

Weald of Kent Grammar School

Online Safety Policy

Aim of this policy

- Weald of Kent Grammar School believes that online safety is an essential element of safeguarding students and adults in the digital world, when using technology such as computers, mobile phones or games consoles.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School identifies that the Internet and information communication technologies are an important part of everyday life so students must be supported to be able to learn how to develop strategies to manage and respond to risk so they can be empowered to build resilience online.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School has a duty to provide the school community with quality Internet access to raise education standards, promote student achievement, support the professional work of staff and enhance the school's management functions. Weald of Kent Grammar School also identifies that with this there is a clear duty to ensure that students are protected from potential harm online.
- The purpose of this online safety policy is to:
 - Clearly identify the key principles expected of all members of the community with regards to the safe and responsible use of technology to ensure that Weald of Kent Grammar School is a safe and secure environment.
 - Safeguard and protect all members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School's community online.
 - Raise awareness with all members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School's community regarding the potential risks as well as benefits of technology.
 - Enable staff to work safely and responsibly to role model positive behaviour online and to be aware of the need to manage their own standards and practice when using technology.
 - Identify clear procedures to use when responding to online safety concerns that are known by all members of the community.
- The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:
 - Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.
 - Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.
 - Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
 - Commerce: risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.
- This policy applies to staff including the governing body, teachers, support staff, external contractors, visitors, volunteers (and other individuals who work for or provide services on behalf of Weald of Kent Grammar School) as well as students and parents/carers.
- This policy applies to all access to the Internet and use of information communication devices including personal devices or where students, staff or other individuals have been provided with Weald of Kent Grammar School issued devices for use off-site, such as a work laptop or mobile phone.
- This policy must be read in conjunction with other relevant Weald of Kent Grammar School policies including (but not limited to) Safeguarding, Anti-bullying, Behaviour, Photographic Image Use, Acceptable Use (AUP), and relevant curriculum policies including computing, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy.

This online safety policy has been written by Weald of Kent Grammar School, building on KCC advice with specialist advice and input as required. It takes into account the DfE statutory guidance '[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)', '[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)' 2018 and the [Kent Safeguarding Children Board](#) procedures.

- Where children are asked to learn online at home in response to a full or partial closure, the school will follow expectations as set out within the Safeguarding Policy and in line with the school's Remote Learning Policy.
- The policy has been approved and agreed by both the Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School's online safety policy and its implementation will be reviewed at least annually or sooner if required.

Weald of Kent Grammar School's DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) has overall responsibility for Online Safety. Weald of Kent's DSL is Ken MacSporran.

1.2 Key responsibilities of the community

1.2.1 Key responsibilities of Senior Leadership Team are:

- To ensure that there are appropriate and up-to-date policies regarding online safety; including an acceptable use policy, which covers acceptable use of technology.
- To 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.
- To ensure that online safety is embedded within the curriculum, which enables all students to develop an age-appropriate understanding of online safety.
- To support the DSL and any deputies by ensuring they have sufficient time and resources to fulfil their online safety responsibilities.
- To ensure there are robust reporting channels for the community regarding online safety concerns, including internal, local and national support.
- To ensure that appropriate risk assessments are undertaken regarding the safe use of technology.
- To audit and evaluate online safety practice to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

1.2.2 Key responsibilities of the designated safeguarding/online safety lead are:

- To act as a named point of contact on all online safety issues and liaise with other members of staff and agencies as appropriate.
- To keep up to date with current research, legislation and trends.
- To coordinate participation in local and national events to promote positive online behaviour, e.g. Safer Internet Day.
- To ensure that online safety is promoted to parents/carers and the wider community through a variety of channels and approaches.
- To work with Weald of Kent Grammar School's lead for data protection and data security to ensure that practice is in line with legislation.
- To access regular and appropriate training and support to ensure that the DSL understands the unique risks associated with online safety and has the relevant knowledge and up to date required to keep students safe online.
- To ensure that online safety incidents and subsequent actions are recorded as part of Weald of Kent Grammar School's safeguarding recording structures and mechanisms. Records will be in the safeguarding folders. Records will be retained for as long as the pupil file, i.e. for 25 years from the child's date of birth.
- To monitor online safety incidents to identify gaps and trends, and use this data to update the education response, policies and procedures.
- To liaise with the local authority and other local and national bodies as appropriate.
- To report online safety concerns, as appropriate, to the Senior Leadership Team and Board of Trustees.

- To work with the leadership team to review and update online safety policies on a regular basis (at least annually).
- To ensure that online safety is integrated with other appropriate Weald of Kent Grammar School policies and procedures.
- To meet regularly with the trustee with a lead responsibility for safeguarding and online safety.

1.2.3 Key responsibilities of staff are:

- To contribute to the development of online safety policies.
- To read Weald of Kent Grammar School's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and adhere to it.
- To take responsibility for the security of Weald of Kent Grammar School's systems and data.
- To have an awareness of online safety issues, and how they relate to the students in their care, including understanding the key issues related to online safety: content, contact, conduct and commerce.
- To ensure that they understand that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues and that children are at risk of abuse online as well as face-to-face. In many cases abuse will take place concurrently via online channels and in daily life. Children can also abuse their peers online, this can take the form of abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages, the non-consensual sharing of indecent images, especially around chat Teams, and the sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who do not want to receive such content.
- To model good practice in using new and emerging technologies and demonstrate an emphasis on positive learning opportunities rather than focusing on negatives.
- To embed online safety education in curriculum delivery wherever possible.
- To identify individuals of concern and take appropriate action by working with the DSL.
- To know when and how to escalate online safety issues, internally and externally.
- To be able to signpost to appropriate support available for online safety issues, internally and externally.
- To maintain a professional level of conduct in their personal use of technology, both on and off site. The school has a Social Media Policy and an Electronic Information and Communication Systems Policy for staff to adhere to.
- To take personal responsibility for professional development in this area.

1.2.4. Additional responsibilities for staff managing the technical environment are:

- To provide technical support and perspective to the DSL and Senior Leadership Team, especially in the development and implementation of appropriate online safety policies and procedures.
- To implement appropriate security measures as directed by the Senior Leadership Team, to ensure that the IT systems are secure and not open to misuse or malicious attack, whilst allowing learning opportunities to be maximised.
- To ensure that our filtering policy is applied and updated on a regular basis. The responsibility for its implementation is shared with the Senior Leadership Team.
- To ensure that our monitoring systems are applied and updated on a regular basis. The responsibility for its implementation is shared with the Senior Leadership Team.
- To ensure that appropriate access and technical support is given to the DSL (and/or deputy) to our filtering and monitoring systems, to enable him/her to take appropriate safeguarding action if/when required.

1.2.5 Key responsibilities of students are:

- To read Weald of Kent Grammar School's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and adhere to it.
- To respect the feelings and rights of others both on and offline.
- To seek help from a trusted adult if things go wrong, and support others that may be experiencing online safety issues.
- To take responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe online.
- To take responsibility for their own awareness and learning in relation to the opportunities and risks posed by new and emerging technologies.

- To assess the personal risks of using any particular technology and behave safely and responsibly to limit those risks.

1.2.6. Key responsibilities of parents/carers are:

- To read Weald of Kent Grammar School's AUP, encourage their children to adhere to it, and adhere to it themselves where appropriate.
- To support Weald of Kent Grammar School's online safety approaches by discussing online safety issues with their children and reinforcing appropriate and safe online behaviours at home.
- To role model safe and appropriate uses of new and emerging technology.
- To identify changes in behaviour that could indicate that their child is at risk of harm online.
- To seek help and support from Weald of Kent Grammar School, or other appropriate agencies, if they or their child encounters online problems or concerns.
- To contribute to the development of Weald of Kent Grammar School's online safety policy.
- To use Weald of Kent Grammar School's systems, and other network resources, safely and appropriately.
- To take responsibility for their own awareness and learning in relation to the opportunities and risks posed by new and emerging technologies.
- To report any known issues as soon as possible.

2. Online Communication and Safer Use of Technology

2.1 Managing the Weald of Kent Grammar Weald of Kent Grammar School website

- Weald of Kent Grammar School will ensure that information posted on Weald of Kent Grammar School's website meets the requirements as identified by the Department for Education (DfE).
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will ensure that our website complies with guidelines for publications including accessibility; data protection; respect for intellectual property rights; privacy policies and copyright.
- Staff or students' personal information will not be published on Weald of Kent Grammar School's website without explicit permission.
- The administrator account for the Weald of Kent Grammar School website will be secured with an appropriately strong password. Currently this is set at: 15 characters including upper case, lower case and a number.
- We will post appropriate information about safeguarding, including online safety, on our website for members of the community.

2.2 Publishing images and videos online

- Weald of Kent Grammar School will ensure that all images are used in accordance with Weald of Kent Grammar School's Photographic Image Use policy.
- In line with Weald of Kent Grammar School's Photographic Image policy, written permission from parents/carers will always be obtained before images/videos of students are electronically published.

2.3 Managing email

- Students may only use Weald of Kent Grammar School provided email accounts for educational purposes.
- All staff are provided with a specific Weald of Kent Grammar School email address to use for any official communication.
- The use of personal email addresses by staff for any official Weald of Kent Grammar School business is not permitted.
- The forwarding of any chain messages/emails etc. is not permitted. Spam or junk mail will be blocked and reported to the email provider.
- Any electronic communication which contains any content which could be subject to data protection legislation must only be sent using secure and/or encrypted methods.
- Members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community must immediately tell a member of the Senior Leadership Team if they receive an offensive communication.

- Sensitive or personal information will only be shared via email in accordance with data protection legislation.
- Access in Weald of Kent Grammar School to external personal email accounts may be blocked.
- Excessive social email use can interfere with learning and will be restricted.
- Email sent to external organisations should be written carefully before sending, in the same way as a letter written on Weald of Kent Grammar School headed paper would be.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School email addresses and other official contact details will not be used for setting up personal social media accounts or subscribing to services.

2.4 Official videoconferencing and webcam use

- All videoconferencing equipment in the classroom will be switched off when not in use and where appropriate, not set to auto answer.
- Videoconferencing contact information will not be posted publicly.
- Videoconferencing equipment will not be taken off the premises without prior permission from the DSL.
- Staff will ensure that external videoconferencing opportunities and/or tools are suitably risk assessed and will ensure that accounts and systems used to access these events are safe and secure.
- Students will not use, or have access to, videoconferencing equipment without permission.

Users

- Students will ask permission from a teacher before making or answering a videoconference call or message.
- Videoconferencing will be supervised appropriately for the students' age and ability.
- Parents'/carers' consent will be obtained prior to students taking part in videoconferences with anyone outside of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community.
- Videoconferencing will take place via official and approved communication channels following a robust risk assessment.
- Only key administrators will be given access to videoconferencing administration areas or remote-control pages.
- Unique log on and password details for the educational videoconferencing services will only be issued to staff and kept secure.

Content

- When recording a videoconference lesson, written permission will be given by all sites and participants. The reason for the recording must be given, and the recording of videoconference should be clear to all parties at the start of the conference. Recorded material will be stored securely.
- If third party materials are to be included, Weald of Kent Grammar School will check that recording is acceptable to avoid infringing third party intellectual property rights.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will establish dialogue with other conference participants before taking part in a videoconference. If it is a non-Weald of Kent Grammar School site, Weald of Kent Grammar School will check that they are delivering material that is appropriate for the class.

2.5 Appropriate and safe classroom use of the Internet and associated devices

- Weald of Kent Grammar School's Internet access will be designed to enhance and extend education.
- Access levels to the Internet will be reviewed to reflect the curriculum requirements and the age and ability of students.
- Students will use age and ability appropriate tools to search the Internet for content.
- Internet use is a key feature of educational access, and all students will receive age and ability appropriate education to support and enable them to develop strategies to respond to concerns as part of an embedded whole school curriculum.

- Weald of Kent Grammar School will ensure that the use of Internet-derived materials by staff and students complies with copyright law and acknowledge the source of information.
- All staff are aware that they cannot rely on filtering alone to safeguard students and supervision, classroom management and education about safe and responsible use is essential.
- Students will be appropriately supervised when using technology, according to their ability and understanding.
- All Weald of Kent Grammar School owned devices will be used in accordance with Weald of Kent Grammar School's AUP and with appropriate safety and security measure in place.
- Students will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will use age-appropriate search tools as decided by the school following an informed risk assessment to identify which tool best suits the needs of our community.
- Safe Search is enabled on both Google and YouTube.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will use the Internet to enable students and staff to communicate and collaborate in a safe and secure environment.
- Students will be taught to be critically aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.
- The evaluation of online materials is a part of teaching and learning in every subject and will be viewed as a whole-school requirement across the curriculum.
- Staff will always evaluate websites, tools and apps fully before use in the classroom or recommending for use at home.

2.6 Management of Learning Platforms and Systems

- The Senior Leadership Team and staff will regularly monitor the usage of Weald of Kent Grammar School's learning platforms and systems by students and staff in all areas, in particular message and communication tools and publishing facilities.
- Students/staff will be advised about acceptable conduct and use when using Weald of Kent Grammar School learning platforms and systems.
- Only members of the current student, parent/carers and staff community will have access to Weald of Kent Grammar School platforms and systems.
- All users will be mindful of copyright issues and will only upload appropriate content onto the portal.
- When staff and students leave Weald of Kent Grammar School their account or rights to specific Weald of Kent Grammar School areas will be disabled.
- Any concerns about content on Weald of Kent Grammar School platforms and systems may be recorded and dealt with in the following ways:
 - The user will be asked to remove any material deemed to be inappropriate or offensive.
 - The material will be removed by the site administrator if the user does not comply.
 - Access to the platforms/systems for the user may be suspended.
 - The user will need to discuss the issues with a member of Senior Leadership Team before reinstatement. A student's parent/carer may be informed.
 - A visitor may be invited onto the portal by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. In this instance there may be an agreed focus or a limited time slot.
 - Students may require editorial approval from staff. This may be given to the student to fulfil a specific aim and may have a limited time frame.

3. Social Media Policy

3.1. General social media use

- Weald of Kent Grammar school believes everyone should be treated with kindness, respect and dignity. Even though online spaces may differ in many ways, the same standards of behaviour are expected online as offline, and all members of the school community are expected to engage in social media in a positive and responsible manner.
- Expectations regarding safe and responsible use of social media will apply to all members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community and exist in order to safeguard both the school

and the wider community, on and offline. Examples of social media may include blogs, wikis, social networking, forums, bulletin boards, multiplayer online gaming, apps, video/photo sharing sites, chatrooms, instant messenger and many others.

- All members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community will be encouraged to engage in social media in a positive, safe and responsible manner at all times.
- Information about safe and responsible use of social media will be communicated clearly and regularly to all members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community.
- All members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School 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.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will control students and staff access to social media and social networking sites whilst on site and using Weald of Kent Grammar School provided devices and systems.
- The use of social networking applications during Weald of Kent Grammar School hours for personal use is not permitted.
- Inappropriate or excessive use of social media during Weald of Kent Grammar School hours or whilst using Weald of Kent Grammar School devices may result in disciplinary or legal action and/or removal of Internet facilities.
- Any concerns regarding the online conduct of any member of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community on social media sites should be reported to the Senior Leadership Team and will be managed in accordance with existing Weald of Kent Grammar School policies such as anti-bullying, allegations against staff, behaviour and safeguarding/child protection.
- Any breaches of Weald of Kent Grammar School policy may result in criminal, disciplinary or civil action being taken and this will depend upon the age of those involved and the circumstances of the wrong committed. Action taken will be in accordance with the relevant Weald of Kent Grammar School policies, such as anti-bullying, allegations against staff, behaviour and safeguarding/child protection.

3.2 Official use of social media

- Official use of social media sites by Weald of Kent Grammar School will only take place with clear educational or community engagement objectives with specific intended outcomes e.g. increasing parental engagement.
- Official use of social media sites as communication tools will be risk assessed and formally approved by the headteacher.
- Official Weald of Kent Grammar School social media channels will be set up as distinct and dedicated social media site or account for educational or engagement purposes.
- Staff will use Weald of Kent Grammar School provided email addresses to register for and manage official Weald of Kent Grammar School approved social media channels.
- Staff running official Weald of Kent Grammar School social media channels will ensure that they are aware of the required behaviours and expectations of use. They will ensure that sites are used safely, responsibly and in accordance with local and national guidance and legislation.
- All communication on official Weald of Kent Grammar School social media platforms will be clear, transparent and open to scrutiny.
- Any online publication on official Weald of Kent Grammar School social media sites will comply with legal requirements will not breach any common law duty of confidentiality, copyright etc.
- Official social media use by Weald of Kent Grammar School will be in line with existing policies, including anti-bullying and child protection.
- Images or videos of students will only be shared on official Weald of Kent Grammar School social media sites/channels in accordance with Weald of Kent Grammar School's Photographic Image Use policy.
- Information about safe and responsible use of Weald of Kent Grammar School social media channels will be communicated clearly and regularly to all members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community.

- Official social media sites, blogs or wikis will be suitably protected (e.g. password protected) and where possible/appropriate, run and/or linked to from the Weald of Kent Grammar School website and take place with written approval from Senior Leadership Team.
- Senior Leadership Team staff must be aware of account information and relevant details for social media channels in case of emergency such as staff absence.
- Parents/carers and students will be informed of any official Weald of Kent Grammar School social media use, along with expectations for safe use and Weald of Kent Grammar School action taken to safeguard the community.
- The Weald of Kent Grammar School official social media channels include Facebook and Instagram.
- Public communications on behalf of Weald of Kent Grammar School will, where possible, be read and agreed by at least one other colleague.
- An account will link back to Weald of Kent Grammar School's website and/or AUP to demonstrate that the account is official.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will ensure that any official social media use does not exclude members of the community who are unable or unwilling to use social media channels.

3.3 Staff official use of social media

- If staff are participating in online activity as part of their capacity as an employee of Weald of Kent Grammar School, then they are requested to be professional at all times and that they are an ambassador for Weald of Kent Grammar School.
- Staff using social media officially will disclose their official role/position but always make it clear that they do not necessarily speak on behalf of Weald of Kent Grammar School.
- Staff using social media officially will be responsible, credible, fair and honest at all times and consider how the information being published could be perceived or shared.
- Staff using social media officially will always act within the legal frameworks they would adhere to within Weald of Kent Grammar School, including libel; defamation; confidentiality; copyright; data protection as well as equalities laws.
- Staff must ensure that any image posted on Weald of Kent Grammar School's social media channels have appropriate written parental consent.
- Staff using social media officially will be accountable and must not disclose information, make commitments or engage in activities on behalf of Weald of Kent Grammar School unless they are authorised to do so.
- Staff using social media officially will inform their line manager, Weald of Kent Grammar School's online safety lead and/or the head teacher of any concerns such as criticism, or inappropriate content posted online.
- Staff will not engage with any direct or private messaging with students or parents/carers through social media and should communicate via Weald of Kent Grammar School communication channels.
- Staff using social media officially will sign Weald of Kent Grammar School's AUP before official social media use will take place.

3.4 Staff personal use of social media

- Personal use of social networking, social media and personal publishing sites will be discussed with all members of staff as part of staff induction (safeguarding training) and will be revisited and communicated via regular staff training opportunities.
- Safe and professional behaviour will be outlined for all staff (including volunteers) as part of Weald of Kent Grammar School's AUP.
- All staff are advised not to communicate with or add as 'friends' any current or past students or current or past students' 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 the lead DSL/Senior Leadership Team.
- If ongoing contact with students is required once they have left Weald of Kent Grammar School's roll, then members of staff will be expected to use existing alumni networks or use official Weald of Kent Grammar School provided communication tools.

- All communication between staff and members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community on Weald of Kent Grammar School business will take place via official approved communication channels (*such as Weald of Kent Grammar School email addresses or phone numbers*). Staff must not use personal accounts or information to make contact with students or parents, nor should any contact be accepted, except in circumstances whereby prior approval has been given by the Headteacher.
- Any communication from students/parents received on personal social media accounts will be reported to a DSL.
- Information that staff have access to as part of their employment, including photos and personal information about students and their family members, colleagues etc. will not be shared or discussed on personal social media sites.
- All members of staff are strongly advised to safeguard themselves and their privacy when using social media sites. This will include being aware of location sharing services, setting the privacy levels of their personal sites as strictly as they can, opting out of public listings on social networking sites, logging out of accounts after use and keeping passwords safe and confidential.
- All members of staff are encouraged to carefully consider the information, including text and images, they share and post online and should ensure that their social media use is compatible with their professional role, in accordance with Weald of Kent Grammar School's policies (safeguarding, confidentiality, data protection etc.) and the wider professional and legal framework.
- Members of staff will be encouraged to manage and control the content they share and post online. Advice will be provided to staff via staff training and by sharing appropriate guidance and resources on a regular basis.
- Members of staff will notify the Senior Leadership Team immediately if they consider that any content shared or posted via any information and communications technology, including emails or social networking sites conflicts with their role in Weald of Kent Grammar School.
- Members of staff are encouraged not to identify themselves as employees of Weald of Kent Grammar School on their personal social networking accounts. This is to prevent information on these sites from being linked with Weald of Kent Grammar School and to safeguard the privacy of staff and the wider Weald of Kent Grammar School community.
- Members of staff will ensure that they do not represent their personal views as that of Weald of Kent Grammar School on social media.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School email addresses will not be used for setting up personal social media accounts.
- Members of staff who follow/like Weald of Kent Grammar School's social media channels will be advised to use dedicated professional accounts where possible to avoid blurring professional boundaries.

3.5 Students use of social media

- The use of social media during school hours for personal use is not permitted for students.
- Many online behaviour incidents amongst children and young people occur on social media outside the school/setting day and off the school/setting premises. Parents and carers are responsible for this behaviour; however, some online incidents may affect our culture and/or pose a risk to children and young people's health and well-being. Where online behaviour poses a threat or causes harm to another students, could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school when the student is identifiable as a member of the school, or if the behaviour could adversely affect the reputation of the school, action will be taken in line with our behaviour and safeguarding policies.
- Safe and responsible use of social media sites will be outlined for students and their parents as part of Weald of Kent Grammar School's AUP.

- Personal publishing on social media sites will be taught to students as part of an embedded and progressive education approach via age-appropriate sites which have been risk assessed and approved as suitable for educational purposes.
- Students will be advised to consider the risks of sharing personal details of any kind on social media sites which may identify them and / or their location. Examples would include real/full name, address, mobile or landline phone numbers, Weald of Kent Grammar School attended, Instant messenger contact details, information through photographs, email addresses, full names of friends/family, specific interests and clubs etc.
- Students will be advised not to meet any online friends without a parent/carer or other responsible adult's permission and only when they can be present.
- Students will be advised on appropriate security on social media sites and will be encouraged to use safe and complex passwords, deny access to unknown individuals and be supported in learning how to block and report unwanted communications.
- Students will be encouraged to approve and invite known friends only on social networking sites and to deny access to others by making profiles private/protected.
- Parents will be informed of any official social media use with students and written parental consent will be obtained, as required.
- Any official social media activity involving students will be moderated by Weald of Kent Grammar School where possible.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School is aware that many popular social media sites state that they are not for children under the age of 13, therefore, Weald of Kent Grammar School will not create accounts within the school specifically for students under this age.
- Any concerns regarding students' use of social networking, social media and personal publishing sites, both at home and at Weald of Kent Grammar School, will be dealt with in accordance with existing Weald of Kent Grammar School policies including anti-bullying and behaviour. Concerns will be raised with their parents/carers, particularly when concerning any underage use of social media sites.

4. Use of Personal Devices and Mobile Phones

4.1 Rationale regarding personal devices and mobile phones

- The widespread ownership of mobile phones and a range of other personal devices, including wearable technologies, among children, young people and adults will require all members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community to take steps to ensure that mobile phones and personal devices are used responsibly.
- The use of mobile phones and other personal devices by young people and adults will be decided by Weald of Kent Grammar School and covered in appropriate policies including Weald of Kent Grammar School's AUP and Positive Behaviour policy.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School recognises that personal communication through mobile technologies is an accepted part of everyday life for students, staff and parents/carers, but requires that such technologies need to be used safely and appropriately within Weald of Kent Grammar School.

4.2 Expectations for safe use of personal devices and mobile phones

- Electronic devices of all kinds that are brought into Weald of Kent Grammar School are the responsibility of the user at all times. Weald of Kent Grammar School accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of such items. Nor will Weald of Kent Grammar School accept responsibility for any adverse health effects caused by any such devices either potential or actual.
- Mobile phones and personal devices are not permitted to be used in certain areas within the Weald of Kent Grammar School site.
- The sending of abusive or inappropriate messages or content via mobile phones or personal devices is forbidden by any member of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community and any breaches will be dealt with as part of the Weald of Kent Grammar School behaviour policy.

- Members of staff will be issued with a Weald of Kent Grammar School/work phone number and email address where contact with students or parents/carers is required.
- All members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community will be advised to take steps to protect their mobile phones or devices from loss, theft or damage.
- All members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community will be advised to use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised calls or actions cannot be made on their phones or devices if they are lost or stolen. Passwords and pin numbers should be kept confidential. Mobile phones and personal devices should not be shared.
- All members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community will be advised to ensure that their mobile phones and personal devices do not contain any content which may be considered to be offensive, derogatory or would otherwise contravene Weald of Kent Grammar School's policies.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School mobile phones and devices must always be used in accordance with the AUP
- Weald of Kent Grammar School mobile phones and devices used for communication with parents and students must be suitably protected via a passcode/password/pin and must only be accessed and used by members of staff.

4.3 Students use of personal devices and mobile phones

- Students will be educated regarding the safe and appropriate use of personal devices and mobile phones.
- All use of mobile phones and personal devices by students will take place in accordance with the Acceptable Use Policy.
- Mobile phones and personal devices for students in Years 7 to 11 will be switched off and kept in lockers, between 8:45am and 3:30pm. Sixth Form students are instructed to limit use of devices to sixth form areas of the site.
- Wearable technologies, such as smart watches, headphones and other smart devices, are not allowed in lessons and the same rules as mobile phones apply.
- Mobile phones or personal devices will not be used by students during lessons or formal Weald of Kent Grammar School time unless as part of an approved and directed curriculum-based activity with consent from a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The use of personal mobile phones or devices for a specific education purpose does not mean that blanket use is permitted.
- If members of staff have an educational reason to allow students to use their mobile phones or personal devices as part of an educational activity, then it will only take place when approved by Senior Leadership Team.
- If a student needs to contact his/her parents/carers he/she will be allowed to use a Weald of Kent Grammar School phone. Parents are advised not to contact their child via their mobile phone during the school day, but to contact the Weald of Kent Grammar School office. Exceptions may be permitted in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis and as approved by the headteacher.
- Students should protect their phone numbers by only giving them to trusted friends and family members. Students will be instructed in safe and appropriate use of mobile phones and personal devices and will be made aware of boundaries and consequences.
- Phones and devices must not be taken into examinations. Students found in possession of a mobile phone or personal device during an exam will be reported to the appropriate examining body. This may result in the student's withdrawal from either that examination or all examinations.
- If a student breaches the policy, the phone or device will be confiscated and will be held in a secure place.
 - Staff may confiscate a student'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 (sexting/sending nudes).

- Searches of mobile phone or personal devices will only be carried out in accordance with our policy and DfE policies/guidance.
www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation)
- Students' mobile phones or devices may be searched by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, with the consent of the student or a parent/ carer. Content may be deleted or requested to be deleted, if it contravenes our policies and/or DfE guidance/policies. www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation)
- Mobile phones and devices that have been confiscated will be released to pupils at the end of the day. For repeated offences, the device will be only released to parents or carers.
- If there is suspicion that material on a student's personal device or mobile phone may be illegal or may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the device will be handed over to the police for further investigation.
- Where students' mobile phones or personal devices are used when learning at home, for example on school closure days, this will be in accordance with our Acceptable Use Policy.

4.5 Staff use of personal devices and mobile phones

- Members of staff are not permitted to use their own personal phones or devices for contacting students, young people and their families within or outside of Weald of Kent Grammar School in a professional capacity. Any pre-existing relationships which could compromise this must be discussed with a senior leader.
- Staff will not use personal devices such as mobile phones, tablets or cameras to take photos or videos of students and will only use work-provided equipment for this purpose.
- Staff will not use any personal devices directly with students and will only use work-provided equipment during lessons/educational activities.
- Staff personal mobile phones and devices will be switched off/switched to 'silent' mode during lesson times.
- Bluetooth or other forms of communication should be "hidden" or switched off during lesson times.
- Personal mobile phones or devices will not be used during teaching periods unless permission has been given by a member of Senior Leadership Team in emergency circumstances.
- Staff will ensure that any content bought on site via mobile phones and personal devices are compatible with their professional role and expectations.
- If a member of staff breaches Weald of Kent Grammar School policy, then disciplinary action will be taken.
- 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, then the police will be contacted and allegations will be responding to following the allegations management policy.
- For remote learning activities, staff will use Weald of Kent provided equipment. If this is not available, staff will only use personal devices with prior approval from the headteacher, following a formal risk assessment. Staff will follow clear guidance outlined in the Acceptable Use Policy.

4.6 Visitors use of personal devices and mobile phones

- Parents/carers and visitors must use mobile phones and personal devices in accordance with Weald of Kent Grammar School's policy.
- Use of mobile phones or personal devices by visitors and parents/carers to take photos or videos must take place in accordance with Weald of Kent Grammar School's Photographic Image Use policy.
- Staff will be expected to challenge concerns when safe and appropriate and will always inform the DSL of any breaches of use by visitors.

5 Policy Decisions

5.1. Reducing online risks

Weald of Kent Grammar School is aware that the Internet is a constantly changing environment with new apps, tools, devices, sites and material emerging at a rapid pace.

- Emerging technologies will be examined for educational benefit and Weald of Kent Grammar School's Senior Leadership Team will ensure that appropriate risk assessments are carried out before use in school is allowed.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will ensure that appropriate filtering systems are in place to prevent staff and students from accessing unsuitable or illegal content.
- Our 'Impero' monitoring system and 'Smoothwall' filtering system will:
 - Inspect all live typing on school devices, as well as titles of documents and emails.
 - Take screen shots and will report any suspicious or concerning use detected.
 - Detect when proxy bypass sites have been used.
 - Help stop downloads of obscene or offensive content.
 - Potentially get an early warning of predator grooming.
 - Can help warn when students are planning to meet people they do not know.
 - Help pick up 'cries for help' helping to:
 - Reduce fears over suicide, self-harm and abuse.
 - Take appropriate action quickly.
 - Strengthen pastoral care.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users access only appropriate material. However, due to the global and connected nature of Internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that access to unsuitable material will never occur via a Weald of Kent Grammar School computer or device.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will audit technology use to establish if the online safety (e-safety) policy is adequate and that the implementation of the policy is appropriate.
- Methods to identify, assess and minimise online risks will be reviewed regularly by the Senior Leadership Team.
- Filtering decisions, Internet access and device use by students and staff will be reviewed regularly by the Senior Leadership Team. The DSL and IT/Network Manager will review filtering annually (see 7.3 for further information).

5.2. Internet use throughout the wider Weald of Kent Grammar School community

- Weald of Kent Grammar School will liaise with local organisations to establish a common approach to online safety.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will provide an AUP for any guest/visitor who needs to access the Weald of Kent Grammar School computer system or Internet on site.

5.3 Authorising Internet access

- Weald of Kent Grammar School will maintain a current record of all staff and students who are granted access to Weald of Kent Grammar School's electronic communications.
- All staff, students and visitors will read and sign Weald of Kent Grammar School's AUP before using any Weald of Kent Grammar School ICT resources.
- Parents will be informed that students will be provided with supervised Internet access which is appropriate to their age and ability.
- Parents will be asked to read Weald of Kent Grammar School's AUP for student access and discuss it with their child, where appropriate.
- When considering access for vulnerable members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community (such as with students with special education needs) Weald of Kent Grammar School will make decisions based on the specific needs and understanding of the student(s).

6 Engagement Approaches

6.1 Education and engagement with learning

- We will establish and embed a progressive online safety curriculum to raise awareness and promote safe and responsible Internet use amongst students 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 students in the effective use of the Internet to research; including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation.
 - Teaching students to be critically aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.
- We will support students 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.
 - Informing students that network and Internet use will be monitored for safety and security purposes and in accordance with legislation.
 - Rewarding positive use of technology with House Points.
 - 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.
 - Seeking student voice when writing and developing online safety policies and practices, including curriculum development and implementation.
 - Using support, such as external visitors, where appropriate, to complement and support our internal online safety education approaches.

6.2 Engagement and education of children and young people who are considered to be vulnerable

- Weald of Kent Grammar recognises that some students are more vulnerable online owing 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.
- We will ensure that differentiated and ability appropriate online safety education, access and support is provided to vulnerable students.
- When implementing an appropriate online safety policy and curriculum Weald of Kent Grammar School will seek input from specialist staff as appropriate, including the SENCO and Student Services staff.

6.3 Engagement and education of staff

- The online safety policy will be formally provided to and discussed with all members of staff as part of induction and will be reinforced and highlighted as part of Weald of Kent Grammar School safeguarding practice.
- To protect staff and students, Weald of Kent Grammar School will implement an AUP which highlights appropriate online conduct and communication.
- Staff will be made aware that Internet traffic can be monitored and traced to the individual user. Discretion and professional conduct is essential.
- Up-to-date and appropriate staff training in safe and responsible Internet use, both professionally and personally, will be provided for all members of staff on a regular basis.
- Staff with a responsibility for managing filtering systems or monitor ICT use will be supervised by the Senior Leadership Team and will have clear procedures for reporting issues or concerns.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will highlight useful online tools which staff should use with students in the classroom. These tools will vary according to the age and ability of the students.
- Staff will be made aware that their online conduct out of Weald of Kent Grammar School could have an impact on their role and reputation within Weald of Kent Grammar School. Civil, legal

or disciplinary action could be taken if they are found to bring the profession or institution into disrepute, or if something is felt to have undermined confidence in their professional abilities.

6.4 Engagement and education of parents and carers

- Weald of Kent Grammar School recognises that parents/carers have an essential role to play in enabling students to become safe and responsible users of the Internet and digital technology.
- Parents' attention will be drawn to Weald of Kent Grammar School's online safety policy and expectations in communications, such as letters and the Weald of Kent Grammar School website.
- We will build a partnership approach to online safety with parents/carers by:
 - Providing information and guidance on online safety in a variety of formats.
 - 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.
 - 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.

7. Managing Information Systems

7.1 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. Full information can be found in Weald of Kent Grammar School's data protection policy.

7.2 Security and Management of Information Systems

- The security of Weald of Kent Grammar School Information Systems and users will be reviewed regularly.
- Virus protection will be updated regularly.
- Personal data sent over the Internet or taken off site (such as via portable media storage) will be encrypted or accessed via appropriate secure remote access systems.
- Portable media may not be used without specific permission followed by an anti-virus /malware scan.
- Unapproved software will not be allowed in work areas or attached to email.
- Files held on the Weald of Kent Grammar School's network will be regularly checked.
- The network manager will review system capacity regularly.
- The appropriate use of user logins and passwords to access the Weald of Kent Grammar School network will be enforced for all but the youngest users.
- All users will be expected to log off devices if systems are unattended.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will log and record Internet use on all Weald of Kent Grammar School owned devices.

Password policy

- All users will be informed not to share passwords or information with others and not to login as another user at any time.
- Staff and students must always keep their password private and must not share it with others or leave it where others can find it.
- All members of staff will have their own unique username and private passwords to access Weald of Kent Grammar School systems. Staff are responsible for keeping their password private.
- From Year 7, all students are provided with their own unique username and private passwords to access Weald of Kent Grammar School systems. Students are responsible for keeping their password private.

- We require staff and students to use strong passwords for access into our system.

7.3 Filtering Decisions

- Weald of Kent Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team have ensured that our setting has age and ability appropriate filtering and monitoring in place, to limit students' exposure to online risks.
- The trustees 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 a risk assessment, considering our specific needs and circumstances.
- Recommended school settings are applied to filtering, with a review of applied categories that are relevant to the risk profile of the school.
- Changes to the filtering and monitoring approach will be risk assessed by staff with educational and technical experience and, where appropriate, with consent from the Senior Leadership Team; all changes to the filtering policy are logged and recorded.
- The Senior Leadership Team will ensure that regular checks are made to ensure that the filtering and monitoring methods are effective and appropriate.
- Staff are aware that they cannot rely on filtering and monitoring alone to safeguard students; effective classroom management and regular education about safe and responsible use is essential.

7.4 Management of applications (apps) used to record student progress

- The Headteacher is ultimately responsible for the security of any data or images held of students.
- Apps/systems which store personal data will be risk assessed prior to use.
- Personal staff mobile phones or devices will not be used for any apps which record and store student's personal details, attainment or photographs.
- Only Weald of Kent Grammar School issued devices will be used for apps that record and store children's personal details, attainment or photographs.
- Devices will be appropriately encrypted if taken off site to prevent a data security breach in the event of loss or theft.
- Staff and parents/carers will be advised on safety measures to protect all members of the community such as using strong passwords, logging out of systems etc.

8. Responding to Online Incidents and Concerns

- All members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community will be informed about the procedure for reporting online safety concerns (such as breaches of filtering, cyberbullying, illegal content etc.).
- Members of staff will inform the DSL team via a CPOMS incident of any online safety incidents involving child protection concerns.
- Information may also be gathered through the filtering and monitoring process, (for example, an Impero screengrab of inappropriate live typing).
- A member of the DSL team will assign the incident, where action is required or information needs to be shared, with an appropriate colleague. Safeguarding and/or Behaviour policies will then be followed depending on the nature of the concern.
- The DSL will ensure that online safety concerns are escalated and reported to relevant agencies in line with the Kent Safeguarding Children Board thresholds and procedures.
- Complaints about Internet misuse will be dealt with under Weald of Kent Grammar School's complaints procedure.
- Complaints about online bullying will be dealt with under Weald of Kent Grammar School's anti-bullying policy and procedure

- Any complaint about staff misuse will be referred to the head teacher
- Any allegations against a member of staff's online conduct may be discussed with the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer).
- Students, parents and staff will be informed of Weald of Kent Grammar School's complaints procedure.
- Staff will be informed of the complaints and whistleblowing procedure.
- All members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community will need to be aware of the importance of confidentiality and the need to follow the official Weald of Kent Grammar School procedures for reporting concerns.
- All members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community will be reminded about safe and appropriate behaviour online and the importance of not posting any content, comments, images or videos online which cause harm, distress or offence to any other members of the Weald of Kent Grammar School community.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will manage online safety (e-safety) incidents in accordance with the Weald of Kent Grammar School discipline/behaviour policy where appropriate.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will inform parents/carers of any incidents of concerns as and when required.
- After any investigations are completed, Weald of Kent Grammar School will debrief, identify lessons learnt and implement any changes as required.
- Where there is cause for concern or fear that illegal activity has taken place or is taking place then Weald of Kent Grammar School will contact the Education Safeguarding Team or Kent Police via 999, if there is immediate danger or risk of harm.
- The use of computer systems without permission, or for inappropriate purposes could constitute a criminal offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and breaches will be reported to Kent Police.
- If Weald of Kent Grammar School is unsure how to proceed with any incidents of concern, then the incident will be escalated to the Education Safeguarding Team.
- If an incident of concern needs to be passed beyond Weald of Kent Grammar School, then the concern will be escalated to the Education Safeguarding Team to communicate to other schools/settings in Kent.
- Parents and students will need to work in partnership with Weald of Kent Grammar School to resolve issues.

Author/s:	Ken Macsporrán	Date:	February 2026
Next Review Date:	February 2027	Link Trustees:	Quality of Care Committee
Ratified:	February 2026 FTB Meeting		

Appendix A

Procedures for Responding to Specific Online Incidents or Concerns

1 Responding to concerns regarding Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (“Sexting”)

- Weald of Kent Grammar School recognises youth produced sexual imagery (known as “nudes” or “sexting”) as a safeguarding issue; all concerns will be reported to and dealt with by the DSL (or deputy).
- We will follow the advice as set out in the non-statutory UKCCIS guidance: [‘Sexting in Schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people’](#) and [KSCB](#) guidance: “Responding to youth produced sexual imagery”.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will ensure that all members of the community are made aware of the potential social, psychological and criminal consequences of ‘sexting’ 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 the DSL (or deputy DSL) 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 students 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 the relevant Kent Safeguarding Child Board’s procedures.
 - Ensure the DSL (or deputy) responds in line with the [‘Sexting 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 students involved, including carrying out relevant checks with other agencies.
 - Inform parents/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 : [‘Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people’](#) guidance;
 - Provide the necessary safeguards and support for students, 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: [‘Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people’](#) guidance;
 - Images will only be deleted once the DSL 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 Senior Leadership Team will also review and update any management procedures, where necessary.

2. Responding to concerns regarding Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (including child criminal exploitation)

- Weald of Kent Grammar School 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.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School 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 the DSL (or deputy).
- 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 students, 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 used to report online child sexual abuse is visible and available to students and other members of our community on the Weald of Kent Grammar School website.
- 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 Kent Safeguarding Child Board's procedures.
 - If appropriate, store any devices involved securely.
 - Make a referral to Children's Social Work Service (if required/appropriate) and immediately inform Kent police via 101, or 999 if a child is at immediate risk.
 - Carry out a risk assessment which considers any vulnerabilities of student(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 students, 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, students 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/
- If we are unclear whether a criminal offence has been committed, the DSL (or deputy) will obtain advice immediately through the Education Safeguarding Service and/or Kent 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 the DSL (or deputy).
- If students at other setting are believed to have been targeted, the DSL (or deputy) will seek support from Kent Police and/or the Education Safeguarding Service first to ensure that potential investigations are not compromised.

3. Responding to concerns regarding Indecent Images of Children (IIOC)

- Weald of Kent Grammar School 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 to IIOC 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, the DSL (or deputy) will obtain advice immediately through Kent Police and/or the Education Safeguarding Service.
- If made aware of IIOC, we will:
 - Act in accordance with our child protection policy and the relevant Kent Safeguarding Child Boards procedures.
 - Store any devices involved securely.
 - Immediately inform appropriate organisations, such as the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), Kent police.
- If made aware that a member of staff or a student has been inadvertently exposed to indecent images of children, we will:
 - Ensure that the DSL (or deputy) 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 ;
 - Ensure that any copies that exist of the image, for example in emails, are deleted.
 - Report concerns, as appropriate to parents/carers.
- If made aware that indecent images of children have been found on the setting provided devices, we will:
 - Ensure that the DSL (or deputy) 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 ;
 - 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/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 the Headteacher 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.

4. Responding to concerns regarding radicalisation or extremism online

- Weald of Kent Grammar School will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that students are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the Internet in school and that suitable filtering is in place which takes into account the needs of students.
- When concerns are noted by staff that a student may be at risk of radicalisation online then the DSL will be informed immediately via a CPOMS incident using the Prevent category, and action will be taken in line with Weald of Kent Grammar School's Safeguarding policy.
- If we are concerned that staff may be at risk of radicalisation online, the Headteacher will be informed immediately, and action will be taken in line with the child protection and allegations policies.

5. Responding to concerns regarding cyberbullying

- Cyberbullying, along with all other forms of bullying, of any member of the Weald of Kent Grammar School's community will not be tolerated. Full details are set out in Weald of Kent Grammar School policies regarding anti-bullying and behaviour.
- All incidents of online bullying should be reported via a CPOMS incident using the category Allegation of Bullying.

- There are clear procedures in place to investigate incidents or allegations and support anyone in the Weald of Kent Grammar School community affected by online bullying.
- If Weald of Kent Grammar School is unclear if a criminal offence has been committed, then the DSL will obtain advice immediately through the Education Safeguarding Team and/or Kent Police.
- Students, staff and parents/carers will be advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence.
- Weald of Kent Grammar School will take steps to identify the bully where possible and appropriate. This may include examining Weald of Kent Grammar School system logs, identifying and interviewing possible witnesses, and contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.
- Students, staff and parents/carers will be required to work with Weald of Kent Grammar School to support the approach to cyberbullying and Weald of Kent Grammar School's e-safety ethos.
- Sanctions for those involved in online or cyberbullying may include the following.
 - Those involved being asked to remove any material deemed to be inappropriate or offensive.
 - A service provider being contacted to remove content if those involved refuse to or are unable to delete content.
 - Internet access may be suspended at Weald of Kent Grammar School for the user for a period of time. Other sanctions for students and staff may also be used in accordance with Weald of Kent Grammar School's anti-bullying, behaviour policy or AUP.
 - Parent/carers of students involved in online bullying will be informed.
 - The Police will be contacted if a criminal offence is suspected.

6. Responding to concerns regarding Online Hate

- Online hate content, directed towards or posted by specific members of the community will not be tolerated at Weald of Kent Grammar 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, the DSL (or deputy) will obtain advice through the Education Safeguarding Service and/or Kent Police.

Appendix B: Parent Guide for Online Safety

Online Safety – Parent Guide

The school has an Online Safety Policy that sets out the principles and procedures for safe and responsible use of technology. Staff and students also agree to an Acceptable User Policy as a member of the school community. There are other linked policies such as Safeguarding, Positive Behaviour, Antbullying and Data Protection.

Information and communication technologies, such as social media and AI, are an important and integral part of everyday life, yet come with many risks, especially for more vulnerable people, including teenagers.

It's very easy to find guidance and help online; here is a summary of the main issues we face at school and key reminders for parents and carers.

Support for Parents and Staff

Often as 'older' users of social media and other technology, we feel we cannot fully understand or control the online behaviours of the young people we care for. We share real and perceived fears about contact, content and conduct online and don't want the young people we care for to come to harm. We worry about the naivety of young people and/or potential unkindness of online users and communities.

Young people often feel we 'demonise' social media and attempt to set limits and barriers to use, such as screen time and monitoring tools. This can result in even more secretive and potentially harmful behaviour online. Here are some links and pointers:

1. **Get to know the platforms**, how they work, and the attached risks.
 - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers> includes specific guidance on social media platforms
 - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/social-media/snapchat/>
 - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/social-media/tiktok/>

The National Online Safety leaflets on each platform are excellent:

What parents need to know about SNAPCHAT

SNAP MAP

In 2017, Snapchat introduced a new feature called 'Snap Map' which allows users to see the EXACT location of the people on their friends list in real-time and watch stories from around the world. Users can view a map called a 'Snap Map'. This feature completely exposes your child's location and users can potentially follow your child from their home to their school.

'SNAP STREAKS'

'Streaks' tell users how many days in a row they have spoken or sent 'snaps' to one another. What's dangerous about this? It forces young people into putting a false sense of importance on a superficial number to the extent that it becomes something that can make or break a friendship. For example, if a person forgets to message or send a picture to their friend, breaking their 200-day streak, this could cause a confrontation between the friends. This can put an incredible amount of pressure on children to keep streaks.

SCREENSHOTS

While Snapchat's gimmick is that all photos, videos and text disappear after a maximum of 10 seconds, users can still screenshot or save them. Users may sometimes forget that screenshotting is a possibility in the app and send an image to someone they trust.



SEXTING

Due to 'Snaps' disappearing soon after they're received, (users can even send a one second photo or video), Snapchat has become the chosen platform for sending sexually explicit images or 'selfies' to someone. The short amount of time gives children the confidence to send the pictures.

Once a photo/video has been screenshotted, this can lead to further dangers, such as blackmail and cyberbullying. It is illegal to make, possess, download, store and share sexual images, photos and videos of a person under the age of 18. This also includes any sexual images, photos and videos that a child may have taken of themselves.

However, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed, but that taking formal action isn't in the public interest.



National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents



THINK BEFORE YOU SNAP

Ensure that your child knows that 'Snaps' can be screenshotted and teach them that if they post anything

TURN OFF 'QUICK ADD'

'Quick add' helps friends find each other on the app. This is based on mutual friends or if their number is in their phone



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. Its main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION

12+

If under 18, supervision of a parent or legal guardian required

What parents need to know about TIKTOK

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up to the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are likely shared or designed to make people laugh.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or inappropriate lyrics.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has encouraged the same capabilities – social media

2. **Talk to young people about what they are doing online.** Get to understand their use – platforms, contacts, content of posts. This may be difficult as they can be naturally defensive or secretive. That is your red flag! You would want to know where they are going, when and with who, in real life – so do the same with online behaviours. Understand what level of contact is involved in their social media, games and gaming. Are they 'open' or 'closed'? Discuss this document at home.
3. Develop a real sense of the **value of their personal information** and digital footprint, their images and their web history.
4. Set out your **expectations**, and any rules you feel are appropriate

5. Ensure they understand – and revisit – **basic cyber-safety habits**: keep your passwords complex and private... regularly review privacy settings... do not respond to unknown accounts or open attachments from unknown addresses... danger of using public wifi...
6. Consider how you model your own use of technology and communication. For example, what is your screen time, when and how do you use your smartphone, what is your own digital footprint like?
7. Be very mindful of what images you have posted online. Everything stays on the internet, nothing disappears, and anyone can use AI to adapt your images.
8. **Know how to help a young person** who feels unsafe or upset online: use of blocking, leave groups, check privacy settings, delete an account, use Safe Search, use Report Remove to request removal of harmful content, refer to the community guidelines on the platform, e.g. TikTok, to decide if they have been broken and thus able to report content to the platform for removal.

[The Little Guide to Reporting Harmful Content \(UK Safer Internet Centre\)](#)

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/> guidance and links to report various forms of harmful content to a wide range of platforms

[Childline - Report Remove](#) report sexual images of themselves for removal

Common issues we face as school staff:

- **Young people creating or sharing content that is unkind, or even discriminatory, about other young people, usually Snapchat or TikTok.** This can be done naively, not understanding the impact their online actions have on others, or with intent to harm. This is mostly seen on Snapchat or TikTok, often with the mistaken view that content is private or 'disappears'. Everyone must assume that whatever is posted can be shared widely and will remain online.
- **Harmful use of 'groups' on WhatsApp:** widely sharing unkind or harmful content, excluding or removing people from groups, adding in users that aren't known to the group members
- **Young people posting content that puts them at risk, especially TikTok.** This includes images taken of themselves and their peers in school uniform, identifiable as Weald pupils, on the school site, nudes or semi-nude images, sharing passwords and personal details.
- **Young people making contact with other users that they do not know in real life.** This can and has led to cases of grooming and inappropriate behaviours that school have reported to the police.
- **Pupils being defamatory about the school, or invading staff privacy by taking images of staff without their consent, either in school or 'off duty' outside of working hours.** This includes posting photos of staff, often with defamatory texts, sharing these, or adding comments that are unkind or defamatory.

- **Young people using technology 24 hours a day**, leading to loss of sleep, and being more vulnerable to harmful content and contacts when they are alone
- **Parents/carers sending hostile, or even abusive, communications to staff.** These are often born of frustration with school policies or decisions. However the staff are not an acceptable target of threatening or hostile communications (usually email). School staff wish to work alongside parents and families to provide an effective education for all.

Many of these behaviours place pupils themselves or other pupils at risk. These behaviours do seriously upset or harm other young people and significantly impact normal, healthy peer relationships, which school staff then spend enormous time and energy in trying to manage the friendship breakdowns in school.

Moreover, these behaviours often break our school policies, *even if the behaviours happen online or outside of school hours*, as well as breaching laws regarding malicious communication and harassment, and has resulted in pupils being sanctioned by the school or reported to the police.

Finally

You can also raise any concerns with the school's safeguarding team by contacting AASafeguarding@wealdqs.org or contacting either school reception by phone.

All pupils complete an Online Safety certificate in Year 7, and there is continual PSHE content regarding relevant online risks throughout all year groups. Thank you for making your own contributions as parents and carers to help guide our young people to act in a safe and responsible way online.