt Tree Primary School community online.
  - Identify approaches to educate and raise awareness of online safety throughout the community.
  - Enable all staff to work safely and responsibly, to role model positive behaviour online and to manage professional standards and practice when using technology.
  - Identify clear procedures to use when responding to online safety concerns.
  - Burnt Tree Primary School identifies that the issues classified within online safety are considerable, but can be broadly categorised into four areas of risk:
    - **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material.
    - **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users.
    - **Conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm.
    - **Commerce:** risks such as scams, phishing, fraud, unwanted advertising, or the inappropriate sharing of personal information for commercial purposes.

### 2. Policy Scope

- Burnt Tree believes that online safety is an essential part of safeguarding and acknowledges its duty to ensure that all learners and staff are protected from potential harm online.
- Burnt Tree identifies that the internet and associated devices, such as computers, tablets, mobile phones and games consoles, are an important part of everyday life.
- Burnt Tree believes that learners should be empowered to build resilience and to develop strategies to manage and respond to risk online.
- This policy applies to all staff including the governing body, leadership team, teachers, support staff, external contractors, visitors, volunteers and other individuals who work for, or provide services on behalf of the setting (collectively referred to as "staff" in this policy) as well as learners, parents and carers

- This policy applies to all access to the internet and use of technology, including personal devices, or where learners, staff or other individuals have been provided with setting issued devices for use off-site, such as a work laptops, tablets or mobile phones.

### **3. Monitoring and Review**

Technology in this area evolves and changes rapidly. Burnt Tree Primary School will review this policy at least annually.

The policy will also be revised following any national or local policy requirements, any child protection concerns, any significant online safety incidents, or any changes to the technical infrastructure.

We will regularly monitor internet use and evaluate online safety mechanisms to ensure that this policy is consistently applied.

To ensure they have oversight of online safety, SLT will be informed of online safety concerns, as appropriate.

SLT will report on a regular basis to the governing body on online safety practice and incidents, including outcomes.

**Any issues identified via monitoring will be incorporated into our action planning.**

**The DSL and Deputy DSLs work with the Deputy Head Teacher, Business Manager and Network IT to ensure the school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and to review their effectiveness regularly.**

**Filtering and monitoring systems are formally reviewed at least annually with the named safeguarding governor and IT support provider. This review will consider the effectiveness of the systems, safeguarding trends, the age and needs of pupils, off-site access, and emerging risks including generative AI.**

### **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead, and DHT has lead responsibility for online safety.
- Burnt Tree recognises that all members of the community have important roles and responsibilities to play with regards to online safety.

#### **4.1 The leadership and management team will:**

- Ensure that online safety is viewed as a safeguarding issue and that practice is in line with national and local recommendations and requirements.

- Ensure there are appropriate and up-to-date policies regarding online safety, including a staff code of conduct/behaviour policy and acceptable use policies, which cover acceptable use of technology, social media and emerging technologies including AI.
- Ensure that suitable and appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place and work with technical staff to monitor the safety and security of our systems and networks.
- Ensure that online safety is embedded within a progressive curriculum, which enables all learners to develop an age-appropriate understanding of online safety.
- Support the DSL and any deputies by ensuring they have sufficient time and resources to fulfil their online safety responsibilities.
- Ensure there are robust reporting channels for the community to access regarding online safety concerns, including internal, local and national support.
- Ensure that appropriate risk assessments are undertaken regarding the safe use of technology, including Microsoft 365 systems and emerging technologies such as generative AI.
- Audit and evaluate online safety practice to identify strengths and areas for improvement.
- Ensure that filtering and monitoring provision is reviewed at least annually with input from safeguarding, technical staff and the named governor.
- Ensure that all staff understand that final professional decisions, including assessment and safeguarding decisions, remain with staff and must not be delegated to AI tools.

#### 4.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will:

- Act as a named point of contact on all online safeguarding issues and liaise with other members of staff or other agencies, as appropriate.
- Work alongside deputy DSLs to ensure online safety is recognised as part of the settings safeguarding responsibilities and that a coordinated approach is implemented.
- Ensure all members of staff receive regular, up-to-date and appropriate online safety training.
- Access regular and appropriate training and support to ensure they understand the unique risks associated with online safety and have the relevant knowledge and up to date required to keep learners safe online.
- Access regular and appropriate training and support to ensure they recognise the additional risks that learners with SEN and disabilities (SEND) face online.
- Keep up-to-date with current research, legislation and trends regarding online safety and communicate this with the community, as appropriate.
- Work with staff to coordinate participation in local and national events to promote positive online behaviour, such as Safer Internet Day.
- Ensure that online safety is promoted to parents, carers and the wider community, through a variety of channels and approaches.
- Maintain records of online safety concerns, as well as actions taken, as part of the setting's safeguarding recording mechanisms, including CPOMS.
- Monitor online safety incidents to identify gaps and trends and use this data to update the education response, policies and procedures.
- Report online safety concerns, as appropriate, to the setting management team and governing body.
- Work with the leadership team to review and update online safety policies on a regular basis (at least annually) with stakeholder input.

- Work with Deputy DSLs, the Deputy Head Teacher, Business Manager and Network IT to review filtering and monitoring arrangements and respond to concerns identified through monitoring systems.
- Ensure staff are aware of the safeguarding implications of emerging technologies, including generative AI, deepfakes and AI-generated sexualised imagery.
- DSL/DDSLs will meet regularly with the governing body to report on online safety in line with safeguarding procedures.

#### **4.3 It is the responsibility of all members of staff to:**

- Contribute to the development of online safety policies.
- Read and adhere to the online safety policy and acceptable use policies.
- Take responsibility for the security of setting systems and the data they use or have access to.
- Model good practice when using technology and maintain a professional level of conduct in their personal use of technology, both on and off site.
- Embed online safety education in curriculum delivery, wherever possible.
- Have an awareness of a range of online safety issues and how they may be experienced by the children in their care.
- Identify online safety concerns and take appropriate action by following the settings safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Know when and how to escalate online safety issues, including signposting to appropriate support, internally and externally.
- Take personal responsibility for professional development in this area.

#### **4.4 It is the responsibility of staff managing the technical environment to:**

- Provide technical support and perspective to the DSL and leadership team, especially in the development and implementation of appropriate online safety policies and procedures.
- Implement appropriate security measures as directed by the DSL and leadership team to ensure that the setting's IT infrastructure/system is secure and not open to misuse or malicious attack, whilst allowing learning opportunities to be maximised.
- Ensure that our filtering systems are applied and updated on a regular basis; responsibility for implementation is shared with the leadership team, DSL and technical staff.
- Document decisions on what is blocked or allowed, oversee reports generated through filtering and monitoring procedures and review effectiveness regularly.
- Ensure that our monitoring systems are applied and updated on a regular basis; responsibility for implementation is shared with the leadership team.
- Ensure appropriate access and technical support is given to the DSL to our filtering and monitoring systems, to enable appropriate safeguarding action if required.
- Support the school in maintaining secure Microsoft 365 systems, including managed accounts, permissions, off-site access and removal of access when staff leave.
- All staff who can access the IT network will complete basic cybersecurity awareness training.

#### **4.5 It is the responsibility of learners (at a level that is appropriate to their individual age and ability) to:**

- Engage in age appropriate online safety education opportunities.
- Contribute to the development of online safety policies.
- Read and adhere to the acceptable use policies.
- Respect the feelings and rights of others both on and offline.
- Take responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe online.
- Seek help from a trusted adult, if there is a concern online, and support others that may be experiencing online safety issues.

#### **4.6 It is the responsibility of parents and carers to:**

- Read the pupil acceptable use agreement / internet contract and encourage their children to adhere to it. These are provided to parents/carers as part of joining the school community.
- Support our online safety approaches by discussing online safety issues with their children and reinforcing appropriate and safe online behaviours at home.
- Role model safe and appropriate use of technology and social media.
- Be aware of and adhere to age restrictions on apps, games and social media platforms.
- Abide by the home-school agreement/pupil internet contract.
- Identify changes in behaviour that could indicate that their child is at risk of harm online.
- Seek help and support from the setting, or other appropriate agencies, if they or their child encounter risk or concerns online.
- Contribute to the development of the online safety policies.
- Use our systems, such as learning platforms, and other network resources, safely and appropriately.
- Take responsibility for their own awareness in relation to the risks and opportunities posed by new and emerging technologies.

## **5. Education and Engagement Approaches**

### **5.1 Education and engagement with learners**

- The setting will establish and embed a progressive online safety curriculum to raise awareness and promote safe and responsible internet use amongst learners by:
  - Ensuring education regarding safe and responsible use precedes internet access.
  - Including online safety in Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE), Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and computing programmes of study.
  - Reinforcing online safety messages whenever technology or the internet is in use.
  - Educating learners in the effective use of the internet to research; including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation.
  - Teaching learners to be critically aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.
- The setting will support learners to read and understand the acceptable use policies in a way which suits their age and ability by:
  - Displaying acceptable use posters in all rooms with internet access- 4 C's and/or e-safety posters.

- Informing learners that network and internet use will be monitored for safety and security purposes and in accordance with legislation.
- Rewarding positive use of technology- behaviour system.
- Implementing appropriate peer education approaches.
- Providing online safety education and training as part of the transition programme across the key stages and when moving between establishments.
- Using support, such as external visitors, where appropriate, to complement and support our internal online safety education approaches.

## 5.2 Vulnerable Learners

- Burnt Tree recognises that some learners are more vulnerable online due to a range of factors. This may include, but is not limited to children in care, children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or mental health needs, children with English as an additional language (EAL) and children experiencing trauma or loss.
- Burnt Tree will ensure that differentiated and ability appropriate online safety education, access and support is provided to vulnerable learners. (Use of support staff/aids to typing/WALT and WILF.)
- When implementing an appropriate online safety policy and curriculum Burnt Tree will seek input from specialist staff as appropriate, including the SENCO and Looked After Children (LAC) Designated Teacher.

## 5.3 Training and engagement with staff

We will:

- Provide and discuss the online safety policy and procedures with all members of staff as part of induction.
- Provide up-to-date and appropriate online safety training for all staff on a regular basis, with at least annual training and updates throughout the year.
  - This will cover the potential risks posed to learners (Content, Contact, Commerce and Conduct), our professional practice expectations and emerging risks including generative AI, deepfakes and AI-generated content.
- Recognise the expertise staff build by undertaking safeguarding training and managing safeguarding concerns and provide opportunities for staff to contribute to and shape online safety policies and procedures.
- Make staff aware that our IT systems are monitored, and that activity can be traced to individual users; staff will be reminded to behave professionally and in accordance with our policies when accessing our systems and devices.
- Make staff aware that their online conduct outside of the setting, including personal use of social media, could have an impact on their professional role and reputation.

- Make staff aware that during the shortlisting process their online presence may be checked in line with safer recruitment practice.
- Highlight useful educational resources and tools which staff should use, according to the age and ability of the learners.
- Ensure all members of staff are aware of the procedures to follow regarding online safety concerns affecting learners, colleagues or other members of the community.
- Provide guidance for staff on the safe and appropriate use of AI tools. Where AI is used to support planning, resource creation, feedback, marking or moderation, staff must ensure that no personal, confidential or identifiable pupil data is entered into AI systems, outputs are checked for accuracy and appropriateness and final professional judgement remains with the teacher.

#### 5.4 Awareness and engagement with parents and carers

- Burnt Tree recognises that parents and carers have an essential role to play in enabling children and young people to become safe and responsible users of the internet and associated technologies.
- We will build a partnership approach to online safety with parents and carers by:
  - Providing information and guidance on online safety.
    - This will include offering specific online safety awareness training and highlighting online safety at other events such as parent evenings, transition events, fetes and sports days.
    - Parents will be offered online safety workshops at least annually to support their understanding of online risks. These will include guidance on setting parental controls, monitoring tools and recognising online risks, including grooming, cyberbullying and inappropriate content. Resources from the UK Safer Internet Centre and NSPCC will be shared to support safe online practices at home.
  - Drawing their attention to the online safety policy and expectations in newsletters, letters and on our website.
  - Requesting that they read online safety information as part of joining our community, for example, within our home school agreement.
  - Requiring them to read our acceptable use policies and discuss the implications with their children.

#### 6. Reducing Online Risks

- Burnt Tree recognises that the internet is a constantly changing environment with new apps, devices, websites and material emerging at a rapid pace.
- We will:
  - Regularly review the methods used to identify, assess and minimise online risks.
  - Examine emerging technologies for educational benefit and undertake appropriate risk assessments before use in the setting is permitted. This includes consideration of generative

AI tools and their safeguarding, data protection, reliability and appropriateness implications before they are used by staff or learners.

- Ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring is in place and take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users can only access appropriate material.
- Due to the global and connected nature of the internet, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material cannot be accessed via our computers or devices.
- All members of the community are made aware of our expectations regarding safe and appropriate behaviour online and the importance of not posting any content, comments, images or videos which could cause harm, distress or offence to members of the community. This is clearly outlined in our acceptable use policies and highlighted through a variety of education and training approaches.
- Burnt Tree are aware that some children will have unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks i.e. 3G, 4G, 5G, if children have this whilst at school they could possibly harass, bully and control others. So therefore children are not permitted to have access to their mobile phones during the school day.

## 7. Safer Use of Technology

### 7.1 Classroom Use

- Burnt Tree uses a wide range of technology. This includes access to:
  - Computers, laptops and other digital devices
  - Internet which may include search engines and educational websites
  - Games consoles and other games-based technologies
  - Digital cameras, web cams and video cameras
- All setting owned devices will be used in accordance with our acceptable use policies and with appropriate safety and security measures in place.
- Members of staff will always try to evaluate websites, tools and apps fully before use in the classroom or recommending for use at home.
- We will ensure that the use of internet-derived materials, by staff and learners complies with copyright law and acknowledge the source of information.
- Supervision of learners will be appropriate to their age and ability.
  - **Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1**
    - Access to the internet will be by adult demonstration, with occasional directly supervised access to specific and approved online materials, which supports the learning outcomes planned for the learner's age and ability.
  - **Key Stage 2**
    - Learners will use age-appropriate search engines and online tools.
    - Learners will be directed by the teacher to online materials and resources which support the learning outcomes planned for the learner's age and ability.

### 7.2 Managing Internet Access

- We will maintain a written record of users who are granted access to our devices and systems.

## 7.3 Filtering and Monitoring

Burnt Tree Primary School uses a combination of technical systems and staff oversight to help safeguard pupils online.

Our current systems include:

- Smoothwall for filtering
- JAMF for device management
- CPOMS for recording and managing safeguarding concerns
- Network IT as our IT support provider

- Pupils use school-managed devices only and are not permitted to bring their own personal devices for use in school.
- All staff use school-managed Microsoft 365 accounts and systems. Staff may access systems off site using their school cloud accounts, with appropriate security and safeguarding controls in place.

### 7.3.1 Decision Making

#### 7.3.1 Decision Making

- Burnt Tree governors and leaders have ensured that our setting has age- and ability-appropriate filtering and monitoring in place, to limit learners' exposure to online risks.
- The governors and leaders are aware of the need to prevent "over blocking", as that may unreasonably restrict what can be taught with regards to online activities and safeguarding.
- Our decision regarding filtering and monitoring has been informed by risk assessment, considering our specific needs and circumstances, including the age range of pupils, the systems used in school, off-site access, and emerging technologies such as generative AI.
- Changes to the filtering and monitoring approach will be risk assessed by staff with educational and technical experience and, where appropriate, with approval from the leadership team; all significant changes to filtering and monitoring arrangements are logged and recorded.
- The leadership team will ensure that regular checks are made to ensure that the filtering and monitoring methods are effective and appropriate.
- Filtering and monitoring provision is formally reviewed at least annually with the named safeguarding governor and Network IT.
- All members of staff are aware that they cannot rely on filtering and monitoring alone to safeguard learners; effective classroom management, staff vigilance and regular education about safe and responsible use are essential.

### 7.3.2 Filtering

- We use Smoothwall to support our filtering arrangements.
- The filtering system is designed to block access to inappropriate and harmful content, including content relating to pornography, violence, extremism, racism, illegal activity and other material unsuitable for primary-aged pupils.
- The DSL, Deputy Head Teacher, Business Manager and technical staff work together to review filtering arrangements and respond to any concerns identified.
- If learners discover unsuitable sites, they will be required to:
  - Speak to the staff member in charge of the lesson and report the incident.
  - The member of staff will report the concern (including the URL of the site if possible) to the DSL (or deputy) and/or technical staff.
  - The breach will be recorded and escalated as appropriate.
  - Parents/carers will be informed of filtering breaches involving their child where appropriate.
  - Any material believed to be illegal will be reported immediately to the appropriate agencies.

#### 7.3.4 Monitoring

- We appropriately monitor internet use on all setting-owned or provided internet-enabled devices.
- This is achieved through:
  - physical monitoring and staff supervision
  - review of filtering and monitoring reports
  - safeguarding reporting through CPOMS
  - active support from Network IT and school leaders
- The DSL and Deputy DSLs review safeguarding concerns through CPOMS.
- The Deputy Head Teacher and Business Manager review Smoothwall reports on a weekly basis.
- If a concern is identified via monitoring approaches, the DSL will respond in line with the child protection policy.
- All users will be informed that use of our systems can be monitored and that all monitoring will be in line with data protection, human rights and privacy legislation.

#### 7.4 Managing Personal Data Online

- Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available online in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection legislation.

## 7.5 Security and Management of Information Systems

- We take appropriate steps to ensure the security of our information systems, including:
  - Virus protection being updated regularly.
  - Encryption for personal data sent over the Internet or taken off site (such as via portable media storage) or access via appropriate secure remote access systems.
  - Not using portable media without specific permission; portable media will be checked by an anti-virus /malware scan before use.
  - Not downloading unapproved software to work devices or opening unfamiliar email attachments.
  - Regularly checking files held on our network,
  - The appropriate use of user logins and passwords to access our network.
    - Specific user logins and passwords will be enforced for all *but the youngest users*.
  - All users are expected to log off or lock their screens/devices if systems are unattended.

### 7.5.1 Password policy

- All members of staff will have their own username and passwords to access our systems; members of staff are responsible for keeping their password private.
- From year 2 all learners are provided with their own unique username and private passwords to access our systems; learners are responsible for keeping their password private.
- We require all users to:
  - Not to login as another user at any time.

## 7.6 Managing the Safety of our Website

- We will ensure that information posted on our website meets the requirements as identified by the Department for Education (DfE).
- Our website is provided by Juniper.
- We will ensure that our website complies with guidance for publications including: accessibility, data protection, respect for intellectual property rights, privacy policies and copyright.
- Staff or learners' personal information will not be published on our website; the contact details on the website will be our setting address, email and telephone number.
- Teaching staff may add or edit content, but publication must be approved by an authorised website administrator.
- The administrator account for our website will be secured with an appropriately strong password and appropriate access controls.
- We will post appropriate information about safeguarding, including online safety, on our website for members of the community.

## 7.7 Publishing Images and Videos Online

- We will ensure that all images and videos shared online are used in accordance with the associated policies, including (but not limited to) the: cameras and image use, data security, acceptable use policies, codes of conduct/behaviour, social media and use of personal devices and mobile phones.

## 7.8 Managing Email

- Access to our email systems will always take place in accordance with data protection legislation and in line with other policies, including confidentiality, acceptable use policies and the code of conduct/behaviour policy.
  - Any electronic communication which contains sensitive or personal information will only be sent using secure and encrypted email.
  - Setting email addresses and other official contact details will not be used for setting up personal social media accounts.
- Members of the community will immediately tell designated DSL's if they receive offensive communication, and this will be recorded in our safeguarding files/records.
- Excessive social email use can interfere with teaching and learning and will be restricted; access to external personal email accounts may be blocked on site.

### 7.8.1 Staff email

- The use of personal email addresses by staff for any official setting business is not permitted.
  - All members of staff are provided with an email address to use for all official communication.
- Members of staff are encouraged to have an appropriate work life balance when responding to email, especially if communication is taking place between staff, learners and parents.

## 7.10 Management of Microsoft 365

- Burnt Tree Primary School uses Microsoft 365 as part of its core communication and working systems, including email, OneDrive, SharePoint and Teams.
- Leaders and staff will regularly monitor the use of Microsoft 365 systems, including communication tools, file sharing and publishing facilities.
- Any online platform used by the school will comply with GDPR and data protection requirements. The school ensures that systems have adequate security and access controls in place to safeguard pupils' information.
- Only current authorised members of staff will have access to password-protected staff areas.
- When staff leave the setting, their accounts will be disabled promptly.
- Staff will be advised about acceptable conduct and safe professional use of Microsoft 365 systems.
- All users will be mindful of copyright and will only upload appropriate content.
- Any concerns about content will be recorded and dealt with in the following ways:
  - The user will be asked to remove any material deemed to be inappropriate or offensive.
  - If the user does not comply, the material will be removed by the site administrator.
  - Access for the user may be suspended.
  - The user will need to discuss the issues with a member of leadership before reinstatement.
  - A learner's parents/carers may be informed.

- If the content is illegal, we will respond in line with existing child protection procedures.

### **7.11 Use of Emerging Technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Burnt Tree Primary School recognises that emerging technologies, including generative artificial intelligence (AI), are increasingly accessible to both staff and pupils.

The school will:

- Educate pupils about the safe and responsible use of AI tools, including understanding risks such as misinformation, bias, inaccurate content, deepfakes and inappropriate material.
- Ensure staff understand the safeguarding implications of AI, including the potential for misuse such as generating harmful content or AI-generated sexualised imagery.
- Risk assess AI tools and other emerging technologies before use within the school.
- Ensure that any AI tools used are appropriate for the age and stage of pupils and comply with safeguarding and data protection requirements.
- Staff may use AI tools to support professional tasks such as planning, resource creation, feedback, marking and moderation of pupils' work.

Where AI is used, staff will:

- Ensure that no personal, confidential, sensitive or identifiable pupil data is entered into AI tools.
- Not upload confidential school information into AI systems.
- Critically evaluate AI-generated content to ensure accuracy, appropriateness and safeguarding compliance.
- Use AI only to support, not replace, professional judgement.
- Ensure that all final decisions regarding assessment, moderation, feedback and pupil outcomes remain the responsibility of the teacher.
- Any misuse of AI tools will be addressed in line with safeguarding, staff conduct and data protection procedures.

**8. Social Media:** *Please see Burnt Tree Primary Social Media Policy.*

#### **8.1 Expectations**

- The expectations' regarding safe and responsible use of social media applies to all members of Burnt Tree community.
- The term social media may include (but is not limited to): blogs; wikis; social networking sites; forums; bulletin boards; online gaming; apps; video/photo sharing sites; chatrooms and instant messenger.
- All members of Burnt Tree community are expected to engage in social media in a positive, safe and responsible manner.
  - All members of Burnt Tree community are advised not to publish specific and detailed private thoughts, concerns, pictures or messages on any social media services, especially content that may be considered threatening, hurtful or defamatory to others.
  - We will control learner and staff access to social media whilst using setting provided devices and systems on site.
  - The use of social media during setting hours for personal use *is* permitted.
    - *(During breaks or lunchtimes on the terms that it is done in the staff room or away from any children.)*
  - Inappropriate or excessive use of social media during setting hours or whilst using setting devices may result in disciplinary or legal action and/or removal of internet facilities.
- Concerns regarding the online conduct of any member of Burnt Tree community on social media, should be reported to the DSL and will be managed in accordance with our anti-bullying, allegations against staff, behaviour and child protection policies.

## **8.2 Staff Personal Use of Social Media**

- The safe and responsible use of social networking, social media and personal publishing sites will be discussed with all members of staff as part of staff induction and will be revisited and communicated via regular staff training opportunities.
- Safe and professional behaviour will be outlined for all members of staff (including volunteers) as part of our code of conduct/behaviour policy as part of acceptable use policy.

### *Reputation*

- All members of staff are advised that their online conduct on social media can have an impact on their role and reputation within the setting.
- Staff must not accept or send friend requests to pupils or parents on personal social media accounts. Any pre-existing relationships must be discussed with the DSL. Staff should ensure that their personal social media settings remain private to protect their professional reputation and the school's safeguarding procedures.
  - Civil, legal or disciplinary action may be taken if staff are found to bring the profession or institution into disrepute, or if something is felt to have undermined confidence in their professional abilities.
- All members of staff are advised to safeguard themselves and their privacy when using social media sites. Advice will be provided to staff via staff training and by sharing appropriate guidance and resources on a regular basis. This will include (but is not limited to):
  - Setting the privacy levels of their personal sites.

- Being aware of location sharing services.
- Opting out of public listings on social networking sites.
- Logging out of accounts after use.
- Keeping passwords safe and confidential.
- Ensuring staff do not represent their personal views as that of the setting.
- Members of staff are encouraged not to identify themselves as employees of Burnt Tree Primary on their personal social networking accounts; this is to prevent information on these sites from being linked with the setting, and to safeguard the privacy of staff members.
- All members of staff are encouraged to carefully consider the information, including text and images, they share and post online and to ensure that their social media use is compatible with their professional role and is in accordance our policies and the wider professional and legal framework.
- Information and content that staff members have access to as part of their employment, including photos and personal information about learners and their family members or colleagues will not be shared or discussed on social media sites.
- Members of staff will notify the Leadership Team immediately if they consider that any content shared on social media sites conflicts with their role.

#### *Communicating with learners and parents and carers*

- All members of staff are advised not to communicate with or add as 'friends' any current or past learners or their family members via any personal social media sites, applications or profiles.
  - Any pre-existing relationships or exceptions that may compromise this, will be discussed with DSLs.
- Staff will not use personal social media accounts to contact learners or parents, nor should any contact be accepted, except in circumstance whereby prior approval has been given by the *headteacher*.
- Any communication from learners and parents received on personal social media accounts will be reported to the DSL (or deputy).

### **8.3 Learners Personal Use of Social Media**

- Safe and appropriate use of social media will be taught to learners as part of an embedded and progressive education approach, via age appropriate sites and resources.
- We are aware that many popular social media sites state that they are not for children under the age of 13, therefore we will not create accounts specifically for learners under this age.
- Any concerns regarding learners use of social media will be dealt with in accordance with existing policies, including anti-bullying and behaviour.
  - Concerns will be shared with parents/carers as appropriate, particularly when concerning underage use of social media sites, games or tools.
- Learners will be advised:
  - To consider the benefits and risks of sharing personal details on social media sites which could identify them and/or their location.
  - To only approve and invite known friends on social media sites and to deny access to others by making profiles private.

- Not to meet any online friends without a parent/carer or other responsible adult's permission and only when a trusted adult is present.
- To use safe passwords and not share these with others.
- To use social media sites which are appropriate for their age and abilities.
- How to block and report unwanted communications.
- How to report concerns both within the setting and externally.

## **9. Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones**

- Burnt Tree Primary recognises that personal communication through mobile technologies is an accepted part of everyday life for learners, staff and parents/carers, but technologies need to be used safely and appropriately within the setting.

### **9.1 Expectations**

- All use of personal devices (including but not limited to; tablets, games consoles and 'smart' watches) and mobile phones will take place in accordance with the law and other appropriate policies, such as anti-bullying, behaviour and child protection.
- Electronic devices of any kind that are brought onto site are the responsibility of the user.
  - All members of Burnt Tree community are advised to take steps to protect their mobile phones or devices from loss, theft or damage; we accept no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of such items on our premises.
  - All members of Burnt Tree community are advised to use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised calls or actions cannot be made on their phones or devices; passwords and pin numbers should be kept confidential and mobile phones and personal devices should not be shared.
- Mobile phones and personal devices are not permitted to be used in specific areas within the site such as changing rooms, toilets and swimming pools.
- The sending of abusive or inappropriate messages or content via mobile phones or personal devices is forbidden by any member of the community; any breaches will be dealt with as part of our behaviour policy.
- All members of Burnt Tree community are advised to ensure that their mobile phones and personal devices do not contain any content which may be offensive, derogatory or would otherwise contravene our behaviour or child protection policies.

### **9.2 Staff Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones**

- Members of staff will ensure that use of personal phones and devices takes place in accordance with the law, as well as, relevant policy and procedures, such as: confidentiality, child protection, data security and acceptable use.
- Staff will be advised to:
  - Keep mobile phones and personal devices in a safe and secure place (in cupboard that is shut, in a bag that is in a drawer that children are not allowed to access) during lesson time.
  - Keep mobile phones and personal devices switched off or switched to 'silent' mode during lesson times.
  - Ensure that Bluetooth or other forms of communication (such as 'airdrop') are hidden or disabled during lesson times.
  - Not use personal devices during teaching periods, unless verbal or written permission has been given by SLT, such as in emergency circumstances.
  - Ensure that any content bought onto site via mobile phones and personal devices are compatible with their professional role and expectations.
- Members of staff are not permitted to use their own personal phones or devices for contacting learners or parents and carers (unless for emergency use e.g. on a trip if the school phone is unavailable and should always withhold their phone number).
  - Any pre-existing relationships, which could undermine this, will be discussed with SLT.
- Staff will not use personal devices:
  - To take photos or videos of learners and will only use work-provided equipment for this purpose.
  - Directly with learners and will only use work-provided equipment during lessons/educational activities.
- If a member of staff breaches our policy, action will be taken in line with our code of conduct/staff behaviour and allegations policy
  - If a member of staff is thought to have illegal content saved or stored on a mobile phone or personal device or have committed a criminal offence, the police will be contacted.

### **9.3 Learners Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones**

- Learners will be educated regarding the safe and appropriate use of personal devices and mobile phones and will be made aware of boundaries and consequences.
- Burnt Tree expects learners' personal devices and mobile phones to be...
  - *Handed in to the office where it will be locked away until necessary e.g. after school.*
- If a learner needs to contact his/her parents or carers they will be allowed to use the school phone.
  - Parents are advised to contact their child via the setting office; exceptions may be permitted on a case-by-case basis, as approved by SLT.
- Mobile phones or personal devices will not be used by learners during lessons or formal educational time.
- Mobile phones and personal devices must not be taken into their classes.
- If a learner breaches the policy, the phone or device will be confiscated and will be held in a secure place.

- Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones, smartwatches, or other personal devices during school hours. If a pupil brings a phone to school, it must be handed in to the school office upon arrival and collected at the end of the day. Parents should contact the school office in case of emergencies, rather than messaging or calling their child.
  - Staff may confiscate a learner's mobile phone or device if they believe it is being used to contravene our behaviour or bullying policy or could contain youth produced sexual imagery.
  - Searches of mobile phones or personal devices will only be carried out with SLT authorisation and in line with DfE guidance on searching, screening and confiscation.
  - Learners' mobile phones or devices may be searched by a member of the leadership team where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the device contains prohibited items, evidence of a criminal offence, or material that may pose a safeguarding risk.
  - Where appropriate, the school will explain the reason for the search to the learner and will seek cooperation; however, consent is not required where a search is lawful and necessary in line with DfE guidance.
  - If there is suspicion that material on a learner's device may be illegal or may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the device will be secured and handed over to the police for further investigation.

#### **9.4 Visitors' Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones**

- Parents/carers and visitors (including volunteers and contractors) must use their mobile phones and personal devices in accordance with our acceptable use policy and other associated policies, such as: anti-bullying, behaviour, child protection and image use.
- We will ensure appropriate signage and information is displayed and provided to inform parents, carers and visitors of expectations of use.
- Members of staff are expected to challenge visitors if they have concerns and will always inform SLT of any breaches our policy.

#### **9.5 Officially provided mobile phones and devices (school phone)**

- Members of staff will be issued with a work phone number and email address, where contact with learners or parents/ carers is required.
- Setting mobile phones and devices will be suitably protected via a passcode/password/pin and must only be accessed or used by members of staff.
- Setting mobile phones and devices will always be used in accordance with the acceptable use policy and other relevant policies.

### **10. Responding to Online Safety Incidents and Concerns**

- All members of the community will be made aware of the reporting procedure for online safety concerns, including: breaches of filtering, sharing nudes and semi-nudes, cyberbullying, AI-related misuse, and illegal content.

- All members of the community must respect confidentiality and the need to follow the official procedures for reporting concerns.
  - Learners, parents and staff will be informed of our complaints procedure and staff will be made aware of the whistleblowing procedure.
- We require staff, parents, carers and learners to work in partnership to resolve online safety issues.
- After any investigations are completed, we will debrief, identify lessons learnt and implement any policy or curriculum changes as required.
- If we are unsure how to proceed with an incident or concern, SLT will seek advice from the Education Safeguarding Team.
- Where there is suspicion that illegal activity has taken place, we will contact the Education Safeguarding Team or 999 if there is immediate danger or risk of harm.

### **10.1 Concerns about Learners Welfare**

- SLT will be informed of any online safety incidents involving safeguarding or child protection concerns.
  - SLT will record these issues in line with our child protection policy.
- SLT will ensure that online safety concerns are escalated and reported to relevant agencies in line with Sandwell.
- We will inform parents and carers of online safety incidents or concerns involving their child, as and when required.

### **10.2 Staff Misuse**

- Any complaint about staff misuse will be referred to SLT in accordance with the allegations policy.
- Any allegations regarding a member of staff's online conduct will be discussed with the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer).
- Appropriate action will be taken in accordance with our staff behaviour policy/code of conduct.

## **11. Procedures for Responding to Specific Online Incidents or Concerns**

### **11.1 Online Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children**

- **Burnt Tree has accessed and understood Part 5 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2025.**
- Burnt Tree recognises that sexual violence and sexual harassment between children can take place online. Examples may include; non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos, sexualised online bullying, online coercion and threats, unwanted sexual comments and messages on social media, and online sexual exploitation.
  - Full details of how we will respond to concerns relating to sexual violence and sexual harassment between children can be found within our child protection and anti-bullying policy.

- Burnt Tree recognises that internet brings the potential for the impact of any sexual violence and sexual harassment concerns to extend further than the local community, and for a victim or alleged perpetrator to become marginalised and excluded by online communities.
- Burnt Tree also recognises the potential for repeat victimisation in the future if abusive content continues to exist somewhere online.
- Burnt Tree will ensure that all members of the community are made aware of the potential social, psychological and criminal consequences of online sexual violence and sexual harassment between children by implementing a range of age and ability appropriate educational methods as part of our PSHE and RSE curriculum.
- We will ensure that all members of the community are aware of sources of support regarding online sexual violence and sexual harassment between children.
- We will respond to concerns regarding online sexual violence and sexual harassment between children, regardless of whether the incident took place on our premises or using our equipment.
- If made aware of online sexual violence and sexual harassment, we will:
  - Immediately notify SLT and act in accordance with our child protection and anti-bullying policies.
  - If content is contained on learners electronic devices, they will be managed in accordance with the DfE '[searching screening and confiscation](#)' advice.
  - Provide the necessary safeguards and support for all learners involved, such as offering specific advice on blocking, reporting and removing online content, as well as providing appropriate counselling/pastoral support.
  - Implement appropriate sanctions in accordance with our behaviour policy.
  - Inform parents and carers, if appropriate, about the incident and how it is being managed.
  - If appropriate, make a referral to partner agencies, such as Children's Social Work Service and/or the Police.
  - If the concern involves children and young people at a different educational setting, work in partnership with other DSLs to ensure appropriate safeguarding action is taken in the wider local community.
    - If a criminal offence has been committed, SLT will discuss this with the police first to ensure that investigations are not compromised.
  - Review the handling of any incidents to ensure that best practice was implemented, and policies/procedures are appropriate.

### **11.2 Sharing Nudes and Semi-Nudes**

- Burnt Tree recognises the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes as a safeguarding issue; all concerns will be reported to and dealt with by SLT.
- We will follow the advice set out in the non-statutory UKCIS guidance: 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people'.
- Burnt Tree will ensure that all members of the community are made aware of the potential social, psychological and criminal consequences of 'sharing nudes and semi-nudes' by implementing preventative approaches, via a range of age and ability appropriate educational methods.
- We will ensure that all members of the community are aware of sources of support regarding youth produced sexual imagery.

- We will respond to concerns regarding youth produced sexual imagery, regardless of whether the incident took place on site or using setting provided or personal equipment.
- We will not:
  - View any images suspected of being youth produced sexual imagery, unless there is no other possible option, or there is a clear need or reason to do so.
    - If it is deemed necessary, the image will only be viewed by SLT and their justification for viewing the image will be clearly documented.
  - Send, share, save or make copies of content suspected to be an indecent image of a child (i.e. youth produced sexual imagery) and will not allow or request learners to do so.
- If made aware of an incident involving the creation or distribution of youth produced sexual imagery, we will:
  - Act in accordance with our child protection policies and Sandwell Children’s Safeguarding Partnership procedures.
  - Ensure SLT responds in line with the [‘Sharing nudes and semi-nudes in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people’](#) guidance.
  - Store the device securely.
    - If an indecent image has been taken or shared on our network or devices, we will act to block access to all users and isolate the image.
  - Carry out a risk assessment which considers any vulnerability of learners involved; including carrying out relevant checks with other agencies.
  - Inform parents and carers, if appropriate, about the incident and how it is being managed.
  - Make a referral to Children’s Social Work Service and/or the Police, as deemed appropriate in line with the UKCCIS : [‘Sharing nudes and semi-nudes in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people’](#) guidance.
  - Provide the necessary safeguards and support for learners, such as offering counselling or pastoral support.
  - Implement appropriate sanctions in accordance with our behaviour policy but taking care not to further traumatise victims where possible.
  - Consider the deletion of images in accordance with the UKCCIS: [‘Sharing nudes and semi-nudes in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people’](#) guidance.
    - Images will only be deleted once SLT has confirmed that other agencies do not need to be involved; and are sure that to do so would not place a child at risk or compromise an investigation.
  - Review the handling of any incidents to ensure that best practice was implemented; the leadership team will also review and update any management procedures, where necessary.

### **11.3 Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (including child criminal exploitation)**

- Burnt Tree will ensure that all members of the community are aware of online child sexual abuse, including: exploitation and grooming; the consequences; possible approaches which may be employed by offenders to target children and how to respond to concerns.
- Burnt Tree recognises online child sexual abuse and exploitation (including criminal exploitation) as a safeguarding issue and, as such, all concerns will be reported to and dealt with by SLT.

- We will implement preventative approaches for online child sexual abuse and exploitation (including criminal exploitation) via a range of age and ability appropriate education for learners, staff and parents/carers.
- We will ensure that all members of the community are aware of the support available regarding online child sexual abuse and exploitation (including criminal exploitation), both locally and nationally.
- We will ensure that the 'Click CEOP' report button is visible and available to learners and other members of our community.
- If made aware of incident involving online child sexual abuse and exploitation (including criminal exploitation), we will:
  - Act in accordance with our child protection policies and the relevant Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership procedures.
  - If appropriate, store any devices involved securely.
  - Make a referral to Children's Social Work Service (if required/appropriate) and immediately inform police via 101, or 999 if a child is at immediate risk.
  - Carry out a risk assessment which considers any vulnerabilities of learner(s) involved (including carrying out relevant checks with other agencies).
  - Inform parents/carers about the incident and how it is being managed.
  - Provide the necessary safeguards and support for learners, such as, offering counselling or pastoral support.
  - Review the handling of any incidents to ensure that best practice is implemented; leadership team will review and update any management procedures, where necessary.
- We will respond to concerns regarding online child sexual abuse and exploitation (including criminal exploitation), regardless of whether the incident took place on our premises or using setting provided or personal equipment.
  - Where possible, learners will be involved in decision making and if appropriate, will be empowered to report concerns such as via the Click CEOP report: [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/)
- If we are unclear whether a criminal offence has been committed, SLT will obtain advice immediately through the Education Safeguarding Team and/or Police.
- If made aware of intelligence or information which may relate to child sexual exploitation (on or offline), it will be passed through to the [Child Sexual Exploitation Team](#) (CSET) by SLT.
- If learners at other setting are believed to have been targeted, SLT will seek support from Police and/or the Education Safeguarding Team first to ensure that potential investigations are not compromised.

#### **11.4 Indecent Images of Children (IIOC)**

- Burnt Tree will ensure that all members of the community are made aware of the possible consequences of accessing Indecent Images of Children (IIOC).
- We will respond to concerns regarding IIOC on our equipment and/or personal equipment, even if access took place off site.

- We will seek to prevent accidental access by using an internet Service provider (ISP) which subscribes to the Internet Watch Foundation block list and by implementing appropriate filtering, firewalls and anti-spam software.
- If we are unclear if a criminal offence has been committed, SLT will obtain advice immediately through Police and/or the Education Safeguarding Team.
- If made aware, we will:
  - Act in accordance with our child protection policy and the relevant Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership procedures.
  - Store any devices involved securely.
  - Immediately inform appropriate organisations.
- If made aware that a member of staff or a learner has been inadvertently exposed to indecent images of children, we will:
  - Ensure that SLT is informed.
  - Ensure that the URLs (webpage addresses) which contain the suspect images are reported to the Internet Watch Foundation via [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk).
  - Ensure that any copies that exist of the image, for example in emails, are deleted.
  - Report concerns, as appropriate to parents and carers.
- If made aware that indecent images of children have been found on the setting provided devices, we will:
  - Ensure that SLT is informed.
  - Ensure that the URLs (webpage addresses) which contain the suspect images are reported to the Internet Watch Foundation via [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk).
  - Ensure that any copies that exist of the image, for example in emails, are deleted.
  - Inform the police via 101 (999 if there is an immediate risk of harm) and Children's Social Work Service (as appropriate).
  - Only store copies of images (securely, where no one else has access to them and delete all other copies) at the request of the police only.
  - Report concerns, as appropriate to parents and carers.
- If made aware that a member of staff is in possession of indecent images of children on setting provided devices, we will:
  - Ensure that SLT is informed in line with our managing allegations against staff policy.
  - Inform the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and other relevant organisations in accordance with our managing allegations against staff policy.
  - Quarantine any devices until police advice has been sought.

### **11.5 Cyberbullying**

- Cyberbullying will not be tolerated at Burnt Tree Primary. If a pupil experiences online bullying, they should report it to a teacher or a trusted adult immediately. Parents should also report concerns to

the school, which will investigate all incidents in line with our behaviour and safeguarding policies. Support will be offered to affected pupils, including pastoral care and guidance on blocking/reporting abusive content.

- Full details of how we will respond to cyberbullying are set out in our anti-bullying policy.

### **11.6 Online Hate**

- Online hate content, directed towards or posted by, specific members of the community will not be tolerated at Burnt Tree and will be responded to in line with existing policies, including anti-bullying and behaviour.
- All members of the community will be advised to report online hate in accordance with relevant policies and procedures.
- The Police will be contacted if a criminal offence is suspected.
- If we are unclear on how to respond, or whether a criminal offence has been committed, SLT will obtain advice through the Education Safeguarding Team and/or Police.

### **11.7 Online Radicalisation and Extremism**

- We will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that learners and staff are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet on site.
- If we are concerned that a child or parent/carer may be at risk of radicalisation online, SLT will be informed immediately, and action will be taken in line with our child protection policy.
- If we are concerned that member of staff may be at risk of radicalisation online, SLT will be informed immediately, and action will be taken in line with the child protection and allegations policies.

## 12. Useful Links for Educational Settings

### National Links and Resources for Educational Settings

- CEOP:
  - [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
  - [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)
- Childnet: [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)
- Internet Matters: [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)
- Internet Watch Foundation (IWF): [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)
- Lucy Faithfull Foundation: [www.lucyfaithfull.org](http://www.lucyfaithfull.org)
- NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)
  - ChildLine: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
  - Net Aware: [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)
- The Marie Collins Foundation: [www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk)
- UK Safer Internet Centre: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)
  - Professional Online Safety Helpline: [www.saferinternet.org.uk/about/helpline](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/about/helpline)
- 360 Safe Self-Review tool for schools: [www.360safe.org.uk](http://www.360safe.org.uk)

### National Links and Resources for Parents/Carers

- Action Fraud: [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)
- CEOP:
  - [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
  - [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)
- Childnet: [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)
- Get Safe Online: [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)
- Internet Matters: [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)
- Internet Watch Foundation (IWF): [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)
- Lucy Faithfull Foundation: [www.lucyfaithfull.org](http://www.lucyfaithfull.org)
- NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)
  - ChildLine: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
  - Net Aware: [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)
- The Marie Collins Foundation: [www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk)
- UK Safer Internet Centre: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)
- Department for Education – Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges: [www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges/filtering-and-monitoring-core-standard](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges/filtering-and-monitoring-core-standard)
- Department for Education – Generative artificial intelligence (AI) in education: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/generative-artificial-intelligence-in-education](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/generative-artificial-intelligence-in-education)