



**St Nicholas Catholic High School
ICT and internet acceptable use
policy**

Version Control

Current version	Previous version	Summary of changes made
2023	N/A	New Policy, replaces computer resources policy (staff only)

Policy Impact Statement	
Policy: ICT and Acceptable Use Policy	
This Policy has been implemented:	
Fully	Yes
Partially	
Occasionally	
Not at all (give reasons why)	
What revisions need to be made:	
To the Policy?	See Version Control Above
To its implementation?	

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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 students, staff (including the senior leadership team), governors, volunteers and visitors. It supports teaching and learning, and the pastoral and administrative functions of the school.

However, 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, students, parents 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 students safe and effective internet and ICT use

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

Breaches of this policy may be dealt with under our behaviour policy for students and the code of conduct and disciplinary policies for staff.

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 2022](#)
- [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](#)
- UKCIS 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](#)

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 which 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, students, 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 4 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

- Accessing, creating or participating in online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams
- 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 students, or other members of the school community
- Connecting any device to the school's ICT network 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 programme, 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

This is not an exhaustive list. The school reserves the right to amend this list at any time. The headteacher, or any other relevant member of staff, 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.

If access to a website is deemed essential but may otherwise be blocked or considered inappropriate, exceptions can be granted in the firewall for a specific user following prior authorisation by the Head teacher. An example could be staff researching topics that require access to websites which would otherwise be blocked. Each situation will be reviewed on case by case basis. The relevant blocks would be reinstated once the access is no longer needed.

4.2 Sanctions

Students and staff who engage in any of the unacceptable activity listed above may face disciplinary action in line with the school's policies on behaviour, staff discipline and code of conduct. This may include revoking permission to use the school's systems.

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

5.1 Access to school ICT facilities and materials

The school's IT consultant and technician 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.

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 the Ops Manager or SBM who will review the request and if approved, authorise the schools IT technician/consultant to grant access. Requests by email should be treated with caution in case an account has been compromised and the request is malicious.

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. 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 and students, 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 schools Data Protection co-ordinator immediately and follow our data breach procedure.

Staff must not give their personal phone number(s) to parents or students. Staff must use phone systems 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.

The school can record incoming and outgoing phone conversations on a per extension basis, If in place, callers **must** be made aware that the conversation is being recorded and the reasons for doing so. For example, "All calls to the school office are recorded to aid administrators".

Staff who would like to record a phone conversation for the following authorised reasons, should speak to the Ops manager or SBM. All non-standard recordings of phone conversations must be pre-approved and consent obtained from all parties involved.

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

- Calling parents to discuss behaviour or sanctions
- Taking advice from relevant professionals regarding safeguarding, special educational needs (SEN) assessments, etc.

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 headteacher 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 contact time/teaching hours/non-break time
- Does not constitute 'unacceptable use', as defined in section 4
- Takes place when no students are present
- Does not interfere with their jobs, or prevent other staff or students 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) subject to the same conditions for use above. Staff should also be aware their personal devices are subject to the internet monitoring and filtering when connected to the school network on site.

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 students and parents could see them.

Staff should take care to follow the school's guidelines on the use of social media in line with the social media policy and use of email (see section 5.1.1) to protect themselves online and avoid compromising their professional integrity.

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.

5.3 Remote access

School staff are allowed to access the school's ICT facilities and materials remotely using a virtual private network (VPN).

Staff laptops have, by default, an 'always-on' VPN solution installed. This creates a private, encrypted connection between the laptop and the school network whenever the laptop has internet access, allowing staff to access internal resources remotely just as if they were on-site. For those without a staff laptop, a Remote Desktop solution is available. This requires staff to use a Windows computer, open a Remote Desktop configuration file, and sign into a Remote Desktop session using school credentials. Once authenticated, staff are provided with a session on a school server in which they can run SIMS and access files stored on premises. The Remote Desktop configuration file can be requested from the IT Support team.

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 take such precautions as required against importing viruses or compromising system security.

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 the schools data protection policy.

5.4 School social media accounts

The school has an official Twitter account, managed by designated members of staff including the school chaplain, communications administrator and librarian. Staff members who have not been authorised to manage, or post to, the account, must not access, or attempt to access, the account.

Those who are authorised to manage, or post to, the account must make sure they abide by agreed guidelines for what may and may not be posted on school social media accounts.

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 and senior leaders, including the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) may filter, inspect, monitor, intercept, assess, record and disclose the above, to the extent permitted by law. Our school monitors and filters internet traffic with a Smoothwall firewall. Alerting is enabled to inform senior staff of (attempted) violations of the school's Acceptable Use Policy. Additionally, student computers are monitored and controlled with Senso. This monitors keystrokes, applications and internet traffic to ensure students remain safe and protected from harmful material. The school's DSL receives reports about inappropriate activity.

Parent/carers will be contacted if any serious concerns about a student's online use are identified.

The effectiveness of any filtering and monitoring will be regularly reviewed.

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

The governing board will regularly review the effectiveness of the school's monitoring and filtering systems.

6. Students

6.1 Access to ICT facilities

- Computers and equipment in school's classrooms and laptop trolleys are available to students only under the supervision of staff.
- Specialist ICT equipment, such as that used for music, or design and technology, must only be used under the supervision of staff.

- Students will be provided with an account linked to the school's virtual learning environment, which they can access from any device by using Office 365.
- Sixth-form students can use computers in the sixth form study areas and laptops in the library independently, for educational purposes only.

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 students 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 students, **and/or**
- Is identified in the school behaviour policy as a banned item for which a search can be carried out, **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)

Before a search, if the 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 students and staff. If the search is not urgent, they will seek advice from the headteacher / designated safeguarding lead.
 - Explain to the student 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 student's co-operation (if the students refuses to co-operate, you should proceed according to behaviour policy)
 - The authorised staff member should:
 - Inform the DSL (or deputy) of any searching incidents where they had reasonable grounds to suspect a student was in possession of a banned
 - item. A list of banned items is available in the school 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, 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 staff member in conjunction with the DSL / headteacher / other member of the senior leadership team 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 if there is a good reason to erase data or files from a device, staff members will consider if 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 reasonably practicable. If the material is not suspected to be evidence in relation to an offence, staff members may delete it if:

- They reasonably suspect that its continued existence is likely to cause harm to any person, **and/or**
- The student 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) guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

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

- The DfE's latest guidance on [searching, screening and confiscation](#)
- UKCIS guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)
- Our school behaviour and searching, screening and confiscation policies

Any complaints about searching for, or deleting, inappropriate images or files on students' 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 students, in line with the behaviour policy, if a student 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 students, 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

For sanctions, please refer to section 4.2 above and the school's behaviour policy.

7. Parents

7.1 Access to ICT facilities and materials

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

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

Where parents 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 students, and help them learn, how to communicate respectfully with, and about, others online.

Parents 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 to sign the agreement in appendix 1.

7.3 Communicating with parents about student activity

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

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

Parents 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, students, parents 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 students 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.

Student passwords are generated when they first join the school. They are then requested to set their own password in-line with the school's password complexity policy to ensure it is secure. Subsequent password management is performed by the student, with resets and changes available on request to the IT support team.

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. Windows updates are configured to be downloaded and installed automatically. Users may be requested to restart the computer periodically to facilitate the installation process. This can be postponed until convenient several times to minimise disruption. The school's antivirus software is supplied by Sophos. This is updated automatically without any user interaction. The Smoothwall firewall is configured to check for updates every evening. When available, updates are downloaded and installed 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.

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 the IT technician/consultant.

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 IT technician or the school business 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 may only use personal devices (including computers and USB drives) to access school data, work remotely, or take personal data (such as student information) out of school if they have been specifically authorised to do so by the headteacher.

Use of such personal devices will only be authorised if the devices have appropriate levels of security and encryption, as defined by the IT support team.

9. Protection from cyber attacks

Please see the glossary (appendix 4) to help you understand cyber security terminology.

The school will:

- Work with governors and the IT department 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
- Back up critical data– Data is stored on premises is backed up both on-site and off-site every day. This includes the MIS database and all server configurations as well as files. Some data is stored in Microsoft OneDrive and SharePoint. This cloud infrastructure includes high levels of redundancy natively, but key documents are also backed up to an additional location to ensure they are not lost in the event of a catastrophic failure of Microsoft infrastructure.
- Delegate specific responsibility for maintaining the security of our management information system (MIS) to our cloud-based provider/ IT support team.
- Make sure staff:
 - Access our network using a virtual private network (VPN) when working from home
 - Enable multi-factor authentication, where they can, on things like school email accounts
 - Use strong, unique passwords and store them securely
- Make sure ICT 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
- Develop, review and test 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. This plan will be reviewed and tested annually and after a significant event has occurred, using the NCSC's '[Exercise in a Box](#)'
- Work with our Local Authority to see what it can offer the school regarding cyber security, such as advice on which service providers to use or assistance with procurement

10. Internet access

The school's wireless internet connection is secure. Access to the school's wireless network is available throughout indoor (and some outdoor) areas of the site. Several wireless network names (SSIDs) can be detected:

- **BOYD:** This is the network that members of staff should connect their personal devices to, such as their mobile phones and non-school laptops or tablets. Access is granted upon supplying the same username and password that is required to log on to school computers. Some students, such as those in sixth form or with special circumstances, can also connect to this network.
- **Curriculum:** This is the network to which only school-provided devices, such as staff and student laptops, will automatically connect. No authentication is required from the user.
- **St Nicholas Guest:** Authorised guests may connect to this network after being supplied with a code. Access codes can be requested from the ICT Technician. Codes will expire after a defined period, so access requests should include the period of time the guest is expected to be on-site.

- Chromebooks: This network provides internet access to the school's Chromebooks and cannot be accessed by other devices.
- SNCHS IoT: This network supplies internet access to various devices around the school, such as displays and sensors, and cannot be accessed by other devices.

The internet traffic of all wireless devices is filtered and monitored by the school's firewall, Smoothwall. Staff and students have different filtering which is applied according to their usernames. All web requests are logged and alerting is in place to inform senior staff of inappropriate use/misconduct.

10.2 Parents and visitors

Parents 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 are working with the school in an official capacity (e.g. as a volunteer or as a member of the PTFA)
- Visitors/contractors need to access the school's WiFi 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)

Staff must not give the WiFi password to anyone who is not authorised to have it. Doing so could result in disciplinary action.

11. Monitoring and review

The headteacher, ICT support team and SBM monitor the implementation of this policy, including ensuring it is updated to reflect the needs and circumstances of the school.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years. The governing board is responsible for reviewing and approving this policy.

12. Related policies

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

- Social media
- Child protection and safeguarding
- Behaviour
- Staff disciplinary
- Data protection
- Remote education
- Mobile phone usage
- Searching, screening and confiscation

Appendix 1: Acceptable use of the internet: agreement for parents and carers

Acceptable use of the internet: agreement for parents and carers

Online channels are an important way for parents/carers to communicate with, or about, our school.

The school uses the following channels:

- Our official twitter page
- Email/text groups for parents (for school announcements and information)
- Edulink
- ParentPay
- Our virtual learning platform

Parents/carers also set up independent channels to help them stay on top of what's happening in their child's class. For example, class/year Facebook groups, email groups, or chats (through apps such as WhatsApp).

When communicating with the school via official communication channels, or using private/independent channels to talk about the school, I will:

- Be respectful towards members of staff, and the school, at all times
- Be respectful of other parents/carers and children
- Direct any complaints or concerns through the school's official channels, so they can be dealt with in line with the school's complaints procedure

I will not:

- Use private groups, the school's Twitter page, or personal social media to complain about or criticise members of staff. This is not constructive and the school can't improve or address issues unless they are raised in an appropriate way
- Use private groups, the school's Twitter page, or personal social media to complain about, or try to resolve, a behaviour issue involving other students. I will contact the school and speak to the appropriate member of staff if I'm aware of a specific behaviour issue or incident
- Upload or share photos or videos on social media of any child other than my own, unless I have the permission of the other children's parents/carers

Appendix 2: Acceptable use agreement for students

Acceptable use of the school's ICT facilities and internet: agreement for students and parents/carers

Name of student:

When using the school's ICT facilities and accessing the internet in school, I will not:

- Use them for a non-educational purpose
- Use them without a teacher being present, or without a teacher's permission
- Use them to break school rules
- Access any inappropriate websites
- Access social networking sites (unless my teacher has expressly allowed this as part of a learning activity)
- Use chat rooms
- Open any attachments in emails, or follow any links in emails, without first checking with a teacher
- Use any inappropriate language when communicating online, including in emails
- Share any semi-nude or nude images, videos or livestreams, even if I have the consent of the person or people in the photo/video
- Share my password with others or log in to the school's network using someone else's details
- Bully other people

I understand that the school will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the school's ICT facilities and systems.

I will immediately let a teacher or other member of staff know if I find any material which might upset, distress or harm me or others.

I will always use the school's ICT systems and internet responsibly.

I understand that the school can discipline me if I do certain unacceptable things online, even if I'm not in school when I do them.

Signed (student):

Date:

Parent/carer agreement: I agree that my child can use the school's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of school staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for students using the school's ICT systems and internet, and for using personal electronic devices in school, and will make sure my child understands these.

Signed (parent/carer):

Date:

Appendix 3: Acceptable use agreement for staff, governors, volunteers and visitors

Acceptable use of the school's ICT facilities and the internet: agreement for staff, governors, volunteers and visitors

Name of staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor:

When using the school's ICT facilities and accessing the internet in school, or outside school on a work device, I will not:

- Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal or pornographic nature (or create, share, link to or send such material)
- Use them in any way which could harm the school's reputation
- Access social networking sites or chat rooms
- Use any improper language when communicating online, including in emails or other messaging services
- Install any unauthorised software, or connect unauthorised hardware or devices to the school's network
- Share my password with others or log in to the school's network using someone else's details
- Share confidential information about the school, its students or staff, or other members of the community
- Access, modify or share data I'm not authorised to access, modify or share
- Promote private businesses, unless that business is directly related to the school

I understand that the school will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the school's ICT facilities and systems.

I will take all reasonable steps to ensure that work devices are secure and password-protected when using them outside school, and keep all data securely stored in accordance with this policy and the school's data protection policy.

I will let the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and ICT technician know if a student informs me they have found any material which might upset, distress or harm them or others, and will also do so if I encounter any such material.

I will always use the school's ICT systems and internet responsibly, and ensure that students in my care do so too.

Signed (staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor):

Date:

Appendix 4: 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.

TERM	DEFINITION
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.