



BELLE VUE
GIRLS' ACADEMY

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E-Safety Policy

Reviewed by	Approved by	Date of Approval	Next Review Date
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1. Policy Statement

This policy should be read in conjunction with other academy and trust guidance, for example the Safeguarding, RSE and Remote Learning policies.

The ethos of Belle Vue Girls' Academy is based on the need for each member of our school community to give and receive respect. We expect that each member of our community will care for others and will challenge attitudes and behaviours which are not in keeping with these values. We have the same high expectations when working online.

2. Aims

Our school aims to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors
- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), and its advice for schools on:

- [Teaching online safety in schools](#)
- [Preventing and tackling bullying](#) and [cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff](#)
- [Relationships and sex education](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation](#)

It also refers to the DfE's guidance on [protecting children from radicalisation](#).

It reflects existing legislation, including but not limited to the [Education Act 1996](#) (as amended), the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#) and the [Equality Act 2010](#). In addition, it reflects the [Education Act 2011](#), which has given teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by, if necessary, searching for and deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 The Local Governing Body

The local governing body has overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The governing board will monitor online safety incident logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) as part of the 'Safeguarding Report to Governors'.

The governor who oversees Safeguarding, including online safety, is **Nurjahan Ali Arobi**

All governors will:

- Ensure that they have read and understand this policy
- Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendix 2)

3.2 The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that staff understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school.

3.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead

Details of the school's DSL and deputies are set out in our safeguarding policy. The DSL takes lead responsibility for online safety in school, in particular:

- Supporting the headteacher in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school
- Working with the headteacher, ICT technician, AIT and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged on CPOMS and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- Updating and delivering staff training on online safety
- Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary
- Providing regular reports on online safety in school to the headteacher and/or governing board

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.4 Our Learning Cloud (BDAT external IT support service)

AIT is responsible for:

- Putting in place appropriate filtering (Securely) and monitoring systems (Smoothwall), which are updated on a regular basis and keep pupils safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material
- Ensuring that the school's ICT systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware and that such safety mechanisms are updated regularly
- Conducting a full security check and monitoring the school's ICT systems on a routine basis
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.5 All staff and Volunteers

All staff, including contractors and agency staff, and volunteers are responsible for:

- Maintaining an understanding of this policy
- Implementing this policy consistently

- Agreeing and adhering to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendix 2), and ensuring that pupils follow the school's terms on acceptable use (appendix 1)
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged on CPOMS and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy and the Safeguarding Policy
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3.6 Parents/Carers

Parents/Carers are expected to:

- Notify a member of staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding this policy
- Ensure that both their child and themselves have read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet (appendix 1)
- Report any online incidents/activity in breach of this policy to the school in a timely fashion.

Parents can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online from the following organisations and websites:

- What are the issues? - [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- Hot topics - [Childnet International](#)
- Parent factsheet - [Childnet International](#)
- Healthy relationships – [Disrespect Nobody](#)

3.7 Students

Students are expected to:

- Ensure they have read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet (appendix 1)
- Report any online incidents/activity in breach of this policy to their Tutor, Pastoral Manager, Teacher or any adult in school in a timely fashion.
- Take responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe online.
- Assess the personal risks of using any particular technology and behave safely and responsibly to limit those risks.

3.8 Visitors and Members of the Community

Visitors and members of the community who use the school's ICT systems or internet will be made aware of this policy, when relevant, and expected to read and follow it. If appropriate, they will be expected to agree to the terms on acceptable use (appendix 2).

Visitors should use the designated guest WiFi network when onsite.

4. Educating Pupils about Online Safety

Pupils will be taught about online safety as part of the curriculum at Belle Vue Girls' Academy.

In **Key Stage 3**, pupils will be taught to:

- Understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting their online identity and privacy

- Recognise inappropriate content, contact and conduct, and know how to report concerns

Pupils in **Key Stage 4** will be taught:

- To understand how changes in technology affect safety, including new ways to protect their online privacy and identity
- How to report a range of concerns

By the **end of secondary school**, pupils will know:

- Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online
- About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online
- Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them
- What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online
- The impact of viewing harmful content
- That specifically sexually explicit material (e.g. pornography) presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners
- That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail
- How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online
- How to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours

The safe use of social media and the internet will also be covered as part of the academy's Personal Development Curriculum.

For more information on when and how the areas listed above are covered in our curriculum, please visit the 'Relationships & Sex Education' section of the academy website.

5. Educating Parents about Online Safety

The school will raise parents' awareness of internet safety in newsletters or other communications home, and in information via our website. This policy will also be shared with parents via our website.

If parents have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with their child's Pastoral Manager or Head of Year.

Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the headteacher.

6. Cyber-bullying

This section should be read in conjunction with our academy **Anti-Bullying Strategy** which can be found in section 8 of our **Behaviour and Welfare Policy**, accessible via our website.

6.1 Definition

Cyber-bullying takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites. Like other forms of bullying, it is the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

6.2 Preventing and Addressing Cyber-bullying

To help prevent cyber-bullying, we will ensure that pupils are taught through our curriculum (see section 4) to understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure that pupils know how they can report any incidents and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim.

The school will actively discuss cyber-bullying with pupils, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. Form Tutors will discuss cyber-bullying with their tutor groups as part of our Personal Development programme. Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the curriculum to cover cyber-bullying.

All staff, governors and volunteers (where appropriate) receive training on cyber-bullying, its impact and ways to support pupils, as part of safeguarding training (see section 11 for more detail).

The school also sends information on cyber-bullying to parents via our newsletter and website, so that they are aware of the signs, how to report it and how they can support children who may be affected.

In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, the school will follow the processes set out in the school behaviour policy. Where illegal, inappropriate or harmful material has been spread among pupils, the school will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the incident is contained. The DSL will consider whether the incident should be reported to the police if it involves illegal material, and will work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

6.3 Examining Electronic Devices

School staff have the specific power under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (which has been increased by the Education Act 2011) to search for and, if necessary, delete inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices, including mobile phones, iPads and other tablet devices, where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

When deciding whether there is a good reason to examine or erase data or files on an electronic device, staff must reasonably suspect that the data or file in question has been, or could be, used to:

- Cause harm, and/or
- Disrupt teaching, and/or
- Break any of the school rules

If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the staff member in conjunction with the DSL or other member of the senior leadership team to decide whether they should:

- Delete that material, or
- Retain it as evidence (of a criminal offence or a breach of school discipline), and/or
- Report it to the police

Any searching of pupils will be carried out in line with the DfE's latest guidance on [screening, searching and confiscation](#).

Any complaints about searching for or deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices will be dealt with through the school complaints procedure.

7. Acceptable use of the Internet in School

All pupils, parents, staff, volunteers and governors are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendices 1 & 2). Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use if relevant.

Use of the school's internet must be for educational purposes only, or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of an individual's role.

We will monitor the websites visited by pupils, staff, volunteers, governors and visitors (where relevant) to ensure they comply with the above.

More information is set out in the acceptable use agreements in appendices 1 & 2.

8. Remote Learning & Homework

Belle Vue Girls' Academy's agreed learning platform is Microsoft 365. Students and staff should only communicate with each other for learning purposes using this platform. All students and staff have been trained on the use of Microsoft 365.

When involved in live on-line learning, students and staff should follow the protocols as set out in the [Remote Learning Policy](#)

9. Pupils Using Mobile Devices in School

9.1 Statement of Intent

As a school we have a duty to create an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all pupils, whatever their background, can learn and thrive. One of the greatest challenges facing schools is the presence of mobile phones. Mobile phones can present unnecessary distraction, disruption and diversion. Mobile phones now include many additional functions such as an integrated camera, video recording capability, instant messaging, mobile office applications and mobile access to the internet. These allow immediate access to email, searching for information on the internet and other functions such as access to social networking sites e.g. Facebook, twitter, snapchat and WhatsApp. These functions can pose a risk to the maintenance of good discipline, the focus on learning and, crucially, the effective safeguarding of students in schools.

This policy has been developed to address these issues taking into consideration:

- DFE 'Mobile phones in schools' - Guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day (February 2024)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024
- DFE guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation - Advice for Headteachers, School Staff and Governing Bodies (July 2022)

By removing mobile phones from the school day, we can create a safe space where pupils are protected from the risks and dangers associated with social media and cyber-bullying, as well as the peer pressure and possible stigma associated with owning what are often expensive devices. This is why as a school we operate **never used, seen, or heard policy**.

9.2 Never used, seen or heard policy

Our **never used, seen or heard policy** means pupils keep possession of their mobile phones only on the strict condition that they are never used, seen or heard unless under the direction of staff. We

enforce this policy consistently and visibly, to the effect that mobile phone use is prohibited throughout the school day with clear consequences in place for breaching this policy.

Pupils may bring mobile devices on to the school site but are not permitted to use them at any time unless **specifically permitted to do so by a member of staff** for the purposes of **supporting learning or safety**. Any use of mobile devices in school by pupils must be in line with the acceptable use agreement (see appendix 1). Any breach of the acceptable use agreement by a pupil, or the use of a mobile device on school site without permission, may trigger disciplinary action in line with the school behaviour policy. This may result in the confiscation of their device for a period ranging from one day to a week, depending on the nature of the incident and number of offences.

The Headteacher, or staff they authorise, have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions, where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item as identified in the school rules or a mobile phone which is being found to be used against the **never used, seen or heard** policy.

9.3 Sixth Form

Sixth form students should only use their mobile phone in the common room area and this is for the purpose to **support their studies**. Sixth Form students may be allowed to use mobile phones or electronic devices in lessons if individual teachers confirm this. They should not place them on show or remove them from their bag until they have been directed by the member of staff. If any element of this policy is not adhered to staff are expected to confiscate the phone. All other phone rules are in line with the general policy.

10. Staff Using Work Devices Outside School

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Keeping the device password-protected – strong passwords are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters (e.g. asterisk or currency symbol)
- Ensuring they use a school device with encrypted an encrypted hard drive – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device. The school device should also have up to date anti-virus and anti-spyware software
- Making sure the device is locked if left inactive for a period of time
- Not sharing the device among family or friends
- Keeping operating systems up to date – always install the latest updates

Staff members must not use the device in any way which would violate the school's terms of acceptable use, as set out in appendix 2, or the BDAT Acceptable use of ICT Policy.

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from the Academy Business Leader, who will liaise with AIT.

11. How the School will respond to Issues of Misuse

Where a pupil misuses the school's ICT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in our Behaviour & Welfare E-Safety policies. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident, and will be proportionate.

Where a staff member misuses the school's ICT systems or the internet, or misuses a personal device where the action constitutes misconduct, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the trust's staff disciplinary procedures. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident.

The school will consider whether incidents which involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the police.

12. Training

All new staff members will receive a copy of this policy as part of their induction and must sign to acknowledge that they have read and understood it. All new staff will receive safeguarding training, which will include online safeguarding issues including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation.

All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year as part of safeguarding training, as well as relevant updates as required (for example through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings).

The DSL and deputies will undertake child protection and safeguarding training, which will include online safety, at least every 2 years. They will also update their knowledge and skills on the subject of online safety at regular intervals, and at least annually.

Governors will receive training on online safeguarding issues as part of their annual safeguarding training.

Volunteers will receive appropriate training and updates, if applicable.

More information about safeguarding training is set out in our safeguarding policy.

13. Monitoring Arrangements

All staff log e-safety incidents on CPOMS and the DSL oversees the log of behaviour and safeguarding issues, including those related to online safety.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher responsible for Behaviour, Attitudes and Personal Development. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

14. Links with Other Policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- BVGA Safeguarding Policy & Child Protection Policy
- BVGA Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy
- BVGA Remote Learning Policy
- BVGA Behaviour & Welfare Policy
- BVGA ICT and internet acceptable use policy (appendices 1 & 2)
- BVGA Staff Code of Conduct
- BDAT Staff Disciplinary Procedure Policy
- BDAT Acceptable Use of ICT Policy
- BDAT Social Media Policy
- BDAT GDPR Policy & Privacy Notices
- BDAT Complaints Policy

- Appendix 1: Acceptable use of ICT Agreement (pupils and parents/carers)

*A copy of this is in student data collection packs and must be signed by students and their parents/carers

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS/CARERS

I will read and follow the rules in the acceptable use agreement policy

When I use the school's ICT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in school I will:

- Always use the school's ICT systems and the internet responsibly and for educational purposes only
- Only use them when a teacher is present, or with a teacher's permission
- Keep my username and passwords safe and not share these with others. Your online area is your responsibility. You cannot claim that 'it must have been someone else'. Get your password changed if you think someone knows (ask your IT teacher).
- Keep my private information safe at all times and not give my name, address or telephone number to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer
- Tell a teacher (or sensible adult) immediately if I find any material which might upset, distress or harm me or others
- Always log off or shut down a computer when I'm finished working on it
- Always demonstrate good behaviour on the Internet, the same as I would in a classroom or on an academy corridor. I understand that the normal Behaviour Policy and sanctions apply.

I will not:

- Access any inappropriate websites including: social networking sites, chat rooms and gaming sites unless my teacher has expressly allowed this as part of a learning activity
- Open any attachments in emails, or follow any links in emails, without first checking with a teacher
- Use any inappropriate language when communicating online, including in emails
- Log in to the school's network using someone else's details, or share my details with others.
- Arrange to meet anyone offline without first consulting my parent/carer, or without adult supervision

If I bring a personal mobile phone or other personal electronic device into school:

- I will not use it onsite without a teacher's permission
- I will use it responsibly, and will not access any inappropriate websites or other inappropriate material or use inappropriate language when communicating online
- I understand that my mobile/electronic device may be confiscated (as per the E-Safety Policy) if it is seen, heard or used on school site.

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don't follow the rules.

Signed (pupil):	Date:
Parent/carer's agreement: I agree that my child can use the school's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for pupils using the school's ICT systems and internet, and for using personal electronic devices in school, and will make sure my child understands these.	
Signed (parent/carer):	Date:

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR STAFF, GOVERNORS, VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

When using the school's ICT systems and accessing the internet in school, or outside school on a work device (if applicable), I will not:

- Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal or pornographic nature (or create, share, link to or send such material)
- Use them in any way which could harm the school's reputation
- Access social networking sites or chat rooms
- Use any improper language when communicating online, including in emails or other messaging services
- Install any unauthorised software, or connect unauthorised hardware or devices to the school's network
- Share my password with others or log in to the school's network using someone else's details
- Take photographs of pupils without checking with teachers first
- Share confidential information about the school, its pupils or staff, or other members of the community
- Access, modify or share data I'm not authorised to access, modify or share
- Promote private businesses, unless that business is directly related to the school

I will only use the school's ICT systems and access the internet in school, or outside school on a work device, for educational purposes or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of my role.

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the school's ICT facilities and systems. I will take all reasonable steps to ensure that work devices are secure and password-protected when using them outside school, and keep all data securely stored in accordance with this policy and the school's data protection policy.

I will let the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and ICT manager know if a pupil informs me they have found any material which might upset, distress or harm them or others, and will also do so if I encounter any such material.

I will always use the school's ICT systems and internet responsibly, and ensure that pupils in my care do so too.

Name: _____ Position: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____