

Keeping Safe Online

Our Online Safety Curriculum, Years 7 to 11

September 2026

Helping pupils stay safe online is built into our curriculum from Year 7 to Year 11. It is taught explicitly through PSHE, and complemented by Computing, which covers the technical and legal side of staying safe — account security, cybersecurity and data protection law. Together, these give pupils a progressive, age-appropriate understanding of online safety as they grow older and their online lives change.

Our curriculum reflects the Department for Education's Relationships, Sex and Health Education statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education, and the Education for a Connected World framework.

What pupils learn, year by year

Year group	Key online safety learning
Year 7	Creating secure passwords and keeping accounts safe. Communicating respectfully online. Recognising and responding to cyberbullying. Understanding who you are really talking to online, including the warning signs of grooming and how to report concerns.
Year 8	Recognising cyberbullying and online trolling, and knowing how to respond. Understanding pressures around group messaging and social media. The law around sharing images, and how pornography can distort attitudes to relationships.
Year 9	Understanding how misogyny and harmful ideologies can spread online. Recognising financial scams and exploitation online. Understanding online reputation and digital footprint, and how this can affect the future. Learning how AI chatbots work and their limitations.
Year 10	Understanding deepfake technology, its malicious uses, and the law. Understanding how social media affects resilience, body image and mental health. Learning about the law around cybercrime and the risks of the dark web.
Year 11	Understanding the law around non-consensual intimate images and deepfakes, and how to recognise and report sextortion. Understanding online privacy, data protection and how personal data is tracked and used. Recognising extremist narratives online and understanding the Prevent duty. Developing critical thinking skills to evaluate online sources, including AI-generated content, and to recognise misinformation.

The role of Computing

Computing complements this personal safety education with the technical and legal foundations of staying safe online:

- Account security, and how cybercriminals use phishing, malware and social engineering
- How networks and firewalls protect us, and what two-factor authentication does
- The law: the Data Protection Act 2018, the Computer Misuse Act 1990, and Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988
- The wider ethical, cultural and environmental impact of digital technology

How we keep this current

Our curriculum is reviewed regularly to reflect changes in technology and in statutory guidance, including emerging risks such as AI-generated content and deepfakes. Online safety is not taught as a single topic but is woven through both PSHE and Computing, revisited and built upon every year.

Pupils are also taught how and where to seek help if they are worried about something online, including trusted adults in school, our Designated Safeguarding Lead, and national support services.

Any questions?

If you have any questions about how we teach online safety, or would like to know more about a specific year group's curriculum, please contact the school.