

Bosco	
Policy:	Online Safety Policy
Applies to:	College
Reviewed:	August 2026
Next Review:	September 2027

Aims

Bosco aims to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of students, staff, volunteers, and trustees.
- Identify and support groups of students that are potentially at greater risk of harm online than others.
- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole college community in its use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as 'mobile phones').
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate.

The 4 key categories of risk

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

Content – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, radicalisation and extremism.

Contact – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as 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, such as 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

Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), and its advice for schools and colleges on:

- [Teaching online safety in schools](#)
- [Preventing and tackling bullying](#)
- [cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation](#)

It also refers to the DfE's guidance on [protecting children from radicalisation](#).

It reflects existing legislation, including but not limited to the [Education Act 1996](#) (as amended), the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#) and the [Equality Act 2010](#). In addition, it reflects the

[Education Act 2011](#), which has given teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by, if necessary, searching for and deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Trustee Board

The trustee board has overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the principal to account for its implementation.

The trustee board will make sure all staff undergo online safety training as part of child protection and safeguarding training, and ensure staff understand their expectations, roles and responsibilities around filtering and monitoring.

The trustee board will also make sure all staff receive regular online safety updates (via email, e-bulletins, and staff meetings), as required and at least annually, to ensure they are continually provided with the relevant skills and knowledge to effectively safeguard children.

The trustee board will co-ordinate regular meetings with appropriate staff to discuss online safety, requirements for training, and monitor online safety logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

The trustee board should ensure students are taught how to keep themselves and others safe, including keeping safe online.

The trustee board must ensure the college has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place on school devices and college networks and will regularly review their effectiveness. The board will review the DfE filtering and monitoring standards, and discuss with IT staff and service providers what needs to be done to support the college in meeting these standards, which include:

- Identifying and assigning roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems;
- Reviewing filtering and monitoring provisions at least annually;
- Blocking harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning;
- Having effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs.

The trustee who oversees online safety is the chair of the board.

All trustees will:

Ensure they have read and understand this policy.

Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendix 3)

Ensure that online safety is a running and interrelated theme while devising and implementing their whole-school or college approach to safeguarding and related policies and/or procedures.

Ensure that, where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, is adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This is because of the importance of recognising that a 'one size fits all' approach may not be appropriate for all children in all situations, and a more personalised or contextualised approach may often be more suitable.

The principal

The principal is responsible for ensuring that staff understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Details of Bosco designated safeguarding leads (DSLs) are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy, as well as relevant job descriptions.

The DSL takes lead responsibility for online safety in college, in particular:

- Supporting the principal in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout Bosco
- Working with the principal and governing board to review this policy annually and ensure the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly.
- Taking the lead on understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place on school devices and school networks
- Working with the systems manager to make sure the appropriate systems and processes are in place.
- Working with the principal, systems manager and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents.
- Managing all online safety issues and incidents in line with the school's child protection policy
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 5) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy.
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the college behaviour policy.
- Updating and delivering staff training on online safety (appendix 4 contains a self-audit for staff on online safety training needs)
- Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary
- Providing regular reports on online safety in school to the principal and trustee board
- Undertaking annual risk assessments that consider and reflect the risks children face
- Providing regular safeguarding and child protection updates, including online safety, to all staff, at least annually, in order to continue to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard effectively.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

The Systems Manager

The systems manager is responsible for:

- Putting in place an appropriate level of security protection procedures, such as filtering and monitoring systems on school devices and school networks, which are reviewed and updated at least annually to assess effectiveness and ensure pupils are kept safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material.
- Ensuring that Bosco's IT systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware, and that such safety mechanisms are updated regularly.
- Conducting a full security check and monitoring Bosco's IT systems monthly.
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files.

- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 5) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy.
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

All staff and volunteers

All staff, including contractors and agency staff, and volunteers are responsible for:

- Maintaining an understanding of this policy
- Implementing this policy consistently
- Agreeing and adhering to the terms on acceptable use of Bosco's IT systems and the internet (appendix 3), and ensuring that students follow the school's terms on acceptable use (appendices 1 and 2)
- Knowing that the DSL is responsible for the filtering and monitoring systems and processes and being aware of how to report any incidents of those systems or processes failing to both the systems manager and a DSL.
- Following the correct procedures by contacting the systems manager if they need to bypass the filtering and monitoring systems for educational purposes.
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 5) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy.
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy
- Responding appropriately to all reports and concerns about sexual violence and/or harassment, both online and offline, and maintaining an attitude of 'it could happen here'

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

Parents/carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Notify a member of staff or the principal of any concerns or queries regarding this policy
- Ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of Bosco's IT systems and internet

Parents/carers can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online from the following organisations and websites:

- What are the issues? – [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- Hot topics – [Childnet International](#)
- Parent resource sheet – [Childnet International](#)

Visitors and members of the community

Visitors and members of the community who use Bosco's IT systems or internet will be made aware of this policy, when relevant, and expected to read and follow it. If appropriate, they will be expected to agree to the terms on acceptable use.

Educating pupils about online safety

Students will be taught about online safety as part of the extended curriculum:

- Understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting their online identity and privacy.
- Recognise inappropriate content, contact, and conduct, and know how to report concerns.
- To understand how changes in technology affect safety, including new ways to protect their online privacy and identity.
- How to report a range of concerns

By the **end of their time at Bosco all students** will know:

- Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online.
- About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online.
- Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them.
- What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online.
- The impact of viewing harmful content
- That specifically sexually explicit material (e.g. pornography) presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners.
- That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence that carries severe penalties including jail.
- How information and data is generated, collected, shared, and used online
- How to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse, or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours
- How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (in all contexts, including online)

Where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, will be adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with SEND.

Educating parents/carers about online safety

Bosco will raise parents/carers' awareness of internet safety in letters or other communications home, and in information via our website.

Bosco will let parents/carers know about our filtering and monitoring system and how this protects their children. If parents/carers have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with the headteacher and/or the DSL.

Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the principal.

Cyber-bullying

Definition

Cyber-bullying takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites. Like other forms of bullying, it is the repetitive, intentional harming of 1 person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Preventing and addressing cyber-bullying

To help prevent cyber-bullying, we will ensure that students understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure that students know how they can report any incidents and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim.

Bosco will actively discuss cyber-bullying with pupils, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. Tutors will discuss cyber-bullying with their tutor groups.

Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the curriculum to cover cyber-bullying. This includes personal development, and other subjects where appropriate.

All staff, trustees, and volunteers (where appropriate) receive training on cyber-bullying, its impact and ways to support pupils, as part of safeguarding training (see section 11 for more detail).

Bosco also sends information/leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents/carers so they are aware of the signs, how to report it and how they can support children who may be affected.

In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, Bosco will follow the processes set out in the behaviour policy. Where illegal, inappropriate, or harmful material has been spread among students, Bosco will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the incident is contained.

The DSL will report the incident and provide the relevant material to the police as soon as is reasonably practicable, if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that possessing that material is illegal. They will also work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

Examining electronic devices

The principal, and any member of staff authorised to do so by the headteacher, can carry out a search and confiscate any electronic device that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- Poses a risk to staff or pupils, and/or
- Is identified in the school rules as a banned item for which a search can be carried out, and/or
- Is evidence in relation to an offence.

Before a search, if the authorised staff member is satisfied that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting any of the above, they will also:

- Assess how urgent the search is and consider the risk to other pupils and staff. If the search is not urgent, they will seek advice from the principal or DSL.
- Explain to the pupil why they are being searched, how the search will happen, and give them the opportunity to ask questions about it.
- Seek the pupil's co-operation.

Authorised staff members may examine, and in exceptional circumstances erase, any data or files on an electronic device that they have confiscated where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

When deciding whether there is a 'good reason' to examine data or files on an electronic device, the staff member should reasonably suspect that the device has, or could be used to:

- Cause harm, and/or
- Undermine the safe environment of the school or disrupt teaching, and/or
- Commit an offence.

If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the principal or DSL to decide on a suitable response. If there are images, data or files on the device that staff reasonably suspect are likely to put a person at risk, they will first consider the appropriate safeguarding response.

When deciding if there is a good reason to erase data or files from a device, staff members will consider if the material may constitute evidence relating to a suspected offence. In these instances, they will not delete the material, and the device will be handed to the police as soon as reasonably practicable. If the material is not suspected to be evidence in relation to an offence, staff members may delete it if:

- They reasonably suspect that its continued existence is likely to cause harm to any person, and/or
- The pupil and/or the parent/carer refuses to delete the material themselves.

If a staff member **suspects** a device **may** contain an indecent image of a child (also known as a nude or semi-nude image), they will:

- **Not** view the image
- Confiscate the device and report the incident to the DSL (or equivalent) immediately, who will decide what to do next. The DSL will make the decision in line with the DfE's latest guidance on [screening, searching and confiscation](#) and the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

Any searching of pupils will be carried out in line with:

- The DfE's latest guidance on [searching, screening and confiscation](#)
- UKCIS guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

Any complaints about searching for or deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices will be dealt with through the school complaints procedure.

Artificial intelligence (AI)

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, students and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Bard.

Bosco recognises that AI has many uses to help pupils learn, but may also have the potential to be used to bully others. For example, in the form of 'deepfakes', where AI is used to create images, audio or video hoaxes that look real.

Bosco will treat any use of AI to bully pupils in line with our behaviour policy.

Staff should be aware of the risks of using AI tools whilst they are still being developed and should carry out a risk assessment where new AI tools are being used by the college.

Acceptable use of the internet at Bosco

All students, parents/carers, staff, volunteers, and governors are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of Bosco's IT systems and the internet (appendices 1 to 3). Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use if relevant.

Use of Bosco's internet must be for educational purposes only, or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of an individual's role.

We will monitor the websites visited by students, staff, volunteers, trustees and visitors (where relevant) to ensure they comply with the above and restrict access through filtering systems where appropriate.

More information is set out in the acceptable use agreements in appendices 1 to 3.

Pupils using mobile devices at Bosco

Students may bring mobile devices into college but are not permitted to use them during lessons. They are required to deposit their mobile device in the storage device on the teacher's desk. This is non-negotiable and refusal to comply will result in the students being asked to leave the premises.

Any use of mobile devices in school by pupils must be in line with the acceptable use agreement (see appendices 1 and 2).

Any breach of the acceptable use agreement by a student may trigger disciplinary action in line with the behaviour policy which may result in the confiscation of their device.

Staff using work devices outside of Bosco

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Keeping the device password-protected – strong passwords are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers, and special characters (e.g. asterisk or currency symbol)
- Ensuring their hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device.
- Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time.
- Not sharing the device among family or friends
- Installing anti-virus and anti-spyware software
- Keeping operating systems up to date by always installing the latest updates

Staff members must not use the device in any way that would violate Bosco's terms of acceptable use.

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from the systems manager.

How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a student misuses the Bosco's IT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in our policies on behaviour and IT and internet acceptable use. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature, and seriousness of the specific incident, and will be proportionate.

Where a staff member misuses Bosco's IT systems or the internet or misuses a personal device where the action constitutes misconduct, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the staff disciplinary procedures. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature, and seriousness of the specific incident.

Bosco will consider whether incidents that involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the police.

Training

All new staff members will receive training, as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues, including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation.

All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year as part of safeguarding training, as well as relevant updates as required (for example through emails, e-bulletins, and staff meetings).

By way of this training, all staff will be made aware that:

- Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues, and that children are at risk of online abuse.
- Children can abuse their peers online through:
 - Abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages
 - Non-consensual sharing of indecent nude and semi-nude images and/or videos, especially around chat groups
 - Sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who don't want to receive such content.
- Physical abuse, sexual violence and initiation/hazing type violence can all contain an online element .

Training will also help staff:

- Develop better awareness to assist in spotting the signs and symptoms of online abuse .
- Develop the ability to ensure pupils can recognise dangers and risks in online activity and can weigh up the risks.
- Develop the ability to influence pupils to make the healthiest long-term choices and keep them safe from harm in the short term.

The DSLs will undertake child protection and safeguarding training, which will include online safety, at least every 2 years. They will also update their knowledge and skills about online safety at regular intervals, and at least annually.

Trustees will receive training on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues as part of their safeguarding training.

Volunteers will receive appropriate training and updates, if applicable.

More information about safeguarding training is set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

Monitoring arrangements

The DSL logs behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety.

This policy will be reviewed every year by the trustees. The review will be supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks students face online. This is important because technology, and the risks and harms related to it, evolve, and change rapidly.

Links with other policies

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy
- Staff disciplinary procedures
- Data protection policy and privacy notices
- Complaints procedure
- ICT and internet acceptable use policy

ACCEPTABLE USE OF BOSCO'S IT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Name of student:

I will read and follow the rules in the acceptable use agreement policy.

When I use Bosco's IT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in college I will:

- Always use Bosco's IT systems and the internet responsibly and for educational purposes only
- Only use them when a teacher is present, or with a teacher's permission
- Keep my usernames and passwords safe and not share these with others
- Keep my private information safe at all times and not give my name, address or telephone number to anyone without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer
- Tell a teacher (or other member of staff) immediately if I find any material which might upset, distress or harm me or others
- Always log off or shut down a computer when I've finished working on it

I will not:

- Access any inappropriate websites including: social networking sites, chat rooms and gaming sites unless my teacher has expressly allowed this as part of a learning activity
- Open any attachments in emails, or follow any links in emails, without first checking with a teacher
- Use any inappropriate language when communicating online, including in emails
- Create, link to or post any material that is pornographic, offensive, obscene or otherwise inappropriate
- Log in to the school's network using someone else's details
- Arrange to meet anyone offline without first consulting my parent/carer, or without adult supervision

If I bring a personal mobile phone or other personal electronic device into school:

- I will not use it during lessons without a teacher's permission
- I will deposit my phone in the security box at the start of the lesson.
- I will use it responsibly, and will not access any inappropriate websites or other inappropriate material or use inappropriate language when communicating online

I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don't follow the rules.

Signed (student):

Date:

Parent/carer's agreement: I agree that my child can use the school's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for pupils using the school's ICT systems and internet, and for using personal electronic devices in school, and will make sure my child understands these.

Signed (parent/carer):

Date:

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR STAFF, GOVERNORS, VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

Name of staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor:

When using Bosco's IT systems and accessing the internet in college, or outside college on a work device (if applicable), I will not:

- Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal or pornographic nature (or create, share, link to or send such material)
- Use them in any way which could harm the school's reputation
- Access social networking sites or chat rooms
- Use any improper language when communicating online, including in emails or other messaging services
- Install any unauthorised software, or connect unauthorised hardware or devices to Bosco's network
- Share my password with others or log in to Bosco's network using someone else's details
- Take photographs of pupils without checking with teachers first
- Share confidential information about the college, its students or staff, or other members of the community
- Access, modify or share data I'm not authorised to access, modify or share
- Promote private businesses, unless that business is directly related to Bosco

I will only use Bosco's IT systems and access the internet in college, or outside college on a work device, for educational purposes or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of my role.

I agree that Bosco will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the Bosco's IT facilities and systems.

I will take all reasonable steps to ensure that work devices are secure and password-protected when using them outside college, and keep all data securely stored in accordance with this policy and the school's data protection policy.

I will let the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and systems manager know if a student informs me they have found any material which might upset, distress or harm them or others, and will also do so if I encounter any such material.

I will always use Bosco's IT systems and internet responsibly, and ensure that pupils in my care do so too.

Signed (staff member/trustee/volunteer/visitor):

Date:

ONLINE SAFETY TRAINING NEEDS AUDIT

Name of staff member/volunteer:	Date:
Question	Yes/No (add comments if necessary)
Do you know the name of the person who has lead responsibility for online safety in Bosco?	
Are you aware of the ways students can abuse their peers online?	
Do you know what you must do if a student approaches you with a concern or issue?	
Are you familiar with Bosco's acceptable use agreement for staff, volunteers, trustees and visitors?	
Are you familiar with Bosco's acceptable use agreement for students and parents/carers?	
Are you familiar with the filtering and monitoring systems on Bosco's devices and networks?	
Do you understand your role and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring?	
Do you regularly change your password for accessing Bosco's ICT systems?	
Are you familiar with Bosco's approach to tackling cyber-bullying?	
Are there any areas of online safety in which you would like training/further training?	

Signed:

Date:

ONLINE SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

Date	Where the incident took place	Description of the incident	Action taken	Name and signature of staff member recording the incident