

## **Appendix Y: Initial Teacher Training (ITT) and Online Safety**

### **Vantage North Humber Teacher Training (VNHTT)**

#### **Y1. Purpose, Scope and Status**

This Appendix sets out how the Trust's Online Safety Policy applies to Initial Teacher Training (ITT) provision delivered through Vantage North Humber Teacher Training (VNHTT).

It forms an integral part of the Online Safety Policy and must be read alongside it. The Appendix provides additional clarity and assurance specific to ITT trainees, recognising their status as emerging professionals who work directly with children and young people in a range of digital and physical environments.

This Appendix supports the Trust's commitment to ensuring that:

- safeguarding arrangements within ITT provision are effective.
- trainees are well prepared for the professional and digital realities of teaching; and
- high standards of professional conduct are consistently expected and enforced.

#### **Y2. Application of the Online Safety Policy to ITT Provision**

The Online Safety Policy applies fully to all activity undertaken as part of VNHTT ITT programmes.

For the avoidance of doubt, the policy applies to:

- all ITT trainees, regardless of training route or placement setting.
- all training activity delivered at VNHTT base sites; and
- all school-based placements, including those hosted within and beyond the Trust.

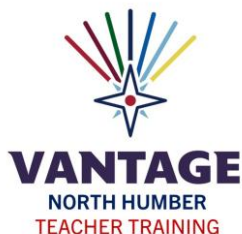
References within the Online Safety Policy to "staff" or "members of the school community" should, for the purposes of ITT provision, be read as including ITT trainees.

#### **Y3. Professional Status and Expectations of ITT Trainees**

Within ITT provision, the Trust formally adopts the term "ITT Trainee".

This reflects that ITT trainees:

- are engaged in academic and professional training; and



- work in positions of trust with pupils and are therefore expected to meet staff-equivalent standards of safeguarding, professionalism and online conduct.

ITT trainees are expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of behaviour online and offline. This includes conduct related to:

- use of school IT systems and learning platforms.
- professional communication with pupils, parents and colleagues.
- social media presence and digital identity; and
- engagement with emerging technologies, including generative artificial intelligence (AI).

Failure to meet these expectations may be treated as a professional conduct matter.

#### **Y4. Preparing Trainees for Online Safety and Safeguarding Risks**

VNHTT recognises that effective ITT provision must prepare trainees for the realities of modern teaching, including managing online safety risks.

ITT trainees are supported to understand and manage risks such as:

- inappropriate or unsolicited online contact.
- blurred professional boundaries in digital spaces.
- exposure to harmful or illegal online content.
- safeguarding concerns arising from remote learning tools.
- misuse of technology or data; and
- ethical and professional risks associated with AI-generated content.

Online safety training is not treated as a standalone requirement, but is embedded within safeguarding training, professional studies, and placement preparation.

#### **Y5. Training, Induction and Ongoing Support**

All ITT trainees receive mandatory online safety training as part of programme induction. This training is reinforced throughout the programme and includes:

- statutory safeguarding and child protection expectations.
- acceptable use of technology and digital systems.
- professional boundaries and conduct online.
- handling and reporting online safety concerns; and



- use of AI tools in a manner that maintains academic integrity and protects data.

Trainees receive guidance and support appropriate to their stage of training, ensuring that expectations are clear, proportionate and consistently reinforced.

## **Y6. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Y6.1 ITT Trainees**

ITT trainees are responsible for:

- adhering to all online safety and acceptable use requirements.
- maintaining clear professional boundaries online.
- using technology and AI tools lawfully, ethically and transparently.
- reporting online safety incidents or concerns promptly; and
- following safeguarding and critical incident protocols without deviation.

### **Y6.2 Mentors, Tutors and Training Staff**

Staff supporting ITT trainees will:

- model safe, professional and responsible online behaviour.
- provide supervision and guidance in relation to digital practice.
- challenge unsafe or unprofessional conduct.
- support trainees to reflect on and improve their practice.

### **Y6.3 Leadership Oversight**

VNHTT leadership ensures that:

- online safety expectations are clearly communicated and understood.
- safeguarding and online safety are integral to ITT quality assurance.
- partnership arrangements support consistent expectations across placements; and
- concerns are escalated and addressed through Trust safeguarding structures.

## **Y7. Placements and Partnership Arrangements**

ITT trainees undertake placements across a range of settings.



When trainees are placed within Trust academies, they are subject to the Trust's Online Safety Policy and local procedures in full.

When placed in non-Trust schools, trainees must follow the host school's online safety and acceptable use policies, while always remaining subject to VNHTT oversight and professional expectations.

VNHTT retains responsibility for ensuring that trainees are supported, safeguarded and monitored throughout all placements.

### **Y8. Monitoring, Reporting and Safeguarding Culture**

Online safety is embedded within the Trust's wider safeguarding culture.

Online safety incidents and concerns involving ITT trainees are:

- recorded in line with safeguarding procedures.
- reviewed to identify patterns or emerging risks; and
- used to inform ongoing training and programme improvement.

VNHTT promotes a culture in which trainees are confident to raise concerns, understand their responsibilities, and contribute positively to safeguarding practice.

### **Y9. Relationship to the Online Safety Policy**

This Appendix clarifies and strengthens the application of the Online Safety Policy within ITT provision.

Together, the Online Safety Policy and this Appendix ensure that ITT trainees are:

- safeguarded effectively.
- prepared for professional practice.
- held to consistently high standards of conduct; and
- supported to become safe, reflective and responsible teachers in digital environments.