On-line Safety Policy

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Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust | Reg. in England: Company 08156759

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1. Introduction

The Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust (DBAT) is a multi-academy trust with a faith designation and a Christian religious ethos that is both distinctive and inclusive. Distinctive in the sense that all decisions about the nature and purpose of the Academy are taken through the lens of Christian values, inclusive in the sense that all students and staff are equally valued for their uniqueness in the eyes of God and their belonging to the school community.

2. Ethos statement

Vision
The Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust (DBAT) shares the Church of England's Vision for Education 2016, "Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good", which includes four basic elements wisdom, hope, community and dignity. We aim to deliver values-led education with the very best outcomes for children and young people.

Purpose
To provide high quality education enabling young people to flourish and grow: spiritually, in love and in understanding.

3. Scope/ aims

Safeguarding is at the heart of the Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust and this Level 1 policy statement reflects the safeguarding needs of the children and young people our organisation works with. This policy should be read alongside DBAT's policies and procedures on child protection and safeguarding. All DBAT schools will hold a Level 2 On-line Safety Policy based on either The Key template or the SWGfL template. This will support schools in taking a proactive stance about teaching young people about safe practice including a named individual in each school who they can turn to for advice.

4. Purpose of the policy statement

DBAT works with children, families, teaching and support staff, external organisations and education providers. The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
- ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices, applying the guidance provided via KCSIE and other recognised forums
- ensure that our organisation's governance understands its role and responsibility around maintaining filtering and monitoring systems, and training staff
- ensure that our organisation's IT infrastructure and protocols can support our commitment to safeguarding

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in DBAT.

5. Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available on:

- online abuse learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse
- bullying learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying
- child protection learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but
- safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

We recognise that:

- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however, it can also present risks and challenges
- we have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using DBAT's and DBAT schools' network and devices
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- appointing an online Trust safety coordinator
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through schools' behaviour code for adults
- support DSLs in their responsibility for school filtering and monitoring systems
- supporting and encouraging the young people using our service to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- developing school specific online safety agreements and a school level e-safety policy (Level 2) for use with young people and their parents/carers
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child/young person
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that usernames, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety
- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)
- providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation into account
- reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

6. Related policies and procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing
- Dealing with Allegations of abuse made against a child or young person
- Managing Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers
- Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers
- Anti-bullying Policy and procedures

- Photography and image sharing guidance

7. Our Ethos and Values

As identified at the opening of this policy, our structure and approach here is underpinned by our Christian ethos and values, focused on an ethos that is both distinctive and inclusive.

In our adoption and subsequent adaptation of this policy we have asked ourselves two clear questions: "Is this policy and practice underpinned by our vision and values?" and "What is the impact of our vision and values on those subject to the policy?". This is a key focus of our ongoing development of policy and practice.

History of most recent policy changes and review period

Date	Page	Change(s) made	Origin of Change (e.g. TU request, change in legislation)
January 2022	All	New e-safety L1 policy draft to Board of Trustees	New Trust approach
November 2023	-	No changes	Review only
August 2023	3	Additional bullet: *ensure that our organisation's governance understands its role and responsibility around maintaining filtering and monitoring systems, and training staff*	KCSIE
August 2023	3	Change L2 template, adding The Key version to the SWGfL version	Trust access to The Key templates
August 2023	4	Additional bullet: *support DSLs in their responsibility for school filtering and monitoring systems*	KCSIE

Policy Owner	**Operations Directorate**	
Date Adopted	**January 2022**	
Latest Review Date	**September 2023**	
Next Review Date	**September 2024**	
Level	**Level 1**	
DBAT Policy levels:		
LEVEL 1	DBAT policy for adoption (no changes can be made by the Academy Council; the Academy Council must adopt the policy)	
LEVEL 2	DBAT policy for adoption and local approval, with areas for the Academy to update regarding local practice (the main body of the policy cannot be changed)	
LEVEL 3	DBAT model policy that the Academy can adopt if it wishes	
LEVEL 4	Local policy to be approved by the Academy Council	