

Cabot
Learning
Federation

**Student Friendly Online
Policy**

Implemented March 2026

Version 1 – March 2026

Student Friendly Online Policy

1. Why Online Safety Matters

The internet is a great place to learn, talk to friends, get help and be creative.

But being online also comes with risks.

This policy explains how Bristol Metropolitan Academy helps keep you safe online, and what you can do to protect yourself.

2. What Online Safety Means

Online safety covers three types of risk:

1. Content

Seeing harmful, violent, sexual, illegal, or upsetting material.

2. Contact

Being contacted by people who may try to harm, manipulate or pressure you.

3. Conduct

Your own behaviour online — because what you do online can affect you and others in real life.

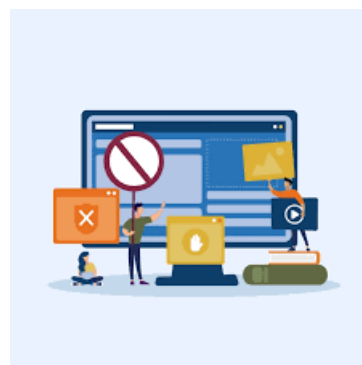


3. How We Keep You Safe at School

BMA uses CLF managed systems to protect students, which include:

Filtering & Monitoring – SENSO

- Harmful searches are blocked
- Academy devices are monitored
- Alerts can be triggered if someone may be unsafe



Supervision & Device Checking

Staff can look at academy devices or accounts *if there is a safeguarding concern*.

Acceptable Use Rules

You must follow the academies **Acceptable Use Agreement**, which covers privacy, device use, safety and behaviour.

4. Your Responsibilities Online

You must:

- Treat people with respect online
- Think before you post
- Use academy devices for learning only
- Keep your login details private
- Report anything unsafe or worrying
- Follow staff instructions about device use



5. Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is taken just as seriously as in person bullying.

It includes:

- Mean or threatening messages
- Embarrassing photos or videos
- Group chat pile-ons
- Fake accounts
- Sharing content to humiliate someone

If it happens to you:

- Tell a trusted adult
- Screenshot the evidence (if safe)
- Block the account
- Report it on the app



6. Sharing Information Online

Think **very carefully** before you share anything.

Don't share:

- Your full name, address or school details
- Your location
- Your phone number
- Your schedule
- Photos that show your uniform or where you live
- Information about family members
- Passwords
- Private group chats publicly



Once something is posted, shared or screenshotted, you **lose control of it**. It can be spread, edited, or used to embarrass or threaten you.

7. Sharing Nudes / Intimate Images

This is one of the **most serious** online risks for young people.

You must **never**:

- Send nudes or semi nudes
- Ask anyone for them
- Share someone else's
- Screenshot or save them
- Pressure anyone to send them



Even if you trust the person, **images can be shared, leaked, or used against you**.

Important points for students:

- It is **illegal** to create, share, or own intimate images of anyone under 18 — including yourself.
- Bristol Metropolitan Academy has a **legal duty** to respond and keep you safe.
- Staff will not judge you they are trained to help.

What to do **if someone asks you for one**:

- Say no, you don't need a reason
- Block them
- Tell a trusted adult



- Tell the Safeguarding Team if it's someone in the academy



What to do **if you've already sent one:**

- Don't panic
- Don't delete messages if they might be needed as evidence
- Speak to a trusted adult ASAP
- You will be supported, not blamed

8. AI, Fake Images & Online Manipulation

AI tools can create:

- Fake images of people
- Fake voices
- Fake videos (deepfakes)
- Fake messages
- Fake "proof" of things that never happened



This means:

- Not everything you see online is real
- Photos can be edited to look very realistic
- AI chatbots can pretend to be real people
- AI generators can create harmful or inappropriate content

Your responsibilities:

- Never create or share AI generated images of real people that are rude, sexual or harmful
- Never use AI to bully, threaten or embarrass someone
- Don't trust everything you see check facts with an adult
- Don't upload photos of others into AI without their permission

BMA responsibilities:

- Staff must investigate harmful AI use just like any other online misuse
- Misuse may lead to serious consequences, depending on the harm

9. Using Phones in School

- Phones must not be used around the academy unless a member of staff gives permission
- No photos/videos of students or staff
- No posting academy content online
- Misuse may mean your phone is confiscated



10. If Something Worries You Online

Tell someone straight away:

- A teacher
- Your tutor
- Your Head of Year
- A safeguarding lead
- A family member



You can also get help from...

- **CEOP** – for reporting unsafe contact: <https://www.ceop.police.uk>
- **Childline** – 0800 1111

11. How BMA Responds to Online Misuse

Depending on what happened, Bristol metropolitan academy may:

- Speak to everyone involved
- Contact parents/carers
- Apply behaviour consequences
- Remove device access



- Work with police or outside agencies if needed
- Provide support or education around safer use

Online safety isn't about stopping you using the internet, it's about helping you use it **confidently, safely and responsibly**. If something doesn't feel right, *always* speak up. We're here to help, not to blame.