

Online Safety 2026-2027



Policy

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Signed:	
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Contents:

1. Being safe, happy and confident online
2. What does online safety mean?
3. Online risks and how to handle them
4. Understanding cyberbullying
5. Sharing images and messages – what's okay and what's not
6. What to do when things go wrong online
7. Who to talk to and where to get help

1. Being safe, happy and confident online

At Everly East Academy, we want all our pupils to feel safe, supported and respected in school, at home and online.

The internet is a powerful part of our lives, and we use it for learning, socialising, gaming, entertainment and self-expression. But it also comes with risks. This policy will help you understand how to stay safe online and what to do if something feels wrong.

We're here to help:

- Teach you about staying safe online and managing your digital reputation.
- Make sure you know how to get support if something upsets or worries you.
- Empower you to make safe, respectful and informed decisions online.

2. What does online safety mean?

Online safety is about knowing how to protect yourself and others when using the internet, social media, apps, messaging services, and digital devices.

It includes:

- Keeping your personal information private.
- Being aware of who you are communicating with.
- Recognising scams, misinformation and dangerous content.
- Understanding your digital footprint and how your online actions affect your reputation and wellbeing.

We follow the government's guidance, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', to make sure you're protected both offline and online. This guidance sets out responsibilities and legal requirements for all schools.

3. Online risks and how to handle them

You may face a range of risks when online. These include:

- **Cyberbullying** – hurtful or threatening messages, posts or comments.
- **Online grooming** – when someone builds a relationship with you online to exploit or harm you.
- **Inappropriate content** – violent, sexual or extreme material that's not suitable for your age.
- **Scams and phishing** – messages designed to trick you into giving away information.
- **Misinformation and fake news** – stories, posts or videos that aren't true and may influence you negatively.
- **Online extremism and radicalisation** – people who try to influence your beliefs or behaviour in harmful ways.
- **AI and deepfakes** – some apps or websites create realistic fake content. Always question what you see and talk to an adult if you're unsure.

Remember: if something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts and speak to a trusted adult.

4. Understanding cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is never acceptable. It can include:

- Sending threatening or upsetting messages.
- Posting nasty comments or spreading rumours.
- Sharing embarrassing or private photos or videos.
- Impersonating someone online to cause harm.

If you're experiencing cyberbullying, or see it happening to someone else:

- Don't respond or retaliate.
- Save evidence, such as screenshots.
- Block and report the person where possible.
- Speak to a trusted adult at home or school. We will take it seriously and support you.

5. Sharing images and messages – what's okay and what's not

It's illegal to share, request or possess sexual images or videos of anyone under 18, even if the image is of yourself, and even if it's sent between two people who are in a relationship.

If someone asks you for this kind of content, or sends it to you:

- Don't respond or forward it.
- Report it to a trusted adult or the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- You won't get into trouble for asking for help.

This includes 'nudes', explicit photos, 'semi-nudes', or any messages that make you feel uncomfortable or pressured. Speak up. We'll listen, and we're here to help.

6. What to do when things go wrong online

If you see or experience something online that makes you:

- Feel uncomfortable or unsafe,
- Worry about a friend,
- Or get caught in something you regret...

Take action:

1. **Stop** – log out, block the person, or exit the site.
2. **Save** – keep evidence like messages or screenshots.

3. **Talk** – tell someone you trust as soon as possible.

7. Who to talk to and where to get help

There's always someone you can talk to. You can speak to:

- Your form tutor.
- Any teacher or member of staff.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Your head of year or pastoral lead.

If you need support outside of school:

- **Childline:** 0800 11 11 – www.childline.org.uk
- **NSPCC:** 0800 800 5000 – www.nspcc.org.uk
- **Report Harmful Content:** www.reporthearmfulcontent.com
- **CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection):** www.ceop.police.uk

You are not alone. You won't be in trouble for asking for help. Your safety matters more than anything.