Motcombe School

Flying high together

# Online Safety Policy

**Reviewed annually in Term 1**

**Last Review: September 2026**

## Our Motto

Flying High Together

## Our School Vision

*"We are dedicated to ensuring every child is included, supported and valued and has a true sense of belonging"*

## Our School Values

We will support every child ….

**to have academic confidence**
**to make safe and sensible choices**
**to be physically fit**
**to gain mental strength through resilience**
**to show kindness**

## Ethos

Every child is unique and individuality is encouraged. We believe that our hygge-inspired environment supports this by promoting children's emotional wellbeing and mental health. We ignite curiosity and wonder and this enables them to learn well.

**Equal Opportunities**
At Motcombe we believe that all children, regardless of first language, disability, race, gender, cultural or socio-economic background, should receive equal access to the full school curriculum.

**Disability Statement**
Motcombe is proud to be an inclusive school. We are able to offer access to the full curriculum for children who have a physical disability.

We have easy access into the main part of both buildings and have accessible toilet facilities.
As with any additional needs the school works closely with parents and appropriate outside agencies.

**Introduction**
Motcombe School identifies that the issues classified within online safety are considerable, but can be broadly categorised into three areas of risk:

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material
- **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users
- **Conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm

The Internet enhances the teaching and learning for both staff and pupils. However, this has certain implications to ensure access is effective and safeguarding procedures are in place for both pupil's and staff. This policy forms part of our wider policy arrangements on safeguarding.

Whilst pupils will only have supervised access to the Internet and frequently be directed to specific, approved websites. Filters are in place to prevent children accessing inappropriate material. The problems and issues surrounding children and their use of the Internet are well documented and there is a general concern that pupils might access unsuitable material either accidentally or deliberately.
The purpose of this policy is to:

- Establish the ground rules for Internet use at Motcombe School.
- Demonstrate the methods used to protect pupils from sites containing unsuitable materials.
- Staff exercise physical monitoring which is most appropriate for the age of our children.

We, at Motcombe School, believe that the benefits afforded to pupils from Internet access outweigh the disadvantages. To ensure that pupils' access is as safe as possible the school uses a web filtering service but also aims to foster a responsible attitude to Internet use from pupils.

**Use of the Internet for Education**
The benefits include:
- Access to a wide variety of education
- Access to interactive learning materials
- Raising standards in other curricular areas
- Improved motivation in pupils
- Improved staff professional development through access to dynamic curriculum material.

Motcombe School teaches ICT both as a discrete subject and as a tool for delivering teaching and learning experiences across the curriculum in accordance with the EYFS and National Curriculum. Children in all year groups will use the Internet in lessons in a variety of ways throughout the academic year.

**Staff use of the Internet for Teaching**
- Staff will preview sites before use.
- Raw image searches are discouraged when working with pupils.
- Staff will ensure all digital content and media clips are certificate U only and that all web content, video clips are viewed by the class teacher prior to the start of lessons to ensure content is safe and age appropriate.

**Pupils' access to the Internet**
Motcombe School accesses the internet via RM's SELGFL Filtering system which screens websites being used by pupils for inappropriate material, blocking any sites deemed

unsuitable. Unfortunately, no system is fool proof and other procedures are in place to supplement this service.

- Pupils will only be allowed to access the Internet when supervised and will follow and understand the rules of the School Codes for ICT. They will be aware of the procedure to follow should inappropriate material appear on screen.
- In many lessons where the Internet is used as a learning tool, teachers will direct pupils to a specific website that has been reviewed and evaluated. Where search engines are used, pupils will be directed to use child-friendly sites.

Due to the age of the children at Motcombe School, we carry out physical monitoring of

**Expectations of Pupils using the Internet**

- All pupils are expected to follow the expectations of behaviour outlined in the School Codes for ICT.
- Pupils must ask permission before accessing the Internet and have a clear idea why they are using it.
- No program files may be downloaded from the Internet as this carries the risk of viruses and data corruption, which could cause serious damage and affect the stability of school network.
- Pupils must not attempt to enter chat rooms of any kind whilst using the Internet in school.
- No use of e-mail by pupils is allowed within the School.
- We expect pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour on the Internet just as they do anywhere else in school.

**Expectations of parents/carers**

- Read the acceptable use policies and encourage their children to adhere to them.
- Support our online safety approaches by discussing online safety issues with their children and reinforcing appropriate and safe online behaviours at home.
- Role model safe and appropriate use of technology and social media.
- Identify changes in behaviour that could indicate that their child is at risk of harm online.
- Seek help and support from the setting, or other appropriate agencies, if they or their child encounter risk or concerns online.
- Take responsibility for their own awareness in relation to the risks and opportunities posed by new and emerging technologies.

**E-safety curriculum**

- All staff have been made aware of individual responsibilities relating to the safeguarding of children within the context of e-safety.
- Teaching staff are aware they must incorporate e-safety activities and awareness during the teaching of ICT and cross-curricular activities.
- Children will receive annual training on e-safety using resources available to teachers and we will put links for parents on the school website.