



SENSES Learning Hub

Social Media Policy

Created: 02.09.24

Review date: 11.09.27

Dawn Oughtibridge (Director)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn", written over a light blue horizontal line.

John Fox (Director)

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SENSES Learning Hub by its very ethos, is to provide education and support for 11 to 16 year olds with social, emotional and/or mental health (SEMH) needs. We believe in the power of creativity, art, and outdoor experiences to engage and inspire our students. We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive learning environment that fosters personal growth and success.

This policy is informed by the requirements and expectations of the Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 statutory guidance, which came into force on 1 September 2026, the Alternative Provision statutory guidance, the Data Protection Act 2018, the UK General Data Protection Regulation, and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025, which introduced changes to the data protection framework from 8 July 2026. These requirements support SENSES Learning Hub in maintaining a safe environment for young people and protecting their privacy and personal information.

There is a blanket ban on posting on any social networking and messaging sites at the premises during school hours.

We have a strict technology policy whereby any student entering the premises does not use their mobile or electronic devices during *learning sessions* at SENSES Learning Hub. Students may access their own mobile phones during break and lunchtime. However, students are always encouraged to socialise with peers, participate in activities and spend time outdoors rather than being on their phones. Students must not use their phones or other personal devices to photograph or record staff, other students or visitors to SENSES Learning Hub without explicit permission from a Director. Under no circumstances may students photograph or video another student or member of staff and upload, share, send, livestream or otherwise publish that material on social media, messaging services or any other online platform. Students must also not create or share content about another student or member of staff which could identify, embarrass, distress, threaten or otherwise cause harm to that individual. This is clearly explained at the visit and outlined in the student contract. If these boundaries are broken then a conversation with the parent/carers will be had to discuss further restrictions and any consequences..

SENSES Learning Hub recognises that online activity can present safeguarding risks including cyberbullying, harassment, exploitation, inappropriate communication, sharing of images, threats and exposure to harmful or inappropriate content. In accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026, online safety forms part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities. Any concern relating to a student's online activity, including the sharing of images or videos involving students or staff, will be treated as a safeguarding concern where appropriate and reported to the Directors or Designated Safeguarding Lead in accordance with SENSES Learning Hub's safeguarding procedures.

There is no other opportunity for the students or individuals to access technology unaided. At break and lunchtime, the emphasis is on wellbeing and social interaction through board and card games in the winter months and outdoor light activity in the summer months. This helps the individuals develop their social skills which is an important part of their learning and growing.

Where students are permitted to use their own devices, they remain responsible for using them appropriately and safely. SENSES Learning Hub reserves the right to restrict or remove access to personal devices where their use is affecting the wellbeing, safety, learning or privacy of the



student or others. Any restriction will be discussed with the student and parent/carer where appropriate and will be proportionate to the circumstances.

All computers are protected by a password and students will not use them unaccompanied. Any SENSES Learning Hub computer or other organisation owned device used by students will be subject to appropriate safeguarding, privacy, filtering and monitoring arrangements where relevant. Access to personal data, confidential information and staff systems will be restricted to authorised individuals. SENSES Learning Hub will maintain appropriate measures to protect children and young people from illegal, inappropriate and potentially harmful online content and will review its filtering, monitoring and online safety arrangements regularly in line with current Department for Education safeguarding expectations.

SENSES Learning Hub will comply with applicable data protection requirements when collecting, storing, using or sharing photographs, videos or other personal information relating to students and staff. Photographs or videos taken by SENSES Learning Hub for official purposes will only be used where there is an appropriate lawful basis and in accordance with our privacy arrangements and any relevant permissions. Students will be informed about how their images and personal information may be used. The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 has amended the UK's data protection framework and SENSES Learning Hub will ensure its data protection policies and procedures are kept under review to reflect current legal requirements.

Any student who becomes aware of inappropriate filming, photography, online communication, cyberbullying, threats or harmful content involving a student or member of staff should report this to a member of staff or the Directors. Students will be supported to understand that they will not be penalised for reporting a genuine safeguarding concern. Concerns will be recorded and managed in accordance with SENSES Learning Hub's safeguarding and child protection procedures.

Staff and Directors must not use personal social media accounts to communicate privately with students. Any necessary communication with students or families should take place through approved SENSES Learning Hub channels and in accordance with the staff code of conduct, safeguarding procedures and data protection requirements. Staff must not accept personal social media requests from current students or communicate with students through personal messaging accounts.

SENSES Learning Hub recognises that information shared online can be copied, saved and redistributed beyond the intended audience. Students will therefore be encouraged to consider their digital footprint, privacy, consent and the potential impact of online activity on themselves and others. This forms part of our wider commitment to safeguarding, wellbeing and preparing young people to use technology responsibly.

Review Log

Review date	Completed by who
20.08.25	John Fox and Dawn Oughtibridge
11.09.26	John Fox and Dawn Oughtibridge