



BRAUNTON ACADEMY
ASPIRE & ACHIEVE

Braunton Academy – Online Safety Policy

(Parent and Student Summary) Feb 2026

At Braunton Academy, keeping students safe online is a key part of our safeguarding responsibility. We help students use technology confidently, responsibly and safely both in and outside school.

1. What We Do to Keep Students Safe

Safe systems

- All school computers and devices have **filters and monitoring** to block harmful content.
- Staff and students use **secure logins** and follow rules that help protect personal information.
- Smartphones are **not permitted for students in school** (see Smartphone-Free Policy).

Regular monitoring

- Online activity on school systems is monitored. If anything unsafe or concerning happens, staff act quickly and inform parents when appropriate.

Staff responsibilities

- All staff receive training on online safety and understand how to deal with concerns.
- Only school-approved systems are used to contact students or parents (no personal accounts).

Teaching online safety

Students are taught how to:

- stay safe online,
- recognise risks (e.g., scams, bullying, strangers),

- check reliability of information,
- protect personal data,
- behave responsibly and kindly online.

These messages are reinforced through Computing, Personal Development lessons, assemblies, and across the wider curriculum.

2. What We Ask of Students

Students must:

- use school technology responsibly,
- keep passwords private,
- report anything that makes them uncomfortable,
- never share personal information with strangers,
- follow the Acceptable Use Agreement,
- not use personal devices in school,
- be respectful online and avoid any form of online bullying.

These expectations apply **in and out of school** if behaviour affects another student or the academy.

3. What We Ask of Parents and Carers

Parents/carers play a vital role. We ask you to:

- talk to your child regularly about staying safe online,
- ensure parental controls are enabled on home devices,
- keep devices in shared family spaces where you can supervise use,
- check age ratings for apps, games and social media,
- encourage your child to tell you or a trusted adult if something online worries them,
- use technology in a positive and responsible way, especially on social media.

Please avoid:

- sharing images of other students online,
- discussing school issues publicly on social media.

You will be asked to sign an **Acceptable Use Agreement** each year.

4. Digital Images & Social Media

To protect students:

- The academy obtains **parental consent** before publishing student photos.
- Full names and photos are never used together online.
- Parents may take photos at events for **personal use only**, not for posting online.

School-run social media accounts:

- are monitored,
 - have strict privacy rules,
 - do not allow comments from the public.
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5. AI (Artificial Intelligence) Use at the Academy

The academy uses AI **carefully and responsibly**.

We ensure:

- no personal or sensitive information is input into AI systems,
 - AI assists but **never replaces human judgement**,
 - students are taught how AI works, its benefits and risks,
 - only academy-approved AI tools may be used by staff.
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6. When Things Go Wrong

We take any concern seriously.

Examples include:

- cyberbullying,

- inappropriate content,
- unsafe contact with strangers,
- sharing sexual or harmful material,
- attempts to bypass filters,
- concerns linked to extremism or grooming.

Depending on the situation, the academy will:

- support the student,
 - inform parents,
 - use sanctions if needed,
 - involve safeguarding teams or the police in serious cases.
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7. How We Work With the Community

We support parents and carers by offering:

- newsletters,
 - information evenings,
 - guidance on apps and trends,
 - online safety campaigns (e.g., Safer Internet Day).
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8. Who to Contact

If you have any concerns about online safety, please contact:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) & Online Safety Lead:

Elise Woodhead Vice Principal – Inclusion- ewoodhead@braunton.academy

Data Protection Officer (DPO):

Gary Brock – gary@gbrocksolutions.org