

## **E-Safety Policy Policy Statement**

### **Background**

The school recognises that Information Technology, (IT) and the Internet are excellent tools for learning, communication, and collaboration and to support creativity and independence. Using IT to interact socially and share ideas can benefit everyone in the school community. It also gives pupils new and exciting opportunities.

However, it is important that the use of IT and the internet is understood and that it is the responsibility of pupils, staff and parents, to use it appropriately and practice good e-safety. It is important that all members of the school community are aware of the dangers of using the internet and how they should conduct themselves online.

### **Scope**

E-safety does not just cover the Internet and available resources, but all different types of devices and platforms (e.g. Smartphones devices, wearable technology and other electronic communication technologies). The school understands that some adults and young people will use these technologies to harm children. The school has a duty of care towards staff, pupils or members of the wider School community. It is important that there is a balance between controlling access to the Internet and technology and allowing freedom to explore and use these tools to their full potential.

### **Purpose**

This policy aims to be an aid in regulating IT activity in School and provide a good understanding of appropriate IT use that members of the Flipside Dance community can use as a reference for their conduct online outside of School hours. E-safety is a whole-school issue and responsibility.

Cyber-bullying by pupils will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through the school's anti-bullying policy and procedures.

If there is a suggestion that a child is at risk of abuse or significant harm, the matter will be dealt with under the school's child protection procedures (see the School's Safeguarding Policy).

If the School discovers that a child or young person is at risk because of online activity, it may seek assistance from their parents and Surrey Police or the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Unit (CEOP).

#### **Parental/Guardian Involvement**

Flipside Dance School seeks to work closely with parents and guardians in promoting a culture of e-safety. The school will always contact parents if it has any concerns about pupils' behavior in this area and likewise it hopes that parents will feel able to share any concerns with the School.

## **Published content and the FlipsideDance website.**

Flipside Dance website is viewed as a useful tool for communicating School ethos and practice to the wider community. It is also a valuable resource for prospective parents and pupils, current parents, pupils and staff for keeping up to date with School news and events, celebrating whole-school achievements, personal achievements and promoting the school. The website is in the public domain and can be viewed by anybody online. Any information published on the website will be carefully considered in terms of safety for the school community, copyrights and transparency policies.

Staff and pupils and parents should take care not to publish anything on the Internet that might bring the school into disrepute.

The Flipside App is for the sole use of Flipside students and parents to access information regarding the school. Access to this app is granted by FSD staff. The app only contains FSD content with pop ups, adverts and other materials blocked. The app is the main source of all FSD documents and information for students.

Policy and guidance of safe use of children's photographs

Colour photographs bring the school to life, showcase pupils' talents, and add interest to publications both online and in print that represent the school. However, the School acknowledges the importance of having safety precautions in place to prevent the misuse of such material.

Images of pupils and staff will not be displayed in public, either in print or online, without consent. Consent is given when the child is registered with Flipside Dance School. In no circumstances will any student be identified by name on social media.

Pupils are encouraged to tell a member of staff if they are concerned or uncomfortable with any photographs that are taken of them or they are being asked to participate in. Any photographers that are commissioned by the school will be fully briefed on appropriateness in terms of content and behaviour, will wear identification always, and will not have unsupervised access to the pupils.

Mobile phones and personal mobile electronic devices (Smartphones), including wearable Technology

Mobile phones and other personal devices are now an important part of everyone's life and have considerable value, particularly in relation to individual safety. Whilst these devices are commonplace today, their use and the responsibility for using them should not be taken lightly. Some issues surrounding the possession of these devices are that:

- they can make pupils and staff more vulnerable to cyberbullying;
- they can be used to access inappropriate internet material;
- they can be a distraction during lessons, rehearsals and performances
- they are valuable items that could be stolen, damaged, or lost;
- they can have integrated cameras, which can lead to child protection, bullying and data protection issues.

Staff/Pupils must follow the School's Mobile Phone Policy for further guidance on this matter.



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## **Cyberbullying**

Cyberbullying, as with any other form of bullying, is taken very seriously by the school.

Cyberbullying can be a pernicious form of bullying because it can be so pervasive and anonymous. It may feel to the victim that there can be no safe haven as they can be targeted at any time or place.

Information about specific strategies to prevent and tackle bullying are set out in the School's Antibullying Policy. The anonymity that can come with using the internet can sometimes make people feel safe to say and do hurtful things that they otherwise would not do in person. It is made very clear to all members of the school community what is expected of them in terms of respecting their peers, members of the public and staff, and any intentional breach of this will result in disciplinary action. Bullying and harassment in any form should always be reported to a member of staff. It is never the victim's fault, and they should not be afraid to come forward.

Hayley Osborne  
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

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