

Sensory Consortium Service
Good Outcomes Positive Futures



BSCS E Safety Guidance for CYP with Sensory Impairment

Policy last reviewed: September 2026

Agreed by: Head of Service, Safeguarding DSL and Technology Lead

Shared with staff: September 2026

Shared with Parents September 2026 (website)

Frequency of review: Every three years

Date of next review: September 2029

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Introduction

This policy and guidance should be read as part of the BSCS Safeguarding Policy which is available on the BSCS website and the relevant safeguarding and E safety policies in the early years, school, or college setting the child or young person (CYP) attends.

The policy outlines how the Berkshire Sensory Consortium staff will manage E safety and E Learning when working with CYP with Sensory impairment (SI) and any guidance specific to the needs of learners who are deaf, have a hearing loss or are vision or multisensory impaired for parents and staff who are supporting the young person. .

The Service recognises that an increasing number of pre-schoolers have access to their parents or their own tablet devices to play games, use apps and watch their favourite TV programmes and a number of apps and games may be recommended by our staff working at home with our younger children. It is therefore important that use of devices is supervised by parents when being used.

Advice for parents

A first step may be to use the parental controls available on home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. Parental controls are the names for a group of settings that put you in control of what content your child can see. Combined with privacy settings, these can help you protect children from inappropriate content, online grooming or cyberbullying alongside other measures. All equipment loaned by BSCS should be monitored for online content by parents when outside of the educational setting. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or by visiting <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

For all students who have a vision impairment and are using Bookshare it is essential that RNIB Bookshare downloads are closely managed, overseen and monitored by assigned adults to ensure that content is age-appropriate for the student using the library. When your child is not at an educational setting, a parent or guardian should be there to assist during the download process to ensure that children don't download inappropriate content.

It is important that alongside the practical ways in which access to the internet can be managed parents also

- Read up about the issues CYP may face online depending on their age and stage of development/ communication skills such as:
 - Cyberbullying
 - Viewing inappropriate content
 - Online grooming
 - Online pornography
 - Online reputation

- Radicalisation
 - Screen time
 - Privacy and identity theft
 - Self harm
 - Sexting
 - Fake news and misinformation
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- Consider the best way to approach the subjects by looking at the resources signposted or available through your child's setting or discuss with your BSCS staff member who supports your young person as they may be able to help understand the terminology.
 - Teach CYP with SI the skills to recognise what is appropriate and the resilience so they know what to do if they encounter a risk or see anything upsetting online. It is important that all CYP are encouraged to talk to their parents or appropriate adults about any issues or to answer their questions.

Additional Reading and Resources

General Documents

Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Education for a Connected World <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-a-connected-world>

DFE Teaching online safety in school

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/811796/Teaching_online_safety_in_school.pdf

NDCS Help your child stay safe and smart online

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/education-and-learning/bullying-and-deaf-children/help-your-child-stay-safe-and-smart-online/>

Guide Dogs Internet safety for kids [Internet safety for kids | Guide Dogs](#)

Supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) [**Supporting children with SEND - Inclusive Digital Safety**](#)