

ICT Acceptable Use Policy

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a high level of e-safety for children, young people and staff using ICT whilst also facilitating a rich learning environment: it details the actions and behaviours that are required in order to maintain an e-safe environment.

It is vital that everyone understands the importance of maintaining e-safety, which should always be the over-riding consideration when decisions are taken relating to any aspect of ICT, portable electronic devices or the Internet. Regulation alone will not achieve an e-safe environment but technical restrictions and tools provide an important means by which e-safety can be encouraged and monitored within schools and youth projects. Underpinning the policy is the belief that users are most likely to remain e-safe when they are appropriately educated about the threats that ICT and the Internet can pose.

Parents and Teachers should discuss the following points with the children (at an age-appropriate level) to develop their awareness and understanding.

1. **These rules apply to all equipment.** I know that these rules will apply to me at all times when I am using either provided ICT equipment in school or at home, or my own ICT equipment within school, such as computers, cameras, scanners, software and networks.
2. **Take care when using equipment.** I will take care when I am using all ICT equipment. I will not deliberately or recklessly break or damage any ICT equipment provided to me and if anything gets broken then I will report it straight away.
3. **Ask before using your own ICT equipment.** I will not bring my own ICT equipment with me unless I have been given permission by a designated member of staff. If I am allowed to bring my own ICT equipment then I will obey all the extra rules I will be given about how I can use it.
4. **Keep passwords safe.** I will always log on using my own user-name and password. I will not tell my login details to anybody else. I know that I will be responsible for everything that is done using my login details. If I think that somebody else knows and has used my login details then I will report it straight away so that my login details can be changed.
5. **Nothing is secret.** I realise that my use of both my own and provided ICT equipment will be monitored and that everything I do may be recorded whilst used on a Department network. I agree that I have no right to privacy and I agree to being monitored and recorded at all times. I realise that the results of this monitoring may be shared with other people if I break any of the rules or if my actions are of a criminal nature.
6. **Keep personal information safe.** I will not disclose any of my personal details to other people, or display any personal details on websites. (Personal details include telephone numbers, addresses

and all types of personal financial information.) I agree that I will never pass on the personal details of another person without that person's permission.

7. **Understanding copyright.** If I am downloading music, video or images, I will check with staff that it is legal and copyright free. I understand that music and video files are often put on the Internet illegally and that by using those files I will be breaking the law. I will not distribute works protected by intellectual property rights and will respect the rights, privacy and property of others.
8. **Educational uses only.** My use of ICT equipment will only be for educational uses, although limited personal use is permitted provided that this is not done during normal working time and does not contravene any of the other rules in this document.
9. **No hacking.** I will not try to access any websites, services, files or other resources that are blocked or which I am not allowed to try to access.
10. **Unacceptable or inappropriate material.** I agree that I will not try to view, send, upload or download material that is unacceptable or inappropriate for viewing. If I accidentally see any unacceptable or inappropriate material then I will immediately close (but not delete, in the case of emails) the material and tell a member of staff. I know I will not be held responsible if I view unacceptable or inappropriate material by accident and I realise that by reporting this I will help to improve the e-safety of my school/youth project. If I am in any doubt about the suitability of any material, or if any doubts are raised, then I will not (re)access the material. I will not access material that has been rated as unacceptable or inappropriate.
11. **Be polite.** Proper conduct and courtesy must be maintained at all times while using ICT as in any other form of communication. I agree that I will not harass, intimidate, bully, insult or attack others via email or any other means. The use of strong language, swearing or aggressive behaviour is not acceptable. I will be polite at all times.
12. **Friends on Social Networking Sites.** School staff (using personal profiles) and students (excepting family members, at your own risk) should not be friends on social networking websites.
13. **Commercial activities.** I will not engage in any commercial activities for personal financial gain, political purposes or advertising.
14. **Disrepute.** I will not bring the school or Department into disrepute or risk of litigation.

As well as the rules that you have agreed to follow there are also some extra guidelines that will help to keep you safe online:

- Be very careful when you get emails or messages from people who you do not know. If you get unknown messages or emails these should usually be deleted. If however they cause offence, then don't keep them to yourself. Report this to a member of staff/line manager.

- You should not meet anybody who you only know from the Internet or by email. People who send you messages on the Internet may not be who they say they are. Always share a request to meet.
- Remember that everything you do on the Internet leaves a “digital footprint”. If you post a silly picture of yourself or of somebody else on the Internet then it may be copied, changed and sent to other people far beyond your control and for a long time into the future.
- If you are not sure if something is unacceptable or inappropriate for viewing or sharing in your school/college/youth project then here is some useful advice. If a parent or teacher/youth worker/line manager tells you that it is unacceptable or inappropriate then you must not view or share it. If you are unsure then seek advice.
- Be very careful about discussing any aspect of the school/college/youth project community on external websites as this may lead to accusations of inappropriate behaviour that could result in result in a disciplinary procedure.
- Be especially careful when using social networking websites such as Facebook, Bebo and My Space at home (they are not currently allowed in schools) because these websites make it easy for people to pretend to be somebody else. Most social networking sites have age restrictions for example Facebook is set at 13, Bebo, 13 and MySpace 14. You should not access sites if you are under that age restriction. Always set your privacy settings so that only your friends can see your profile and your wall.
- Reporting abuse. Many websites will show the report abuse symbol that takes you to the CEOP site. You should familiarise yourself with the symbol and how to access help if you ever feel threatened online.