ICT and Internet Acceptable Use Policy

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Contents

1. Introduction and aims

Information and communications technology (ICT) is an integral part of the way our school works, and is a critical resource for pupils, staff (including the senior leadership team), governors, volunteers and visitors. It supports teaching and learning, and the pastoral and administrative functions of the school.

The ICT resources and facilities our school uses could also pose risks to data protection, online safety and safeguarding.

This policy aims to:

- Set guidelines and rules on the use of school ICT resources for staff, pupils, parents/carers and governors
- Establish clear expectations for the way all members of the school community engage with each other online
- Support the school's policies on data protection, online safety and safeguarding
- Prevent disruption that could occur to the school through the misuse, or attempted misuse, of ICT systems
- Support the school in teaching pupils safe and effective internet and ICT use

This policy covers all use of our school's ICT facilities, including governors, staff, pupils, volunteers, contractors and visitors.

Breaches of this policy may be dealt with under our Staff Discipline, Conduct and Grievance Policy, and our staff Code of Conduct.

2. Relevant legislation and guidance

This policy refers to, and complies with, the following legislation and guidance:

- Data Protection Act 2018
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) – the EU GDPR was incorporated into UK legislation, with some amendments, by The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020
- Computer Misuse Act 1990
- Human Rights Act 1998
- The Telecommunications (Lawful Business Practice) (Interception of Communications) Regulations 2000
- Education Act 2011
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023
- Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools 2022
- National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC): Cyber Security for Schools
- Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act 2021
- UK Council for Internet Safety (et al.) guidance on sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people
- Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges

This policy reflects statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), including *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023*, and complies with UK data protection law (UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018). It also aligns with EYFS statutory guidance for early years ICT use and DfE standards on filtering and monitoring.

This policy also aligns with the DfE's statutory guidance on Filtering and Monitoring (2022), the EYFS Framework (2021) regarding online activity for early years children, and any subsequent updates to guidance or legislation affecting ICT use in schools.

3. Definitions

- **ICT facilities:** all facilities, systems and services including, but not limited to, network infrastructure, desktop computers, laptops, tablets, phones, music players or hardware, software, websites, web applications or services, and any device system or service that may become available in the future which is provided as part of the school's ICT service
- **Users:** anyone authorised by the school to use the school's ICT facilities, including governors, staff, pupils, volunteers, contractors and visitors
- **Personal use:** any use or activity not directly related to the users' employment, study or purpose agreed by an authorised user
- **Authorised personnel:** employees authorised by the school to perform systems administration and/or monitoring of the ICT facilities
- **Materials:** files and data created using the school's ICT facilities including but not limited to documents, photos, audio, video, printed output, web pages, social networking sites and blogs

See appendix 6 for a glossary of cyber security terminology.

4. Unacceptable use

The following is considered unacceptable use of the school's ICT facilities. Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary or behaviour proceedings (see section 4.2 below).

Unacceptable use of the school's ICT facilities includes:

- Using the school's ICT facilities to breach intellectual property rights or copyright
- Using the school's ICT facilities to bully or harass someone else, or to promote unlawful discrimination
- Breaching the school's policies or procedures
- Any illegal conduct, or statements which are deemed to be advocating illegal activity
- Online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams
- Accessing extremist material
- Accessing, creating, storing, linking to or sending material that is pornographic, offensive, obscene or otherwise inappropriate or harmful
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos and/or livestreams
- Activity which defames or disparages the school, or risks bringing the school into disrepute
- Sharing confidential information about the school, its pupils, or other members of the school community
- Connecting any device to the school's ICT facilities without approval from authorised personnel
- Setting up any software, applications or web services on the school's network without approval by authorised personnel, or creating or using any program, tool or item of software designed to interfere with the functioning of the school's ICT facilities, accounts or data

- Gaining, or attempting to gain, access to restricted areas of the network, or to any password-protected information, without approval from authorised personnel
- Allowing, encouraging or enabling others to gain (or attempt to gain) unauthorised access to the school's ICT facilities
- Causing intentional damage to the school's ICT facilities
- Removing, deleting or disposing of the school's ICT equipment, systems, programmes or information without permission from authorised personnel
- Causing a data breach by accessing, modifying, or sharing data (including personal data) to which a user is not permitted by authorised personnel to have access, or without authorisation
- Using inappropriate or offensive language
- Promoting a private business, unless that business is directly related to the school
- Using websites or mechanisms to bypass the school's filtering or monitoring mechanisms
- Engaging in content or conduct that is radicalised, extremist, racist, antisemitic or discriminatory in any other way
- Connecting to the internet using a login that is not monitored by the School's chosen monitoring service (currently Smoothwall). This applies to all staff, volunteers, visitors and contractors
- For pupils, using AI tools and generative chatbots (such as ChatGPT and Google Bard):
    - During assessments, including internal and external assessments, and coursework
    - To write their homework or class assignments, where AI-generated text or imagery is presented as their own work

Staff must not use AI tools to complete work tasks, assessments, or communications in a way that misrepresents their own professional responsibilities.

This is not an exhaustive list. The school reserves the right to amend this list at any time. The Headteacher will use their professional judgement to determine whether any act or behaviour not on the list above is considered unacceptable use of the school's ICT facilities.

4.1 Exceptions from unacceptable use

Where the use of school ICT facilities (on the school premises and/or remotely) is required for a purpose that would otherwise be considered an unacceptable use, exemptions to the policy may be granted at the headteacher's discretion.

In these circumstances, the use of AI will be discussed with the pupil and, if relevant, their parents.

- Pupils may use AI tools and generative chatbots under staff or parent supervision;
- As a research tool to help them find out about new topics and ideas
- When specifically studying and discussing AI in schoolwork, for example in IT lessons or art homework about AI-generated images. All AI-generated content must be properly attributed

4.2 Sanctions

Pupils and staff who engage in any of the unacceptable activities listed above may face disciplinary action in line with the following school policies; Behaviour Policy, Staff Discipline, Conduct and Grievance Policy, Code of Conduct.

At the discretion of the Headteacher, permission to use the school's systems may be revoked.

Associated policies may be accessed at the following links:

9a Behaviour Policy.docx

Staff Code of Conduct
Staff Discipline, Conduct and Grievance Policy.docx

5. Staff (including governors, volunteers, and contractors)

5.1 Access to school ICT facilities and materials

The school's Operations Manager, in conjunction with Blue Box, manages access to the school's ICT facilities and materials for school staff. That includes, but is not limited to:

- Computers, tablets, mobile phones and other devices
- Access permissions for certain programmes or files

Staff will be provided with unique login/account information and passwords that they must use when accessing the school's ICT facilities. This includes using MFA (using multi-factor authentication) i.e. use of password, then a number generated by the Microsoft authenticator app.

Staff who have access to files that they are not authorised to view or edit, or who need their access permissions updated or changed, should contact Blue Box.

5.1.1 Use of phones and email

The school provides each member of staff with an email address.

This email account should be used for work purposes only and staff should enable multi-factor authentication on their email account(s).

All work-related business should be conducted using the email address the school has provided.

Staff must not share their personal email addresses with parents/carers and pupils, and must not send any work-related materials using their personal email account.

Staff must take care with the content of all email messages, as incorrect or improper statements can give rise to claims for discrimination, harassment, defamation, breach of confidentiality or breach of contract.

Email messages are required to be disclosed in legal proceedings or in response to requests from individuals under the Data Protection Act 2018 in the same way as paper documents. Deletion from a user's inbox does not mean that an email cannot be recovered for the purposes of disclosure. All email messages should be treated as potentially retrievable.

Staff must take extra care when sending sensitive or confidential information by email. Any attachments containing sensitive or confidential information should be encrypted so that the information is only accessible by the intended recipient.

If staff receive an email in error, the sender should be informed and the email deleted. If the email contains sensitive or confidential information, the user must not make use of that information or disclose that information.

If staff send an email in error that contains the personal information of another person, they must inform the Operations Manager immediately, whom will follow our data breach procedure.

Staff must not give their personal phone number(s) to parents/carers or pupils. Staff must use phones provided by the school to conduct all work-related business.

School phones must not be used for personal matters.

Staff who are provided with mobile phones as equipment for their role must abide by the same rules for ICT acceptable use as set out in section 4.

Staff who would like to record a phone conversation should speak to the Operations Manager.

All non-standard recordings of phone conversations must be pre-approved and consent obtained from all parties involved.

A request may be approved when:

- Discussing a complaint raised by a parent/carer or member of the public

- Calling parents/caters to discuss behaviour or sanctions
- Taking advice from relevant professional regarding safeguarding, SEND assessments etc.
- Discussing request for term-time holidays

5.2 Personal use

Staff are permitted to occasionally use school ICT facilities for personal use, subject to certain conditions set out below. This permission must not be overused or abused. The Operations Manager may withdraw or restrict this permission at any time and at their discretion.

Personal use is permitted provided that such use:

- Does not take place during teaching hours
- Does not constitute 'unacceptable use', as defined in section 4
- Takes place when no pupils are present
- Does not interfere with their jobs, or prevent other staff or pupils from using the facilities for work or educational purposes

Staff may not use the school's ICT facilities to store personal, non-work-related information or materials (such as music, videos or photos).

Staff should be aware that use of the school's ICT facilities for personal use may put personal communications within the scope of the school's ICT monitoring activities (see section 5.5). Where breaches of this policy are found, disciplinary action may be taken.

Staff are also permitted to use their personal devices (such as mobile phones or tablets) in line with the school's Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy.

Staff should be aware that personal use of ICT (even when not using school ICT facilities) can impact on their employment by, for instance, putting personal details in the public domain, where pupils and parents/carers could see them.

Staff should take care to follow the school's guidelines for:

- use of social media Social Media Policy.docx
- safe use of mobile phone and smart device which can be found in appendix 3 of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 7a Safeguarding Policy .docx
- use of email (see section 5.1.1) to protect themselves online and avoid compromising their professional integrity. Email Policy.docx

All staff must complete mandatory online safety and cyber security training as part of induction. This includes awareness of phishing, ransomware, password security, and safe online communication with pupils and parents.

5.2.1 Personal social media accounts

Members of staff should make sure their use of social media, either for work or personal purposes, is appropriate at all times.

The school has guidelines for staff on appropriate security settings for Facebook accounts (see appendix 1).

Staff should not accept friend/follow requests from pupils or parents/carers on personal social media accounts. Staff should also ensure that security settings are appropriate across all platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and X, and review these settings regularly.

5.3 Remote access

We allow staff to access the school's ICT facilities and materials remotely. Staff can access SharePoint using the same protocols as in school.

Staff accessing the school's ICT facilities and materials remotely must abide by the same rules as those accessing the facilities and materials on site. Staff must be particularly vigilant if they use the school's ICT facilities outside the school and must take such reasonable precautions.

Our ICT facilities contain information which is confidential and/or subject to data protection legislation. Such information must be treated with extreme care and in accordance with our data protection policy.

GDPR and Data Protection Policy.docx

5.4 School social media accounts

The school has official Facebook, X and Instagram accounts. These are managed by the marketing department. Form X accounts are managed by individual members staff. Staff members who have not been authorised to manage, or post to the account, must not access, or attempt to access, the account.

Staff should ensure that:

- only pupils with relevant photos permissions feature on Form X accounts
- photos are relevant, suitable and of a high quality
- only pupils from SWS are included.

Those who are authorised to manage, or post to, the account must make sure they abide by these guidelines at all times.

5.5 Monitoring and filtering of the school network and use of ICT facilities

To safeguard and promote the welfare of children and provide them with a safe environment to learn, the school reserves the right to filter and monitor the use of its ICT facilities and network. This includes, but is not limited to, the filtering and monitoring of:

- Internet sites visited
- Bandwidth usage
- Email accounts
- Telephone calls
- User activity/access logs
- Any other electronic communications

Only authorised ICT personnel may filter, inspect, monitor, intercept, assess, record and disclose the above, to the extent permitted by law. At St Wystan's we use Lightspeed monitoring. Filter reports are accessed by the Headteacher and the Operations Manager. Parents are updated on the schools filtering and monitoring arrangements via Parent Hub communications.

The school monitors ICT use in order to:

- Obtain information related to school business
- Investigate compliance with school policies, procedures and standards
- Ensure effective school and ICT operation
- Conduct training or quality control exercises
- Prevent or detect crime
- Comply with a subject access request, Freedom of Information Act request, or any other legal obligation

Our governing board is responsible for making sure that:

- The school meets the DfE's filtering and monitoring standards
- Appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place
- Staff are aware of those systems and trained in their related roles and responsibilities
    - For the leadership team and relevant staff, this will include how to manage the processes and systems effectively and how to escalate concerns
- It regularly reviews the effectiveness of the school's monitoring and filtering systems

The school's designated safeguarding leads (DSL and DDSL) will take lead responsibility for understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place.

Where appropriate, staff may raise concerns about monitored activity with the school's DSL/DDSL and ICT manager, as appropriate.

All monitoring of ICT use will be conducted proportionately and in line with the Human Rights Act 1998, ensuring that privacy and freedom of expression are respected while maintaining the safety and security of pupils and staff.

6. Pupils

6.1 Access to ICT facilities

ICT equipment in school is only available to pupils only under the supervision of staff.

6.2 Search and deletion

Under the Education Act 2011, the Headteacher, and any member of staff authorised to do so by the Headteacher, can search pupils and confiscate their mobile phones, computers or other devices that the authorised staff member has reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- Poses a risk to staff or pupils, **and/or**
- Is identified in the school rules as a banned item for which a search can be carried out (as listed in our behaviour policy) **and/or**
- Is evidence in relation to an offence

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Pornography
- Abusive messages, images or videos
- Indecent images of children
- Evidence of suspected criminal behaviour (such as threats of violence or assault)

At SWS, the Headteacher will carry out all searches. If the Headteacher is not available, they will authorise a member of SLT to do so on her behalf. Before a search, if the Headteacher or authorised staff member is satisfied that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting any of the above, they will also:

- Make an assessment of how urgent the search is and consider the risk to other pupils and staff.
- Explain to the pupil why they are being searched, and how and where the search will happen, and give them the opportunity to ask questions about it
- Seek the pupil's co-operation where possible.

The authorised staff member should:

- Inform the DSL (or Deputy) of any searching incidents where they had reasonable grounds to suspect a pupil was in possession of a banned item. A list of banned items is available above and in our Behaviour Policy.
- Involve the DSL (or Deputy) without delay if they believe that a search has revealed a safeguarding risk

Authorised staff members may examine, and in exceptional circumstances erase, any data or files on a device that they have confiscated where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

When deciding whether there is a 'good reason' to examine data or files on a device, the staff member should only do so if they reasonably suspect that the data has been, or could be, used to:

- Cause harm, **and/or**
- Undermine the safe environment of the school or disrupt teaching, **and/or**
- Commit an offence

If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the Headteacher or authorised staff member, alongside the teacher or staff member to decide on a suitable response. If there are images, data or files on the device that staff reasonably suspect are likely to put a person at risk, they will first consider the appropriate safeguarding response.

When deciding whether there is a good reason to erase data or files from a device, staff members will consider whether the material may constitute evidence relating to a suspected offence. In these instances, they will not delete the material, and the device will be handed to the police as soon as is reasonably practicable. If the material is not suspected to be evidence in relation to an offence, the Headteacher or authorised staff members may delete it if:

- They reasonably suspect that its continued existence is likely to cause harm to any person, **and/or**
- The pupil and/or the parent refuses to delete the material themselves

If a staff member **suspects** a device **may** contain an indecent image of a child (also known as a nude or semi-nude image), they will:

- **Not** view the image
- **Not** copy, print, share, store or save the image
- Confiscate the device and report the incident to the DSL (or deputy) immediately, who will decide what to do next. The DSL will make the decision in line with the DfE's latest guidance on searching, screening and confiscation and the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) et al.'s guidance on sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people

Any searching of pupils will be carried out in line with:

- The DfE's latest guidance on searching, screening and confiscation
- UKCIS et al.'s guidance on sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people
- Our behaviour policy reflects the updated DfE guidance, which came into force on 1st September 2022.

Any complaints about searching for, or deleting, inappropriate images or files on pupils' devices will be dealt with through the school complaints procedure.

6.3 Unacceptable use of ICT and the internet outside of school

The school will sanction pupils, in line with the behaviour policy if a pupil engages in any of the following **at any time** (even if they are not on school premises):

- Using ICT or the internet to breach intellectual property rights or copyright
- Using ICT or the internet to bully or harass someone else, or to promote unlawful discrimination
- Breaching the school's policies or procedures
- Any illegal conduct, or making statements which are deemed to be advocating illegal activity
- Accessing, creating, storing, linking to or sending material that is pornographic, offensive, obscene or otherwise inappropriate
- Consensual or non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos and/or livestreams (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- Activity which defames or disparages the school, or risks bringing the school into disrepute
- Sharing confidential information about the school, other pupils, or other members of the school community

- Gaining or attempting to gain access to restricted areas of the network, or to any password-protected information, without approval from authorised personnel
- Allowing, encouraging, or enabling others to gain (or attempt to gain) unauthorised access to the school's ICT facilities
- Causing intentional damage to the school's ICT facilities or materials
- Causing a data breach by accessing, modifying, or sharing data (including personal data) to which a user and/or those they share it with are not supposed to have access, or without authorisation
- Using inappropriate or offensive language
    - Pupils should report any online safety concerns or incidents to a member of staff immediately, either in person or via the school's reporting system (worry box).

7. Parents/carers

7.1 Access to ICT facilities and materials

Parents/carers do not have access to the school's ICT facilities as a matter of course.

However, parents/carers working for, or with, the school in an official capacity (for instance, as a volunteer or as a member of The Friends) may be granted an appropriate level of access, or be permitted to use the school's facilities at the Headteacher's discretion.

Where parents/carers are granted access in this way, they must abide by this policy as it applies to staff.

7.2 Communicating with or about the school online

We believe it is important to model for pupils, and help them learn, how to communicate respectfully with, and about, others online.

Parents/carers play a vital role in helping model this behaviour for their children, especially when communicating with the school through our website and social media channels.

We ask parents/carers to sign the agreement in appendix 5.

7.3 Communicating with parents/carers about pupils' activities

The school will ensure that parents and carers are made aware of any online activity that their children are being asked to carry out.

When we ask pupils to use websites or engage in online activity, we will communicate the details of this to parents/carers in the same way that information about homework tasks is shared.

In particular, staff will let parents/carers know which (if any) person or people from the school pupils will be interacting with online, including the purpose of the interaction.

Parents/carers may seek any support and advice from the school to ensure a safe online environment is established for their child.

8. Data security

The school is responsible for making sure it has the appropriate level of security protection and procedures in place to safeguard its systems, staff and learners. It therefore takes steps to protect the security of its computing resources, data and user accounts. The effectiveness of these procedures is reviewed periodically to keep up with evolving cyber crime technologies.

Staff, pupils, parents/carers and others who use the school's ICT facilities should use safe computing practices at all times. We aim to meet the cyber security standards recommended by the Department for Education's guidance on digital and technology standards in schools and colleges, including the use of:

- Firewalls
- Security features
- User authentication and multi-factor authentication
- Anti-malware software

8.1 Passwords

All users of the school's ICT facilities should set strong passwords for their accounts and keep these passwords secure.

Users are responsible for the security of their passwords and accounts, and for setting permissions for accounts and files they control.

Members of staff or pupils who disclose account or password information may face disciplinary action. Parents, visitors or volunteers who disclose account or password information may have their access rights revoked.

Passwords are updated regularly.

8.2 Software updates, firewalls and anti-virus software

All of the school's ICT devices that support software updates, security updates and anti-virus products will have these installed, and be configured to perform such updates regularly or automatically.

Users must not circumvent or make any attempt to circumvent the administrative, physical and technical safeguards we implement and maintain to protect personal data and the school's ICT facilities.

Any personal devices using the school's network must all be configured in this way.

8.3 Data protection

All personal data must be processed and stored in line with data protection regulations and the school's data protection policy. The GPDR and Data Protection Policy can be accessed here: GDPR and Data Protection Policy.docx

8.4 Access to facilities and materials

All users of the school's ICT facilities will have clearly defined access rights to school systems, files and devices.

These access rights are managed by Blue Box.

Users should not access, or attempt to access, systems, files or devices to which they have not been granted access. If access is provided in error, or if something a user should not have access to is shared with them, they should alert the Operations Manager immediately.

Users should always log out of systems and lock their equipment when they are not in use to avoid any unauthorised access. Equipment and systems should always be logged out of and shut down completely at the end of each working day.

8.5 Encryption

The school makes sure that its devices and systems have an appropriate level of encryption.

School staff are authorised to use personal devices (including computers and USB drives) to access school data, work remotely, or take personal data (such as pupil information) out of school. It is recommended that staff encrypt their personal devices, in particular USB drives.

8.6 Retention and Deletion of Data

Personal and sensitive data stored on school ICT facilities will be retained only as long as necessary for its intended purpose, in line with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Staff must follow the school's data retention schedule and securely delete or archive data when no longer required.

9. Protection from cyber attacks

Please see the glossary (appendix 7) to help you understand cyber security terminology.

The school will:

- Work with governors and Blue Box to make sure cyber security is given the time and resources it needs to make the school secure
- Provide annual training for staff (and include this training in any induction for new starters, if they join outside of the school's annual training window) on the basics of cyber security, including how to:
  - Check the sender address in an email
  - Respond to a request for bank details, personal information or login details
  - Verify requests for payments or changes to information
- Make sure staff are aware of its procedures for reporting and responding to cyber security incidents
- Investigate whether our IT software needs updating or replacing to be more secure
- Not engage in ransom requests from ransomware attacks, as this would not guarantee recovery of data
- Put controls in place that are:
  - **Proportionate**: the school will verify this using a third-party audit (such as 360 degree safe) annually to objectively test that what it has in place is effective
  - **Multi-layered**: everyone will be clear on what to look out for to keep our systems safe
  - **Up to date:** with a system in place to monitor when the School needs to update its software
  - **Regularly reviewed and tested**: to make sure the systems are as effective and secure as they can be
- Critical data is stored on a cloud-based system that can be accessed off-site.
- Make sure Blue Box staff conduct regular access reviews to make sure each user in the school has the right level of permissions and admin rights.
- Have a firewall in place that is switched on
- Check that its supply chain is secure, for example by asking suppliers about how secure their business practices are and checking if they have the Cyber Essentials certification
- Review an incident response plan with the IT department including, for example, how the school will communicate with everyone if communications go down, who will be contacted and when, and who will notify Action Fraud of the incident. Follow the link to the plan here : Cyber Response Plan.docx

10. Internet access

The school's wireless internet connection is secure.

- We use Lightspeed filtering
- We have staff and guest Wi-Fi
- We are aware that filtering is not foolproof. Where the filter has not identifies in appropriate sites, an immediate report must be made to the Headteacher or Operations Manager. They will, in turn, contact Blue Box.

10.1 Pupils

- Pupils can access WiFi only in supervised lessons
- Lightspeed filtering and monitoring is used by the School. Staff understand the need to be vigilant when IT is being used

10.2 Parents/carers and visitors

Parents/carers and visitors to the school will not be permitted to use the school's WiFi unless specific authorisation is granted by the Headteacher.

The Headteacher will only grant authorisation if:

- Parents/carers are working with the school in an official capacity (e.g. as a volunteer or as a member of The Friends)
- Visitors need to access the school's Wi-Fi in order to fulfil the purpose of their visit (for instance, to access materials stored on personal devices as part of a presentation or lesson plan)

  Only access to guest WIFI will be permitted. Staff must not give the WiFi password to anyone who is not authorised to have it. Doing so could result in disciplinary action.

11. IT in the EYFS

EYFS staff will ensure screen time and online content are age-appropriate, supervised, and filtered according to the school's ICT safety protocols. Before any apps or digital tools are used with EYFS pupils, the setting will check that they are age-appropriate and safe for use in early years education.

Overview of IT in the EYFS

Item	Used by who	For?
Phone	Staff	Pictures
Ipad	Staff and pupils	Pictures/ tapestry/ apps and internet search with assistance Purple mash variety of apps
Laptop LH	LH/DG/CT and AC	Lessons/ Purple mash linked to IWB activities
IWB	Staff and pupils	Lessons and self-learning purple mash/games
Beebots	Pupils	Programme to follow instructions
Staff phones	Personal	Staff and to be stored in store cupboard.

12. Monitoring and review

flect the needs and circumstances of the school.

This policy will be reviewed 2 years.

13. Related policies

This policy should be read alongside the school's policies on:

- Online safety
- Social Media Policy.docx
- 7a Safeguarding Policy .docx
- 9a Behaviour Policy.docx
- Staff Discipline, Conduct and Grievance Policy.docx
- GDPR and Data Protection Policy.docx
- Use of mobile phones and smart device policies.docx

Appendix 1: Facebook cheat sheet for staff

Do not accept friend requests from pupils on social media

10 rules for school staff on social media sites

1. Change your display name – use your first and middle name, use a maiden name, or put your surname backwards instead
2. Change your profile picture to something unidentifiable, or if you don't, make sure that the image is professional
3. Check your privacy settings regularly
4. Be careful about tagging other staff members in images or posts
5. Don't share anything publicly that you wouldn't be happy showing your pupils
6. Don't use social media sites during school hours
7. Don't make comments about your job, your colleagues, our school or your pupils online – once it's out there, it's out there
8. Don't associate yourself with the school on your profile (e.g. by setting it as your workplace, or by 'checking in' at a school event)
9. Don't link your work email address to your social media accounts. Anyone who has this address (or your personal email address/mobile number) is able to find you using this information
10. Consider uninstalling the Facebook app from your phone. The app recognises WiFi connections and makes friend suggestions based on who else uses the same WiFi connection (such as parents or pupils)

Check your privacy settings

- Change the visibility of your posts and photos to **'Friends only'**, rather than 'Friends of friends', depending on the specific sites. Otherwise, pupils and their families may still be able to read your posts, see things you've shared and look at your pictures if they're friends with anybody on your contacts list;
- Don't forget to check your **old posts and photos** – go to bit.ly/2MdQXMN to find out how to limit the visibility of previous posts;
- The public may still be able to see posts you've **'liked'**, even if your profile settings are private, because this depends on the privacy settings of the original poster;
- **Google your name** to see what information about you is visible to the public;
- Prevent search engines from indexing your profile so that people can't **search for you by name** – go to bit.ly/2zMdVht to find out how to do this;
- Remember that **some information is always public**: your display name, profile picture, cover photo, user ID (in the URL for your profile), country, age range and gender.

What to do if …

A pupil adds you on social media or sends a friend request

- In the first instance, ignore and delete the request. Block the pupil from viewing your profile;
- Check your privacy settings again, and consider changing your display name or profile picture;
- If the pupil asks you about the friend request in person, tell them that you're not allowed to accept friend requests from pupils and that if they persist, you'll have to notify senior leadership and/or their parents/carers. If the pupil persists, take a screenshot of their request and any accompanying messages;
- Notify a memebr of the SLT to discuss appropriate next steps.

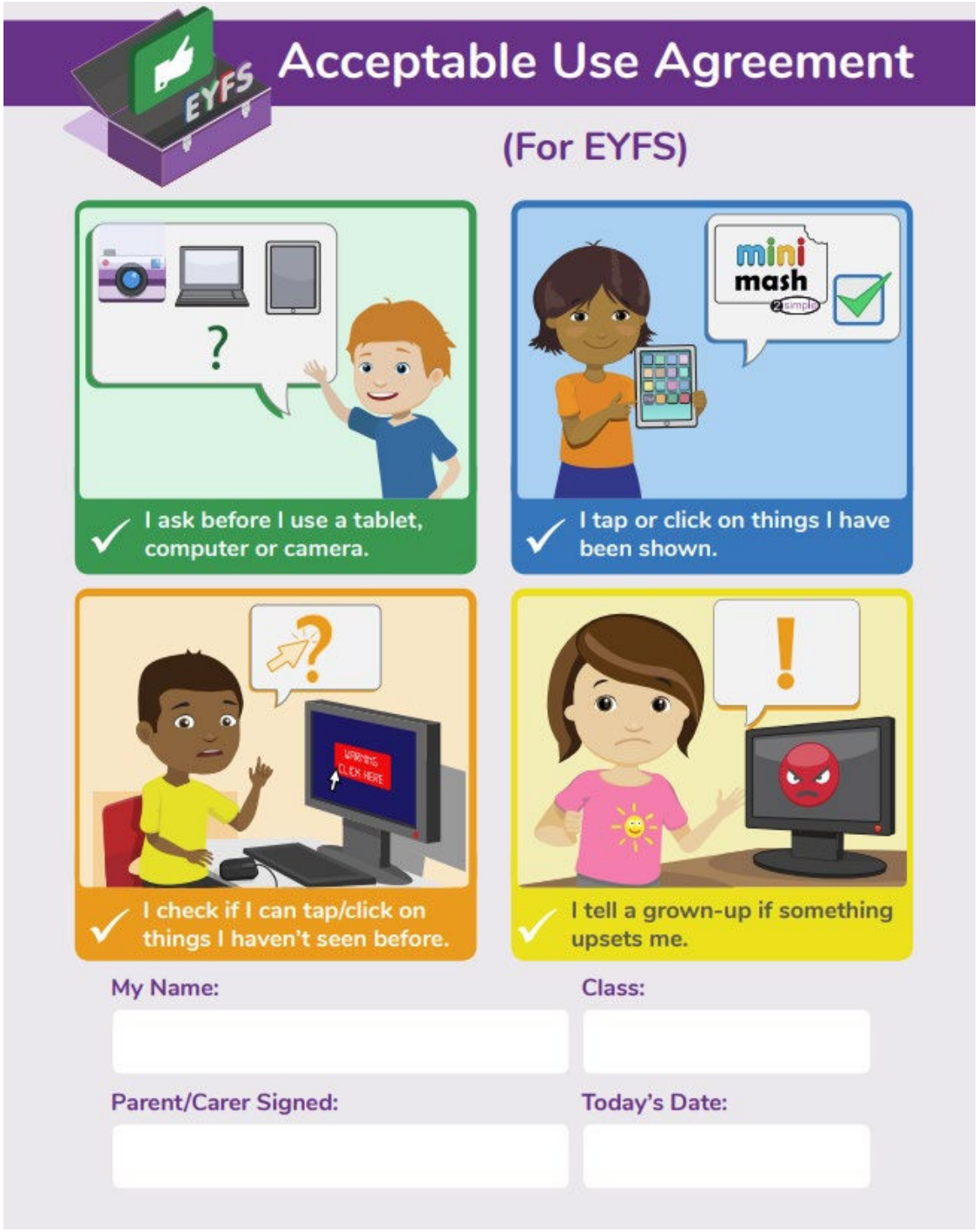
A parent/carer adds you on social media

- It is at your discretion whether to respond. Bear in mind that:
    - Responding to 1 parent/carer's friend request or message might set an unwelcome precedent for both you and other teachers at the school
    - Pupils may then have indirect access through their parent/carer's account to anything you post, share, comment on or are tagged in
- If you wish to decline the offer or ignore the message, consider drafting a stock response to let the parent/carer know that you're doing so

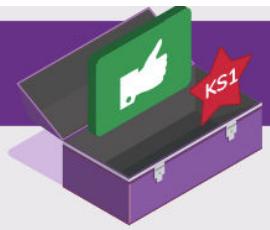
You're being harassed on social media, or somebody is spreading something offensive about you

- **Do not** retaliate or respond in any way
- Save evidence of any abuse by taking screenshots and recording the time and date it occurred
- Report the material to Facebook or the relevant social network and ask them to remove it
- If the perpetrator is a current pupil or staff member, our mediation and disciplinary procedures are usually sufficient to deal with online incidents
- If the perpetrator is a parent/carer or other external adult, a senior member of staff should invite them to a meeting to address any reasonable concerns or complaints and/or request they remove the offending comments or material
- If the comments are racist, sexist, of a sexual nature or constitute a hate crime, you or a senior leader should consider contacting the police

Appendix 2: Acceptable use of the internet: agreement for EYFS



Appendix 3: Acceptable use agreement for Pre-Prep pupils (Forms 1 and 2)



Acceptable Use Agreement

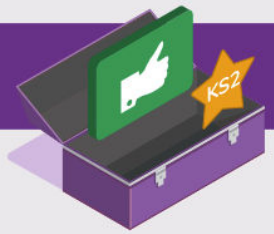
- ✓ I always ask a teacher or suitable adult if I want to use the computers, tablets or cameras.
- ✓ I only open activities that an adult has told or allowed me to use.
- ✓ I know that I must tell an adult if I see something on a screen that upsets me, or I am unsure of.
- ✓ I keep my passwords safe and will never use someone else's.
- ✓ I know personal information such as my address and birthday should never be shared online.
- ✓ I know I must never communicate with strangers online.
- ✓ I am always polite when I post to our blogs, use our email and other communication tools.

I understand this agreement and know the consequences if I don't follow it.

My Name: **Class:**

Parent/Carer Signed: **Today's Date:**

Appendix 4: Acceptable use agreement for Prep pupils



Acceptable Use Agreement

- ✓ I will only access computing equipment when a trusted adult has given me permission and is present.
- ✓ I will not deliberately look for, save or send anything that could make others upset.
- ✓ I will immediately inform an adult if I see something that worries me, or I know is inappropriate.
- ✓ I will keep my username and password secure; this includes not sharing it with others.
- ✓ I understand what personal information is and will never share my own or others' personal information such as phone numbers, home addresses and names.
- ✓ I will always use my own username and password to access the school network and subscription services such as Purple Mash.
- ✓ In order to help keep me and others safe, I know that the school checks my files and the online sites I visit. They will contact my parents/carers if an adult at school is concerned about me.
- ✓ I will respect computing equipment and will immediately notify an adult if I notice something isn't working correctly or is damaged.
- ✓ I will use all communication tools such as email and blogs carefully. I will notify an adult immediately if I notice that someone who isn't approved by the teacher is messaging.
- ✓ Before I share, post or reply to anything online, I will T.H.I.N.K.

  T = is it true?
  H = is it helpful?
  I = is it inspiring?
  N = is it necessary?
  K = is it kind?

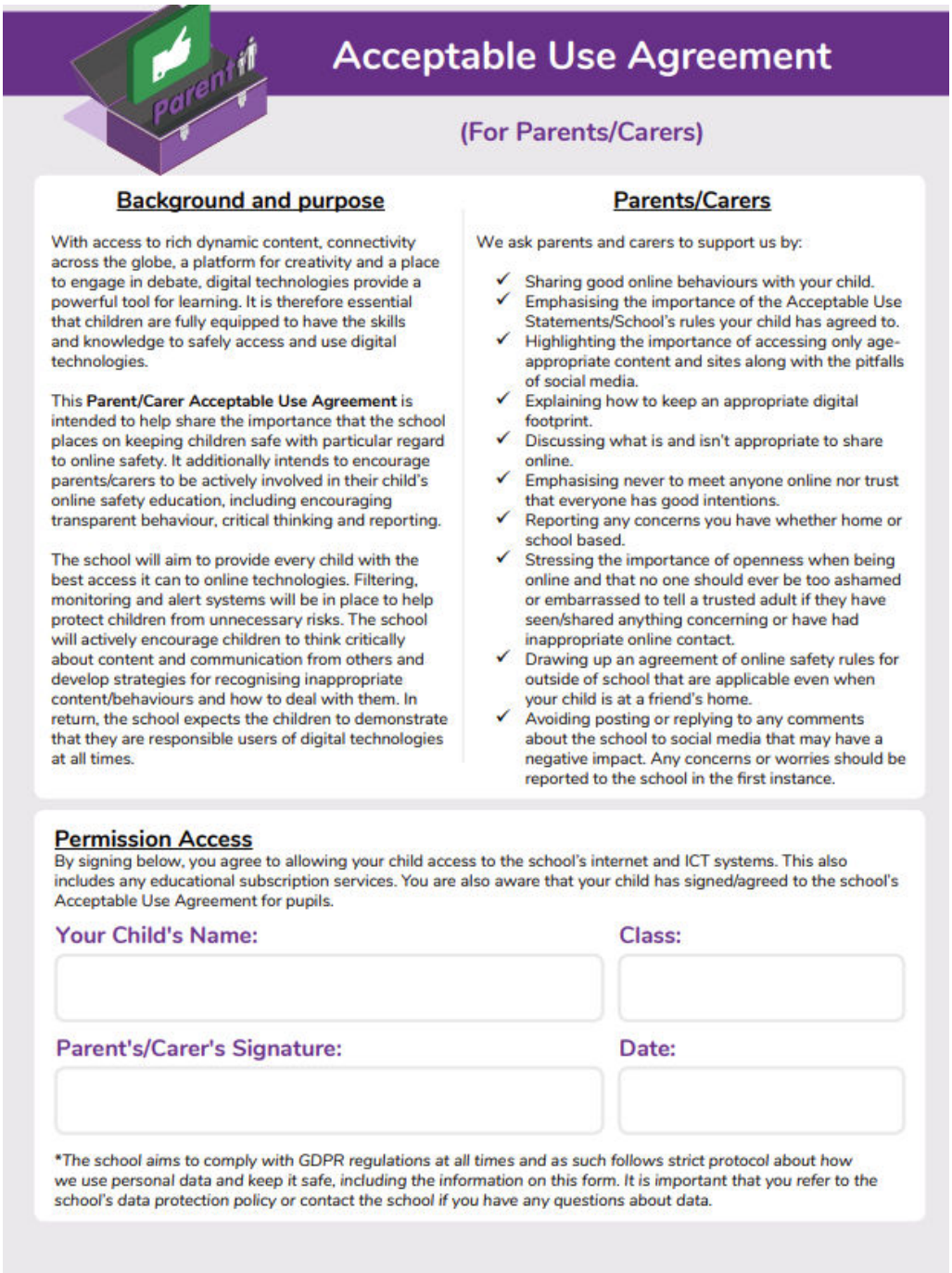
- ✓ I understand that if I behave negatively whilst using technology towards other members of the school, my parents/carers will be informed and appropriate actions taken.

I understand this agreement and know the consequences if I don't follow it.

My Name: **Class:**

Parent/Carer Signed: **Today's Date:**

Appendix 5: Acceptable use agreement for parents and carers



Acceptable Use Agreement

(For Parents/Carers)

Background and purpose

With access to rich dynamic content, connectivity across the globe, a platform for creativity and a place to engage in debate, digital technologies provide a powerful tool for learning. It is therefore essential that children are fully equipped to have the skills and knowledge to safely access and use digital technologies.

This **Parent/Carer Acceptable Use Agreement** is intended to help share the importance that the school places on keeping children safe with particular regard to online safety. It additionally intends to encourage parents/carers to be actively involved in their child's online safety education, including encouraging transparent behaviour, critical thinking and reporting.

The school will aim to provide every child with the best access it can to online technologies. Filtering, monitoring and alert systems will be in place to help protect children from unnecessary risks. The school will actively encourage children to think critically about content and communication from others and develop strategies for recognising inappropriate content/behaviours and how to deal with them. In return, the school expects the children to demonstrate that they are responsible users of digital technologies at all times.

Parents/Carers

We ask parents and carers to support us by:

- ✓ Sharing good online behaviours with your child.
- ✓ Emphasising the importance of the Acceptable Use Statements/School's rules your child has agreed to.
- ✓ Highlighting the importance of accessing only age-appropriate content and sites along with the pitfalls of social media.
- ✓ Explaining how to keep an appropriate digital footprint.
- ✓ Discussing what is and isn't appropriate to share online.
- ✓ Emphasising never to meet anyone online nor trust that everyone has good intentions.
- ✓ Reporting any concerns you have whether home or school based.
- ✓ Stressing the importance of openness when being online and that no one should ever be too ashamed or embarrassed to tell a trusted adult if they have seen/shared anything concerning or have had inappropriate online contact.
- ✓ Drawing up an agreement of online safety rules for outside of school that are applicable even when your child is at a friend's home.
- ✓ Avoiding posting or replying to any comments about the school to social media that may have a negative impact. Any concerns or worries should be reported to the school in the first instance.

Permission Access

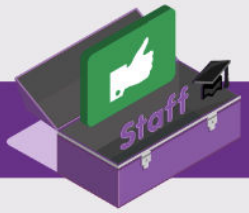
By signing below, you agree to allowing your child access to the school's internet and ICT systems. This also includes any educational subscription services. You are also aware that your child has signed/agreed to the school's Acceptable Use Agreement for pupils.

Your Child's Name: **Class:**

Parent's/Carer's Signature: **Date:**

**The school aims to comply with GDPR regulations at all times and as such follows strict protocol about how we use personal data and keep it safe, including the information on this form. It is important that you refer to the school's data protection policy or contact the school if you have any questions about data.*

Appendix 6: Acceptable use agreement for staff and governors



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Acceptable Use Agreement

(Staff and Governor)

Background and purpose

With access to rich dynamic content, connectivity across the globe, a platform for creativity and a place to engage in debate, digital technologies provide a powerful tool for learning. Digital technologies give staff opportunities to enhance children's learning in their care and enable staff to become more efficient in their work. The very nature of digital technologies means that they should be used with care and particular attention given to demonstrating appropriate behaviours and avoidance of misuse at all times.

Professional integrity and strong moral purpose must be upheld at all times by staff. It is the duty of all staff members to ensure that children in their care get the very best start to the world of digital technology. This should include provision of a rich, robust online safety education for the children with clear reporting procedures for infringements to safeguarding. Having a transparent approach to using digital technology is a must. Additionally, staff should develop critical thinking in their children, along with strategies for avoiding unnecessary harm and strategies for dealing with online safety infringements.

The school's internet, network and ICT systems and subscriptions to services should be used with the utmost professionalism at all times. The school will aim to provide its staff with secure systems which will have filtering, monitoring and virus protection included. Anyone with access to the systems should be aware that their use of the systems is monitored, and this can be used to form evidence should any suspected infringements occur.

Acceptable Use Agreement

By signing this agreement, you will have access to the school's systems and acknowledge that you agree to all the statements below. Additionally, that you have read and understand school policies which have a bearing on this agreement.

- I will demonstrate the value of the use of digital technologies in improving the outcomes for children in my care.
- I will educate children in my care about the safe use of digital technologies, acting on any online safety issues in accordance with the school's policies.
- I understand my use of the school's ICT systems/networks and internet are monitored.
- I recognise that whether within school or out of school, I must abide by the rules/statements set out in this document when using systems, accessing/transferring data that relate to the school or impact on my role within the school and wider community.
- I know what GDPR is and how this has a bearing on how I access, share, store and create data.
- Any data that I have access to away from school premises must be kept secure and used with specific purpose. As outlined in the school's data protection policy, it is my responsibility to ensure when accessing data remotely that I take every bit of reasonable care to ensure the integrity and security of the data is maintained.
- I understand that I am fully responsible for my behaviours both in and out of school and as such recognise that my digital communications, subscriptions and content I access can have a bearing on my professional role.
- I recognise that my social media activity can have a damaging impact on the school and children in my care at school if I fail to uphold my professional integrity at all times whilst using it.
- If I am contributing to the school's social media account(s) or website(s) I will follow all guidelines given to me, with particular care given to what images/video imagery and details can be uploaded.
- I will never upload images/video imagery of staff/pupils or other stakeholders to my personal social media accounts unless there is significant reason to and that permission has been granted by the headteacher in writing for each occurrence.
- I will inform the school at the earliest opportunity of any infringement both on and off site by myself. Furthermore, if I am concerned about others' behaviour/conduct, I will notify the school at the earliest opportunity.
- I will never deliberately access, upload or download illegal, inflammatory, obscene or inappropriate content that may cause harm or upset to others.
- I will never download or install software unless permission has been given by the appropriate contact at school.
- I shall keep all usernames and passwords safe and never share them. All passwords should be changed regularly.
- I will never leave equipment unattended which could leave data and information vulnerable; this extends to accessing data/ services/content remotely.
- Any personal devices I own shall not be used to access school systems/data/services/content remotely unless I have adequate virus protection and permission from the school.
- I understand that mobile devices, including smart watches, shall not be used, during times of contact with children. These devices will be securely locked with adequate password protection on them should they be accessed by an unauthorised person.
- Any school trips/outings or activities that require a mobile phone/ camera will be provided by the school and any data collected on them will be used in accordance with school policies.
- At no point- will I use my own devices for capturing images/video or making contact with parents/carers.

Staff Name:	Signature:	Date:

Appendix 7: Acceptable use agreement for visitors and contactors

Acceptable Use Agreement for Visitors and Contractors

Introduction

As a visitor/contractor to St Wystan's School you must adhere to this agreement whilst on school site.

Agreement Statements

1. Any observations, incidents, or conversations taking place during my time in school will be kept confidential.

2. I understand that it is my responsibility to support the safeguarding of pupils and other staff. If I have any Child Protection or Safeguarding concerns, or if I am asked to do something, or see something I consider not best practice, I will report this to **Kara Lebihan (Headteacher) or Catherine Ralph (Deputy Headteacher)**

3. I will not store school-related data on personal devices, storage, or cloud platforms.

4. I will not access, attempt to access, store, or share any data if I do not have permission to do so.

5. I will not share any information about the school or members of its community, including verbally, electronically or via social media that I gain as a result of my visit in any way, or on any platform, except where relevant to the purpose of my visit and agreed in advance with the school.

6. I will not take photographs or videos whilst on site, unless the intent has been communicated to senior leaders and the purpose has been deemed appropriate and prior permission has been granted. (e.g. to take photos of equipment or buildings)

7. I will not use my phone outside of the School Office.

I understand that breach of this agreement may lead to appropriate immediate termination of any contracts and, when necessary, referral to other authorities.

Signed: Date:

Appendix 8: Glossary of cyber security terminology

These key terms will help you to understand the common forms of cyber-attack and the measures the school will put in place. They're from the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) glossary.

TERM	DEFINITION
Antivirus	Software designed to detect, stop and remove malicious software and viruses.
Breach	When your data, systems or networks are accessed or changed in a non-authorised way.
Cloud	Where you can store and access your resources (including data and software) via the internet, instead of locally on physical devices.
Cyber attack	An attempt to access, damage or disrupt your computer systems, networks or devices maliciously.
Cyber incident	Where the security of your system or service has been breached.
Cyber security	The protection of your devices, services and networks (and the information they contain) from theft or damage.
Download attack	Where malicious software or a virus is downloaded unintentionally onto a device without the user's knowledge or consent.
Firewall	Hardware or software that uses a defined rule set to constrain network traffic – this is to prevent unauthorised access to or from a network.
Hacker	Someone with some computer skills who uses them to break into computers, systems and networks.
Malware	Malicious software. This includes viruses, trojans or any code or content that can adversely impact individuals or organisations.
Patching	Updating firmware or software to improve security and/or enhance functionality.
Pentest	Short for penetration test. This is an authorised test of a computer network or system to look for security weaknesses.
Pharming	An attack on your computer network that means users are redirected to a wrong or illegitimate website even if they type in the right website address.
Phishing	Untargeted, mass emails sent to many people asking for sensitive information (such as bank details) or encouraging them to visit a fake website.
Ransomware	Malicious software that stops you from using your data or systems until you make a payment.
Social engineering	Manipulating people into giving information or carrying out specific actions that an attacker can use.
Spear-phishing	A more targeted form of phishing where an email is designed to look like it's from a person the recipient knows and/or trusts.
Trojan	A type of malware/virus designed to look like legitimate software that can be used to hack a victim's computer.
Two-factor/multi-factor authentication	Using 2 or more different components to verify a user's identity.
Virus	Programmes designed to self-replicate and infect legitimate software programs or systems.

Virtual private network (VPN)	An encrypted network which allows remote users to connect securely.
Whaling	Highly- targeted phishing attacks (where emails are made to look legitimate) aimed at senior people in an organisation.

This policy will also be reviewed promptly following updates to statutory guidance, after any serious ICT or cyber security incident, or changes to school technology infrastructure. The governing body will ensure that monitoring and filtering systems remain effective and proportionate, in line with DfE guidance.

Owner	Headteacher		
Date Reviewed	28th February 2026		
Date of Next Review	27th February 2028		
Governing Body Approval	**Yes**	Signed/Dated	
Website/App	Yes	ISI	No
Staff Handbook	**Yes**	Parent Handbook	Yes