What is this policy?
Online safety is an integral part of safeguarding. For many years, online-safety messages have focussed on ‘stranger danger’, i.e. meeting strangers online and then meeting them face to face (contact). Whilst these dangers have not gone away and remain important, violent or sexual content is now prevalent – sending or receiving, voluntarily or coerced. Examples of this are the sharing of violent and sexual videos, self-harm materials, and coerced nudity via live streaming. Contact and conduct of course also remain important challenges to address.

This policy aims to:
Set out expectations for all Fun Science staff members’ online behaviour, attitudes and activities and use of digital technology (including when devices are offline)
Help staff working with children to understand their roles and responsibilities to work safely and responsibly with technology and the online world:
1. for the protection and benefit of the children and young people in their care, and
2. for their own protection, minimising misplaced or malicious allegations and to better understand their own standards and practice
3. for the benefit of the school, supporting the school ethos, aims and objectives, and protecting the reputation of the school and profession

Roles and responsibilities

Fun Science as an organisation will:

- Not require the use of the internet in any sessions
- Signpost parents to resources to help them manage their children’s safe access to the internet
- Ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities with regards to online safety

Holiday club leaders will

- Display an internet safety poster prominently at all holiday club venues

All staff working with children will

- Not encourage children to look up anything on the internet
- Be aware of children acting inappropriately online and report this as a safeguarding concern
- If the internet is mentioned, for example if children say that they have seen an experiment online or want to look something up online, staff will remind children to use the internet alongside their parents and that things on the internet may not be ‘real’ and so they should never copy anything they see on the internet.
- Not use their own personal computer or phone whilst working with children except in an emergency and when it is a last resort.

Policy last reviewed on 10/09/2024