

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School

“Love Learn Believe”



Parents Acceptable Use Policy

Date of policy September 2025

Next Review: September 2026



Parents Acceptable Use Agreement

The use of technology is an essential part of all of our lives. At Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School we take our responsibilities for supporting your child to develop skills in using technology very seriously, and their safety and wellbeing are our utmost priority to us.

We ask all children, young people and adults involved in the life of Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School to sign an Acceptable Use* Policy (AUP), which is a document that outlines how we expect them to behave when they are online, and/or using school networks, connections, internet connectivity and devices, cloud platforms and social media (both when on school site and outside of school).

These rules have been written to help keep everyone safe and happy when they are online or using technology. Sometimes things go wrong and people can get upset, but these rules should help us avoid it when possible, and be fair to everybody.

School systems and users are protected and monitored by security and filtering services to provide safe access to digital technologies. This means anything on a school device or using school networks/platforms/internet may be viewed by one of the staff members who are here to keep your children safe.

We tell your children that they **should not behave any differently when they are out of school or using their own device or home network**. What we tell pupils about behaviour and respect applies to all members of the school community:

“Treat yourself and others with respect at all times; treat people in the same way when you are online or on a device as you would face to face.”

You can read Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary’s full Online Safety Policy <https://www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=12> for more detail on our approach to online safety and links to other relevant policies (e.g. Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Policy etc). If you have any questions about this AUP or our approach to online safety, please speak to your class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

What Am I Agreeing To?

- I understand that Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School uses technology as part of the daily life of the school when it is appropriate to support teaching & learning and the smooth running of the school, and to help prepare the children and young people in our care for their future lives.
- I understand that the school takes every reasonable precaution to keep pupils safe and to prevent pupils from accessing inappropriate materials, including through behaviour policies and agreements, physical and technical monitoring, education and support and web filtering.

- School network protections will be superior to most home filtering. However, please note that accessing the internet always involves an element of risk and the school cannot be held responsible for the nature and content of materials accessed through the internet and mobile technologies. Schools are asked not to overblock or provide an experience which is so locked down as to block educational content or not train pupils for life in an online world.
- I understand that internet and device use in school, and use of school-owned devices, networks and cloud platforms out of school may be subject to filtering and monitoring.
- I will support my child to follow the school's policy regarding bringing devices to school, Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary school does not permit any smart devices or mobile phones to be brought into school.
- I understand that my child might be contacted online through Google Classroom by their class teacher and only about their learning, wellbeing or behaviour. If they are contacted by someone else, they will report this to their teacher who will inform a member of the Senior Leadership team.
- I will promote positive online safety and model safe, responsible and positive behaviours in my own use of technology, including on social media: not sharing other's images or details without permission and refraining from posting negative, threatening or violent comments about others, including the school staff, volunteers, governors, contractors, pupils or other parents/carers.
- The impact of social media use is often felt strongly in schools, which is why we expect certain behaviours from pupils when using social media. I will support the school's social media policy and not encourage my child to join any platform where they are below the minimum age (for nearly every social media platform, this means under 13 years old).
- I will follow the school's digital images and video guidelines, which outlines when I can capture and/or share images/videos. I will not share images of other people's children on social media and understand that there may be cultural or legal reasons why this would be inappropriate or even dangerous. The school sometimes uses images/video of my child for internal purposes such as recording attainment, but it will only do so publicly if I have given my consent on the relevant form.
- I will not covertly film or make recordings of any interactions with pupils or adults in school.
- I will follow the Blessed Dominic Digital Images and Photos policy which outlines when I can capture and/or share images/videos. I will not share images of other people's children on social media and understand that there may be cultural or legal reasons why this would be inappropriate or even dangerous. The school sometimes uses images/video of my child for internal purposes such as recording attainment, but it will only do so publicly if I have given my consent on the relevant form.
- I understand that for my child to grow up safe online, s/he will need positive input from school and home, so I will talk to my child about online safety and refer to [parentsafelgfl.net](https://www.parentsafelgfl.net) for advice and support on safe settings, parental controls, apps and games, talking to them about life online, screentime and relevant topics from bullying to accessing pornography, extremism and gangs, sharing inappropriate content etc.

- Research tells us that the majority of children are now accessing artificial intelligence in some form, which is available for free on most mainstream apps and social media platforms. There are some significant risks involved with this including talking to chatbots, and the use of nudifying apps and image creators to create inappropriate and illegal images/videos I will talk to my child about these risks. Find out more at parentsafe.lgfl.net
- If my child has online tuition for catch-up after lockdown or in general, I will refer to the [Online Tutors – Keeping children Safe](#) poster and undertake necessary checks where I have arranged this privately, ensuring they are registered/safe and reliable, and for any tuition to remain in the room where possible, ensuring my child knows that tutors should not arrange new sessions or online chats directly with them.
- I understand that whilst home networks are much less secure than school ones, I can apply safety settings to my home internet and to various devices, operating systems, consoles, apps and games. Find out more at parentsafe.lgfl.net
- There are also child-safe search engines e.g. [swiggle.org.uk](https://www.swiggle.org.uk) and YouTube Kids is an alternative to YouTube with age appropriate content.
- I understand that it can be hard to stop using technology sometimes, and I will talk about this to my children, and refer to the principles of the Digital 5 A Day: [childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/our-work/digital/5-a-day/](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/our-work/digital/5-a-day/).
- I will not attempt to track my child during the school day or on school trips, e.g. with Apple AirTags or similar devices. Not only is this against the terms and conditions of these products, it is unhelpful to the operation of the school, can broadcast the location of children to passing users and can lead to unnecessary distress among parents e.g. if a school trip has an unannounced change of route or schedule.
- I understand and support the commitments made by my child in the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) which s/he has signed. I understand that s/he will be subject to sanctions if s/he does not follow these rules.
- I can find out more about online safety at Blessed Dominic by reading the full Online Safety Policy and can approach school staff if I have any concerns about my child/ren's use of technology, or about that of others in the community, or if I have questions about online safety or technology use in school.

The use of digital images and video

To comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, we need your permission before we can photograph or make recordings of your daughter / son.

We follow the following rules for any external use of digital images:

If the pupil is named, we avoid using their photograph.

If their photograph is used, we avoid naming the pupil.

Where showcasing examples of pupils work we only use their first names, rather than their full names.

- We think before we upload comments, photographs and videos.
- We think before we download or forward any materials.
- We think carefully about what information we share with others online, and we check where it is saved and check our privacy settings.
- We make sure we understand changes in use of any web sites we use.
- We block harassing communications and report any abuse.

Any actions online that impact on the school and can potentially lower the school's (or someone in the school) reputation in some way or are deemed as being inappropriate will be responded to.

In the event that any member of staff, student or parent/carer is found to be posting libellous or inflammatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site.

(All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this.)

In serious cases we will also consider legal options to deal with any such misuse.

The whole school community is reminded of the CEOP report abuse process:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/Get-help/Reporting-an-incident/>

I/we have read, understood and agreed to this policy.

Signature/s:

Name/s of parent / guardian:

Parent / guardian of:

Date:
