

McLaren High School



Whole-School Cyber Resilience & Internet Safety Policy (CRIS)

*“Rooted in nature, united in community,
growing in kindness.”*

1. Introduction

At McLaren High School, our values of **Inclusivity, Community, Kindness and Growth** underpin everything we do — including how we engage with the digital world.

Digital technologies are central to learning, communication and social connection. However, they also present risks, such as exposure to harmful content, cyber-bullying, online exploitation, data breaches and poor digital wellbeing. As a CyberFirst Accredited School and a Digital Schools Award School, we are committed to developing a safe, respectful and resilient digital culture for all members of our learning community.

This policy sets out how McLaren High School will:

- Promote safe, responsible and positive online behaviour
- Build cyber resilience in pupils and staff
- Protect individuals and systems from digital harm
- Work in close partnership with parents and carers
- Ensure digital learning is inclusive and accessible to all

This policy sits alongside and complements our Digital Learning & ICT Acceptable Use Policy, Child Protection Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, and Data Protection procedures.

2. Aims of the Policy

This policy aims to:

- Keep pupils, staff and families safe online
- Promote respectful, kind and inclusive digital behaviour
- Build digital literacy and critical thinking skills
- Ensure compliance with safeguarding, data protection and child protection requirements
- Support pupils to develop the judgement and resilience needed to thrive online
- Strengthen community awareness and shared responsibility regarding online safety

This policy applies to:

- All pupils of McLaren High School
 - All staff (teaching, support, clerical, technical, visiting staff and volunteers)
 - Parents and carers
 - Any user of McLaren High School's digital and networked systems
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3. Links to School Values

Our approach to cyber resilience is firmly rooted in our school values:

Inclusivity

We ensure equal access to digital learning, provide assistive technologies where required, and support learners with additional needs so that everyone can participate safely and confidently online.

Community

Online safety is a shared responsibility. Pupils, staff and parents/carers work together to build a positive, safe and supportive digital culture.

Kindness

We promote empathy, respect, and digital citizenship. Online behaviour must reflect the same kindness we expect in person.

Growth

We equip young people with the knowledge, confidence and ethical awareness to grow into responsible digital citizens for life, learning and work.

4. Leadership, Roles and Responsibilities

As recommended by 360 Safe Scotland, McLaren High School takes a whole-school approach to cyber resilience and online safety.

4.1 Senior Leadership Team

The Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team will:

- Ensure this policy is implemented effectively
- Support a whole-school approach to digital safety
- Allocate appropriate resources and time for training
- Review digital incidents and responses

A member of SLT will act as the **Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety Lead (CRIS Lead)**.

4.2 Designated Staff

The role of the **Cyber Resilience & Internet Safety Lead** is to:

- Coordinate the delivery of this policy
- Liaise with child protection and safeguarding leads

- Oversee staff training and pupil programmes
- Monitor patterns of concern and incidents
- Support staff with guidance on online issues

The **ICT Technician/Network Provider (Stirling Council)** is responsible for:

- Network security and monitoring
 - Filtering systems
 - Technical safety controls and reporting
 - Supporting device management (Chromebooks)
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4.3 Staff Responsibilities

All staff at McLaren High School must:

- Be familiar with this policy and the Acceptable Use Policy
 - Model safe, respectful and professional online behaviour
 - Incorporate digital safety messages into learning and wellbeing conversations
 - Report concerns or incidents immediately using safeguarding procedures
 - Complete regular training on cyber safety and data protection
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4.4 Pupil Responsibilities

In line with our **Digital Learning & ICT Acceptable Use Policy**

pupils must:

- Use technology responsibly and for learning purposes
 - Show kindness and respect in all online interactions
 - Report anything that feels unsafe or uncomfortable
 - Never share passwords or personal information
 - Not engage in cyber-bullying, harassment or harmful behaviour, including sharing of inappropriate images through the use of AI technologies
 - Protect their own digital footprint and reputation
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4.5 Parent/Carer Responsibilities

Parents and carers play a key role in online safety. They are asked to:

- Support responsible use of Chromebooks and devices at home
 - Monitor online activity, appropriate to age
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- Attend awareness sessions where possible
 - Encourage open conversations with their child
 - Report any concerning incidents to the school
 - Model safe and respectful online behaviour
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5. Education and Curriculum

McLaren High School commits to delivering structured, progressive learning related to cyber resilience and internet safety across the school.

This will include:

- S1–S2 Information Technology/CyberFirst modules
- Health and Wellbeing / PSE learning
- Online safety sessions delivered by the Campus Officer
- Assemblies on cyber-bullying, sextortion, safe social media use
- Lessons linked to:
 - Digital citizenship
 - Online consent
 - Privacy and data protection
 - Misinformation and critical thinking
 - Digital wellbeing and screen time balance

We encourage student voice and leadership through:

- Digital Ambassadors / Pupil Digital Leaders
- Peer mentoring approaches
- Whole-school campaigns
- Representation in school improvement planning

This supports the **Growth** and **Community** aspects of our values.

6. Technical & Physical Safeguards

In line with national cyber standards and our partnership with Stirling Council, McLaren High School uses a range of protective systems, including:

- Internet filtering and monitoring systems
- Secure log-ins and password protection
- Firewalls and antivirus software
- Restricted access to system settings
- User monitoring for safeguarding
- Regular system updates and patches

Pupils and staff must not attempt to bypass security or filtering systems, install unauthorised software or tamper with devices.

7. Cyberbullying & Harmful Online Behaviour

Cyberbullying, sextortion, harassment, hate speech, or exploitation are taken very seriously.

Examples include:

- Sending threatening or abusive messages
- Sharing images without consent
- Impersonation or fake profiles
- Spreading rumours or gossip
- Repeated online humiliation

Any such behaviour is addressed through:

- The Child Protection Policy
- The Anti-Bullying Policy
- The Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy
- Police or external agency referrals if required

Support will be offered to those affected.

8. Reporting Concerns

Anyone can report an online concern — pupils, staff or parents.

Concerns should be reported to:

- A trusted member of staff
- Pupil Support Leader
- The CRIS Lead
- A member of the Senior Leadership Team

Reports will be:

- Logged securely
- Investigated carefully
- Handled using safeguarding procedures
- Managed confidentially

Pupils are encouraged to speak up early — this is part of building resilience and trust.

9. Data Protection & Privacy

McLaren High School complies fully with:

- UK GDPR
- Local authority data protection requirements
- Data Protection Act

All staff and pupils must:

- Under take mandatory Data Protection training
- Handle personal data responsibly
- Never share personal data without permission
- Protect passwords and sensitive information

This complements the safeguards in the Digital Learning & ICT Acceptable Use Policy

10. Generative AI & Emerging Technologies

McLaren High School supports responsible and ethical engagement with emerging technologies such as AI, in line with guidance from the SQA.

Pupils:

- Must not submit AI-generated work as their own
- Must declare and discuss AI use with teachers
- Must not rely on AI as a replacement for learning
- Must comply with age restrictions of all platforms

This section directly reflects guidance within your existing policy

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed through:

- Incident data analysis
- Pupil, staff and parent surveys
- Staff professional discussions
- Self-evaluation tools such as **360 Safe Scotland**
- Digital Schools / CyberFirst review processes

Adjustments will be made in response to:

- Emerging risks
 - Changes in technology
 - Pupil voice feedback
 - National guidance updates
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12. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every **two years**, or sooner if required.

Policy Owner: Head Teacher, McLaren High School

Date of Approval: _____

Next Review: _____

Final Note to the School Community

At McLaren High School, we believe that **the internet should be a place of opportunity, creativity and connection — not fear.**

By working together as a community, acting with kindness, supporting one another and continuing to grow, we can ensure a safe, inclusive and positive digital environment for all.

Online safety is everyone's responsibility.