Acceptable Use Policy

Parents and Carers

September 2026 · Next review: September 2027

Introduction

Technology is an essential part of daily life and learning. At Holy Cross & All Saints RC Primary School, your child's safety and wellbeing are our utmost priority. We expect pupils to act with equal respect and care whether they are online or face to face, inside or outside of school.

We share this policy with parents and carers to help reinforce these safe behaviours. Your child has an age-appropriate AUP of their own, which is talked through in class. Our full Online Safety Policy is available on the school website and from the school office. If you have any questions, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mrs A Bell (Headteacher), or one of our Deputy DSLs (Ms A Richardson, Mrs J Randle or Mrs R Whittaker) through the school office at office@holycrossallsaints.salford.sch.uk.

We use technology as part of the daily life of the school when it is appropriate to support teaching and learning and the smooth running of the school, and to help prepare the children in our care for their future lives. We take every reasonable precaution to keep pupils safe online, as outlined in the government's guidance.

1. Devices in school

- **Filtering and monitoring:** I understand the school uses filtering (website blocking) and monitoring to protect pupils. While school network protections are safer than most home networks, no system is 100% risk-free. The school aims to teach safe and responsible use, rather than 'overblocking' educational content.
- **Mobile phones and personal devices:** I will support the school's policy on personal devices. If my child brings a mobile phone to school, it will be switched off and handed in at the start of the day and collected at home time. My child will not wear a smartwatch or any other device that can take photos, record or access the internet in school, unless the school has agreed otherwise for a medical reason. I will not call or text my child during the school day; urgent messages must always go through the school office.
- **Tracking devices:** I will not attempt to track my child during the school day or on school trips using Apple AirTags or similar devices. Doing so breaks the product terms, can share locations with strangers, and causes unnecessary worry when routes change.
- **School communications:** The school will only contact me through Google Classroom, text messages from the school office system and email, and staff will only contact my child about learning through Google Classroom. I will report any unusual or unexpected contact requests immediately to the DSL through the school office.

2. At home and home learning

- **Filtering:** I understand that any school-owned devices and online platforms used out of school are subject to filtering and monitoring. More detail can be found in our Online Safety Policy.
- **Safe habits:** I will help my child keep safe habits at home and when using Google Classroom for home learning.
- **Video calls:** During any school video calls, I will make sure my child is fully dressed (not in bed) and that their camera points away from personal spaces or uses a blurred background.

Adapted from the LGfL SafeguardED Acceptable Use Policy templates (2026): safepolicies.lgfl.net

- **Private online tutors:** If I arrange private online tuition, I will check the tutor's safety credentials using the government's 'Online tutors – keeping children safe' guidance and make sure sessions happen in a shared family room.
- **Home protections and boundaries:** I will use parental controls, home filtering and child-safe search tools such as swiggle.org.uk or YouTube Kids. I will promote a healthy balance using the Children's Commissioner's Digital 5 A Day (childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/digital/5-a-day). Parental guidance is available at parentsafe.lgfl.net.
- **Talking regularly:** To help me understand what my child does online, and so they feel confident to talk to me if something goes wrong, I will talk to my child regularly about their life online. Parental guidance is available at parentsafe.lgfl.net.

3. In the community and on social media

- **Respect online:** I will model safe, positive online behaviour. I will not share images or details without permission, or post negative, threatening or abusive comments about school staff, governors, pupils or other parents on social media. If I have a concern, I will raise it with the school directly. The school will ask for abusive posts to be deleted promptly and will contact the police if an offence occurs.
- **Age limits and group chats:** I will support age restrictions and will not encourage my child to join platforms where they are below the minimum age (currently 13 for most social media). I will keep an eye on my child's out-of-school online contact, such as WhatsApp or gaming group chats, to help prevent problems between children spilling into school.
- **Privacy and secret recording:** Taking secret photos, videos or recordings of staff or pupils (including remotely or through wearable technology) is strictly forbidden. Personal recording devices such as smart glasses are not allowed without written permission from the Headteacher. To request a recording, I will speak to the Headteacher.
- **Visiting school:** I will keep my phone and other technology in my pocket when visiting the school. I will never share photos or videos of other people's children on social media, and I understand there may be cultural or legal reasons why this could be inappropriate or even dangerous (see nofilming.lgfl.net for more information). The school will only use my child's image publicly with my explicit consent.
- **School events:** At events such as assemblies, nativities and First Holy Communion, I may take photos or videos of my own child for my family's personal use. I will not post any photos or videos that show other children on social media.

4. Artificial intelligence and reporting

- **AI risks:** I will talk to my child about the risks of artificial intelligence (AI), which is now built into many everyday apps. I will discuss the dangers of AI chatbots, image creators and "nudifying" apps that create inappropriate or illegal content. Advice can be found at parentsafe.lgfl.net.
- **Reporting without fear:** I understand that my child may face school sanctions if they break online rules. However, I will reassure my child that they can always tell a trusted adult at home or at school if something goes wrong or upsets them online, without fear of immediately losing their device or being punished.
- **Further support:** For advice on parental controls, safe settings, gaming, apps and sensitive topics (including online bullying, radicalisation and inappropriate content), please visit parentsafe.lgfl.net or speak to the school office, who can put you in touch with the right member of staff.

Questions

If you have any questions about this policy, or about anything that happens online involving your child, please contact the school office at office@holycrossallsaints.salford.sch.uk and we will put you in touch with the right member of staff.