



## Gosforth Park First School

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Computing and Online Safety Policy

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# Computing

Confidence	Creativity	Community	Challenge
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## Online Safety Policy

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## 1. Development/Monitoring/Review of this Policy

This online safety policy has been developed by a working group/ made up of:

- Headteacher and senior leaders
- Online Safety Coordinator
- Staff – including teachers, support staff
- Governors

### Schedule for Development/Monitoring/Review

This online safety policy was approved by the Board of: Governing Body	04/07/22
The implementation of this online safety policy will be monitored by the:	Headteacher and senior leadership team.
Monitoring will take place at regular intervals:	Once a year
The Governing Body will receive a report on the implementation of the online safety policy generated by the Online Safety Coordinator (which will include anonymous details of online safety incidents) at regular intervals:	Once a year
The online safety policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly in the light of any significant new developments in the use of the technologies, new threats to online safety or incidents that have taken place. The next anticipated review date will be: 04/07/23	Once a year
Should serious online safety incidents take place, the following external persons/agencies may be informed:	LA Safeguarding Officer, LADO, Police, Children's Social Services

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- Logs of reported incidents
- Monitoring logs of internet activity (including sites visited)/filtering
- Internal monitoring data for network activity
- Surveys/questionnaires of
  - students/pupils
  - parents/carers
  - staff

### Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all members of the Gosforth Park First School community (including staff, students/pupils, volunteers, parents/carers, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of school digital technology systems, both in and out of the school.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers Headteachers to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of students when they are off the school site and empowers members of staff to impose disciplinary penalties for inappropriate behaviour. This is pertinent to incidents of online-bullying or other



online safety incidents covered by this policy, which may take place outside of the school, but is linked to membership of the school. The 2011 Education Act increased these powers with regard to the searching for and of electronic devices and the deletion of data. In the case of both acts, action can only be taken over issues covered by the published Behaviour Policy.

The school will deal with such incidents within this policy and associated behaviour and anti-bullying policies and will, where known, inform parents/carers of incidents of inappropriate online safety behaviour that take place out of school.

### **The 4 key categories of risk**

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

- **Content** – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, radicalisation and extremism
- **Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as peer-to-peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes
- **Conduct** – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, such as making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography), sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
- **Commerce** – risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams

## **2. Roles and Responsibilities**

The following section outlines the online safety roles and responsibilities of individuals and groups within the school.

### **Governors**

Governors are responsible for the approval of the online safety policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy. This will be carried out by the Governors receiving regular information about online safety incidents and monitoring reports. A member of the Governing Body has taken on the role of Online Safety Governor. The role of the Online Safety Governor will include:

- regular meetings with the Online Safety Co-ordinator
- attendance at Online Safety Group meetings
- regular monitoring of online safety incident logs
- regular monitoring of filtering/change control logs
- reporting to relevant Governors



## Headteacher and Senior Leaders

- The Headteacher has a duty of care for ensuring the safety (including online safety) of members of the school community, though the day to day responsibility for online safety will be delegated to the Online Safety Lead.
- The Headteacher and (at least) another member of the Senior Leadership Team should be aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safety allegation being made against a member of staff. (see flow chart on dealing with online safety incidents – included in a later section – “Responding to incidents of misuse” and relevant *Local Authority/MAT/other relevant body* disciplinary procedures).
- The Headteacher and Senior Leaders are responsible for ensuring that the Online Safety Lead and other relevant staff receive suitable training to enable them to carry out their online safety roles and to train other colleagues, as relevant.
- The Headteacher and Senior Leaders will ensure that there is a system in place to allow for monitoring and support of those in school who carry out the internal online safety monitoring role. This is to provide a safety net and also support to those colleagues who take on important monitoring roles.
- The Senior Leadership Team will receive regular monitoring reports from the Online Safety Lead.

## Online Safety Lead

- leads the Online Safety Group
- takes day to day responsibility for online safety issues and has a leading role in establishing and reviewing the school online safety policies/documents
- ensures that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident taking place.
- provides training and advice for staff
- liaises with the Local Authority and schools in the GST
- liaises with Local Authority school technical staff
- receives reports of online safety incidents and creates a log of incidents to inform future online safety developments,
- meets regularly with Online Safety Governor to discuss current issues, review incident logs and filtering/change control logs
- attends relevant meetings of Governors
- reports regularly to Senior Leadership Team

## Network Manager/Technical staff

Those with technical responsibilities are responsible for ensuring:

- that the school’s technical infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack



- that the school meets required online safety technical requirements and any Local Authority online safety policy/guidance that may apply.
- that users may only access the networks and devices through a properly enforced password protection policy
- *the filtering policy is applied and updated on a regular basis and that its implementation is not the sole responsibility of any single person*
- that they keep up to date with online safety technical information in order to effectively carry out their online safety role and to inform and update others as relevant
- that the use of the networks/internet/digital technologies is regularly monitored in order that any misuse/attempted misuse can be reported to the Headteacher and Senior Leaders; Online Safety Lead for investigation/action/sanction.
- *that monitoring software/systems are implemented and updated as agreed in school policies*

The leadership and relevant staff are:

- Aware of all internet monitoring and filtering systems
- Manage them effectively
- Know how to escalate concerns when they are identified

We will do all we reasonably can to limit children's exposure to online risks through school provided IT systems and will ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place.

School uses Smoothwall web filtering to block out any unwanted websites. It is used as it is the Corporate web filtering system across Newcastle City Council. Smoothwall allows school to investigate which websites were accessed by a particular user when a personal log in is used. All staff are provided with personal log ins. Generic class logins are used by the children. Children's internet use is always supervised by a member of staff. School has decided that due to the age of the children and supervision during internet access that personal log ins are not required. To ensure all devices can be tracked, iPads and computers are numbered so staff can track children using individual devices. Wraparound iPads are also numbered so staff can track the date, time, device and child.





## Appropriate Filtering and Monitoring

The leadership and relevant staff are:

1. Aware of all internet monitoring and filtering systems
2. Manage them effectively
3. Know how to escalate concerns when they are identified
4. We will do all we reasonably can to limit children's exposure to online risks through school provided IT systems. We will ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place and are informed in part, by the risk assessment required by the Prevent Duty.

Gosforth Park First School uses Smoothwall by Qoria for both its filtering and monitoring. The filtering system enables a safer, digital learning environment with real-time, content-aware and granular control filtering.

This system has the following benefits:

- While other filters are real-time some of the time, Smoothwall is real-time, ALL of the time. That means there is never any delay between dangerous content going live and our Filter's ability to block it.
  - Doesn't rely on blocklists alone. All content is textually analysed as it streams to the user so over blocking is eliminated. Students enjoy the richest and safest online learning.
  - Includes granular controls which mean we can easily choose who sees what, where and when, to give students maximum protection and age and location appropriate online experiences.
  - Includes [hybrid](#) deployment, which means we benefit from all of the above safety features regardless of whether our devices are in school or remote.
- In 2023 the school has also purchased a monitoring system through Smoothwall. This system helps detect online risks before they become real-life incidents. It captures user activity as it happens, automatically sending potential risks through to the monitor portal. This monitoring system captures activity which may indicate a risk, even outside of the regular web browser such as in word, powerpoint or messaging. The system is monitored 24/7 by an in-house team who review any concerns and contact SLT by phone if an urgent risk is identified. Alerts are sent in real-time by phone, email and stored in the portal for SLT to review.

## Teaching and Support Staff

Are responsible for ensuring that:

- they have an up to date awareness of online safety matters and of the current school online safety policy and practices
- they have read, understood and signed the staff acceptable use policy/agreement
- they report any suspected misuse or problem to the Headteacher/Senior Leader/Online Safety Lead for investigation/action/sanction



- all digital communications with students/pupils/parents/carers should be on a professional level and only carried out using official school systems
- online safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other activities
- students/pupils understand and follow the Online Safety Policy and acceptable use policies
- students/pupils have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations
- they monitor the use of digital technologies, mobile devices, cameras, etc. in lessons and other school activities (where allowed) and implement current policies with regard to these devices
- in lessons where internet use is pre-planned students/pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Should be trained in online safety issues and be aware of the potential for serious child protection/safeguarding issues to arise from:

- sharing of personal data
- access to illegal/inappropriate materials
- inappropriate on-line contact with adults/strangers
- potential or actual incidents of grooming
- online-bullying

### **Students/Pupils:**

- are responsible for using the school digital technology systems in accordance with the student/pupil acceptable use agreement
- have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations
- need to understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and know how to do so
- will be expected to know and understand policies on the use of mobile devices and digital cameras. They should also know and understand policies on the taking/use of images and on online-bullying.
- should understand the importance of adopting good online safety practice when using digital technologies out of school and realise that the school's online safety policy covers their actions out of school, if related to their membership of the school

### **Parents/carers**

Parents/carers play a crucial role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use the internet/mobile





devices in an appropriate way. The school will take every opportunity to help parents understand these issues through parents' evenings, newsletters, letters, website, social media and information about national/local online safety campaigns/literature. Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the school in promoting good online safety practice and to follow guidelines on the appropriate use of:

- digital and video images taken at school events
- access to parents' sections of the website and on-line student/pupil records

### **Community Users**

Community Users who access school systems or programmes as part of the wider school provision will be expected to sign a Community User AUA before being provided with access to school systems.

## **3. Policy Statements**

### **Education – Students/Pupils**

Whilst regulation and technical solutions are very important, their use must be balanced by educating students to take a responsible approach. The education of students/pupils in online safety/digital literacy is therefore an essential part of the school's online safety provision. Children and young people need the help and support of the school to recognise and avoid online safety risks and build their resilience.

Online safety should be a focus in all areas of the curriculum and staff should reinforce online safety messages across the curriculum. The online safety curriculum should be broad, relevant and provide progression, with opportunities for creative activities and will be provided in the following ways:

- A planned online safety curriculum should be provided as part of Computing/PHSE/other lessons and should be regularly revisited
- Key online safety messages should be reinforced as part of a planned programme of assemblies and activities
- Students/pupils should be taught in all lessons to be critically aware of the materials/content they access on-line and be guided to validate the accuracy of information.
- Students/pupils should be supported in building resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making.
- Students/pupils should be helped to understand the need for the student/pupil acceptable use agreement and encouraged to adopt safe and responsible use both within and outside school/academy.
- Staff should act as good role models in their use of digital technologies, the internet and mobile devices
- in lessons where internet use is pre-planned, it is best practice that students/pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches.



- Where students/pupils are allowed to freely search the internet, staff should be vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites the young people visit.

It is accepted that from time to time, for good educational reasons, students may need to research topics (e.g. racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request that the Local Authority Technical Staff can temporarily remove those sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Any request to do so, should be auditable, with clear reasons for the need

### **Education – Parents/carers**

Many parents and carers have only a limited understanding of online safety risks and issues, yet they play an essential role in the education of their children and in the monitoring/regulation of the children's online behaviours. Parents may underestimate how often children and young people come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the internet and may be unsure about how to respond.

The school will therefore seek to provide information and awareness to parents and carers through:

- Curriculum activities
- Letters, newsletters, web site, Seesaw
- Parents/carers evenings/sessions
- High profile events/campaigns e.g. Safer Internet Day
- Reference to the relevant web sites/publications e.g. <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>, [www.saferinternet.org.uk/](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/), [swgfl.org.uk](http://www.swgfl.org.uk)

### **Education – The Wider Community**

The school will provide opportunities for local community groups/members of the community to gain from the school's online safety knowledge and experience. This may be offered through the following:

- Providing family learning courses in use of new digital technologies, digital literacy and online safety
- Online safety messages targeted towards grandparents and other relatives as well as parents.
- The school website will provide online safety information for the wider community
- Sharing their online safety expertise/good practice with other local schools
- Supporting community groups e.g. Early Years Settings, Childminders, youth/sports/voluntary groups to enhance their online safety provision

### **Education & Training – Staff/Volunteers**

It is essential that all staff receive online safety training and understand their responsibilities, as outlined in this policy. Training will be offered as follows:

- A planned programme of formal online safety training will be made available to staff. This will be regularly updated and reinforced. An audit of the online safety training needs of all staff will be carried out regularly.



- All new staff should receive online safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the school online safety policy and acceptable use agreements.
- It is expected that some staff may identify online safety as a training need within the performance management process.
- The Online Safety Lead (or other nominated person) will receive regular updates through attendance at external training events (e.g. from SWGfL/LA/other relevant organisations) and by reviewing guidance documents released by relevant organisations.
- This online safety policy and its updates will be presented to and discussed by staff in staff/team meetings/training sessions.
- The Online Safety Lead (or other nominated person) will provide advice/guidance/training to individuals as required.

### Artificial intelligence (AI)

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, pupils and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Bard.

Gosforth Park First School recognises that AI has many uses to help pupils learn, but may also have the potential to be used to bully others. For example, in the form of 'deepfakes', where AI is used to create images, audio or video hoaxes that look real.

We will treat any use of AI to bully pupils in line with our anti-bullying and/or behaviour policies.

Staff should be aware of the risks of using AI tools whilst they are still being developed and should carry out a risk assessment where new AI tools are being used by the school.

### Training – Governors

Governors should take part in online safety training/awareness sessions, with particular importance for those who are members of any group involved in technology/online safety/health and safety /safeguarding. This may be offered in a number of ways:

- Attendance at training provided by the Local Authority/MAT/National Governors Association/or other relevant organisation (e.g. SWGfL).
- Participation in school training/information sessions for staff or parents (this may include attendance at assemblies/lessons).

### Technical – infrastructure/equipment, filtering and monitoring

The school will be responsible for ensuring that the school infrastructure/network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible and that policies and procedures approved within this policy are implemented. It will also need to ensure that the relevant people named in the above sections will be effective in carrying out their



online safety responsibilities:

- School technical systems will be managed in ways that ensure that the school meets recommended technical requirements
- There will be regular reviews and audits of the safety and security of school technical systems
- Servers, wireless systems and cabling must be securely located and physical access restricted
- All users will have clearly defined access rights to school technical systems and devices.
- The LA is responsible for ensuring that software licence logs are accurate and up to date and that regular checks are made to reconcile the number of licences purchased against the number of software installations
- **Internet access is filtered for all users.** School uses Smoothwall web filtering to block out any unwanted websites. It is used as it is the Corporate web filtering system across Newcastle City Council. Smoothwall allows school to investigate which websites were accessed by a particular user when a personal log in is used. All staff are provided with personal log ins.
- Illegal content (child sexual abuse images) will be reported to the Internet Watch Foundation CAIC list. Content lists are regularly updated and internet use is logged and regularly monitored. There is a clear process in place to deal with requests for filtering changes.
- **Internet filtering/monitoring should ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet.**
- School technical staff regularly monitor and record the activity of users on the school technical systems and users are made aware of this in the acceptable use agreement.
- An appropriate system is in place for users to report any actual/potential technical incident/security breach to the relevant person, as agreed).
- Appropriate security measures are in place to protect the servers, firewalls, routers, wireless systems, work stations, mobile devices, etc. from accidental or malicious attempts which might threaten the security of the school systems and data. These are tested regularly. The school infrastructure and individual devices are protected by up to date virus software.
- An agreed policy is in place for the provision of temporary access of “guests” (e.g. trainee teachers, supply teachers, visitors) onto the school systems.
- An agreed policy is in place regarding the extent of personal use that users (staff/pupils) and their family members are allowed on school devices that may be used out of school.
- An agreed policy is in place that forbids staff from downloading executable files and installing programmes on school devices.
- An agreed policy is in place regarding the use of removable media (e.g. memory sticks/CDs/DVDs) by users on school devices. **Personal data cannot be sent over the internet or taken off the school site unless safely encrypted or otherwise secured.**



## Mobile Technologies

We recognise the specific risks that can be posed by mobile and smart technology, including mobile/smart phones, cameras and wearable technology. In accordance with KCSIE 2022 the school has appropriate mobile and smart technology, image use, online and acceptable use policies in place, which are shared and understood by all members of the community.

	School Devices		Personal Devices		
	School owned for single user	School owned for multiple users	Student owned	Staff owned	Visitor owned
Allowed in school	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Full network access	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Internet only	N/A	N/A	No	No	No
No network access	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes

Aspects that the school may wish to consider and be included in their online safety policy, mobile technologies policy or acceptable use agreements:

### School devices:

- School devices such as laptops and iPads will be allocated to member of staff as appropriate to their role. School pupil devices may be allocated to pupils on a needs basis for access from home in a situation where home learning is needed and this is deemed appropriate.e.g. school closure, public health outbreak
- These devices may be used in and out of school for school business and for personal use as long as personal use falls within school policies and is in line with Safeguarding and Staff Code of Conduct.
- Devices will be configured to access the school wifi when in range and the school network while on school site at a suitable level for the access required by the user (e.g. leadership, staff, pupil access.)
- Staff should not install their own APPs and should request APPs to be added (if needed) by the Computing Lead.





#### *Technical support*

- *Staff and parents need to be aware that when accessing Wifi outside of school, filtering of devices will depend upon their Wifi provider and will not be subject to the same levels as when connected to the school Wifi/network. Staff should not connect school devices to unsecured or guest Wifi outside of school. Where deemed necessary, staff may be provided with school devices with cellular data.*
- *Data Protection. All data stored on devices should be protected as outlined in the schools GDPR policies.*
- *When users leave the school all network access is withdrawn and devices are returned. Information or data that is required by the school is transferred to the school network and all other material is cleared from the device.*
- *Damage to school devices is the liability of the school. New staff are trained on the use of devices and expected protocols as and when they are issued.*
- *All staff sign the acceptable use agreement on appointment and annually in September.*

#### **Use of digital and video images**

The development of digital imaging technologies has created significant benefits to learning, allowing staff and students/pupils instant use of images that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet. However, staff, parents/carers and students/pupils need to be aware of the risks associated with publishing digital images on the internet. Such images may provide avenues for online-bullying to take place. Digital images may remain available on the internet forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term. It is common for employers to carry out internet searches for information about potential and existing employees. The school will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement policies to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm:

- When using digital images, staff should inform and educate students/pupils about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images. In particular they should recognise the risks attached to publishing their own images on the internet e.g. on social networking sites.
- Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of students/pupils are published on the school website/social media/local press

In accordance with guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office, parents/carers are welcome to take videos and digital images of their children at school events for their own personal use (as such use is not covered by the Data Protection Act). To respect everyone's privacy and in some cases protection, these images should not be published/made publicly available on social networking sites, nor should parents/carers comment on any activities involving other *students/pupils* in the digital/video images.

- Staff and volunteers are allowed to take digital/video images to support educational aims, but must follow school policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images. Those images should only be taken on school equipment; the personal equipment of staff should not be used for such purposes.
- Care should be taken when taking digital/video images that pupils are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.
- Pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission





- Photographs published on the website, or elsewhere that include students/pupils will be selected carefully and will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images.
- Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on a website or blog, particularly in association with photographs.
- Pupil's work can only be published with the permission of the student/pupil and parents or carers.

## Data Protection

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the current data protection legislation.

### The school must ensure that:

- it has a Data Protection Policy.
- it implements the data protection principles and is able to demonstrate that it does so through use of policies, notices and records.
- it has paid the appropriate fee Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and included details of the Data Protection Officer (DPO).
- it has appointed an appropriate Data Protection Officer (DPO) who has a high level of understanding of data protection law and is free from any conflict of interest.
- it has an 'information asset register' in place and knows exactly what personal data it holds, where this data is held, why and which member of staff has responsibility for managing it
- the information asset register records the lawful basis for processing personal data (including, where relevant, how consent was obtained and refreshed). Where special category data is processed, an additional lawful basis will have also been recorded
- it will hold only the minimum personal data necessary to enable it to perform its function and it will not hold it for longer than necessary for the purposes it was collected for. The school should develop and implement a 'retention policy' to ensure there are clear and understood policies and routines for the deletion and disposal of data to support this. personal data held must be accurate and up to date where this is necessary for the purpose it is processed for. Have systems in place to identify inaccuracies, such as asking parents to check emergency contact details at suitable intervals
- it provides staff, parents and volunteers with information about how the school looks after their data and what their rights are in a clear Privacy Notice.
- procedures must be in place to deal with the individual rights of the data subject, e.g. one of the 8 data subject rights applicable is that of Subject Access which enables an individual to see to have a copy of the personal data held about them (subject to certain exceptions which may apply).
- data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) are carried out where necessary. For example, to ensure protection of personal data when accessed using any remote access solutions, or entering into a relationship with a new supplier (this may also require ensuring that data processing clauses are included in the supply contract or as an addendum)



- IT system security is ensured and regularly checked. Patches and other security essential updates are applied promptly to protect the personal data on the systems. Administrative systems are securely ring fenced from systems accessible in the classroom/to learners
- it has undertaken appropriate due diligence and has required data processing clauses in contracts in place with any data processors where personal data is processed.
- it understands how to share data lawfully and safely with other relevant data controllers.
- it reports any relevant breaches to the Information Commissioner within 72hrs of becoming aware of the breach in accordance with UK data protection law. It also reports relevant breaches to the individuals affected as required by law. In order to do this, it has a policy for reporting, logging, managing, investigating and learning from information risk incidents.
- If a maintained school, it must have a Freedom of Information Policy which sets out how it will deal with FOI requests.
- all staff receive data protection training at induction and appropriate refresher training thereafter. Staff undertaking particular data protection functions, such as handling requests under the individual's rights, will receive training appropriate for their function as well as the core training provided to all staff.

**When personal data is stored on any mobile device or removable media the:**

- data must be encrypted and password protected.
- device must be password protected.
- device must be protected by up to date virus and malware checking software
- data must be securely deleted from the device, in line with school policy (below) once it has been transferred or its use is complete.

**Staff must ensure that they:**

- at all times take care to ensure the safe keeping of personal data, minimising the risk of its loss or misuse
- can recognise a possible breach, understand the need for urgency and know who to report it to within the school
- can help data subjects understand their rights and know how to handle a request whether verbal or written. Know who to pass it to in the school
- where personal data is stored or transferred on mobile or other devices (including USBs) these must be encrypted and password protected.
- will not transfer any school personal data to personal devices except as in line with school policy
- access personal data sources and records only on secure password protected computers and other devices, ensuring that they are properly "logged-off" at the end of any session in which they are using personal data



## 4. Communications

A wide range of rapidly developing communications technologies has the potential to enhance learning. The following table shows how the school currently considers the benefit of using these technologies for education outweighs their risks/disadvantages:

Communication Technologies		Staff and Other Adults				Students and Pupils			
		Allowed	Allowed at certain times	Allowed for selected staff	Not allowed	Allowed	Allowed at certain times	Allowed with staff permission	Not allowed
Mobile phones may be brought to the school			✓						✓
Use of mobile phones in lessons					✓				✓
Use of mobile phones in social time			✓						✓
Taking photos on mobile phones/cameras					✓				✓
Use of other mobile devices e.g. tablets, gaming devices					✓				✓
Use of personal email addresses in school, or on school network					✓				✓
Use of school email for personal emails					✓				✓
Use of messaging apps					✓				✓
Use of social media					✓				✓
Use of blogs					✓				✓

When using communication technologies, the school considers the following as good practice:



- The official *school* email service may be regarded as safe and secure and is monitored. Users should be aware that email communications are monitored. Staff should therefore use only the school email service to communicate with others when in school, or on school systems (e.g. by remote access).
- Users must immediately report, to the nominated person – in accordance with the school policy, the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication.
- Any digital communication between staff and pupils or parents/carers (email, social media, chat, blogs, VLE etc) must be professional in tone and content. These communications may only take place on official (monitored) school systems. Personal email addresses, text messaging or social media must not be used for these communications.
- Students/pupils should be taught about online safety issues, such as the risks attached to the sharing of personal details. They should also be taught strategies to deal with inappropriate communications and be reminded of the need to communicate appropriately when using digital technologies.
- Personal information should not be posted on the school website and only official email addresses should be used to identify members of staff.

### **Social Media - Protecting Professional Identity**

All schools and local authorities have a duty of care to provide a safe learning environment for pupils and staff. Schools and local authorities could be held responsible, indirectly for acts of their employees in the course of their employment. Staff members who harass, engage in online bullying, discriminate on the grounds of sex, race or disability or who defame a third party may render the school or local authority liable to the injured party. Reasonable steps to prevent predictable harm must be in place.

The school provides the following measures to ensure reasonable steps are in place to minimise risk of harm to pupils, staff and the school through:

- Ensuring that personal information is not published
- Training is provided including: acceptable use; social media risks; checking of settings; data protection; reporting issues.
- Clear reporting guidance, including responsibilities, procedures and sanctions
- Risk assessment, including legal risk

#### **School staff should ensure that:**

- No reference should be made in social media to pupils, parents/carers or school staff
- They do not engage in online discussion on personal matters relating to members of the school community
- Personal opinions should not be attributed to the school or local authority
- Security settings on personal social media profiles are regularly checked to minimise risk of loss of personal information



**When official school social media accounts are established there should be:**

- A process for approval by senior leaders
- Clear processes for the administration and monitoring of these accounts – involving at least two members of staff
- A code of behaviour for users of the accounts, including
- Systems for reporting and dealing with abuse and misuse
- Understanding of how incidents may be dealt with under school disciplinary procedures

**Personal Use:**

- Personal communications are those made via a personal social media accounts. In all cases, where a personal account is used which associates itself with the school or impacts on the school, it must be made clear that the member of staff is not communicating on behalf of the school with an appropriate disclaimer. Such personal communications are within the scope of this policy
- Personal communications which do not refer to or impact upon the school are outside the scope of this policy
- Where excessive personal use of social media in school is suspected, and considered to be interfering with relevant duties, disciplinary action may be taken
- The school permits reasonable and appropriate access to private social media sites

**Monitoring of Public Social Media:**

- As part of active social media engagement, it is considered good practice to pro-actively monitor the Internet for public postings about the school
- The school should effectively respond to social media comments made by others according to a defined policy or process
- The *school's* use of social media for professional purposes will be checked regularly by the senior risk officer to ensure compliance with the school policies.





## 5. Dealing with unsuitable/inappropriate activities

Some internet activity e.g. accessing child abuse images or distributing racist material is illegal and would obviously be banned from school and all other technical systems. Other activities e.g. cyber-bullying would be banned and could lead to criminal prosecution. There are however a range of activities which may, generally, be legal but would be inappropriate in a school context, either because of the age of the users or the nature of those activities.

The school believes that the activities referred to in the following section would be inappropriate in a school context and that users, as defined below, should not engage in these activities in/or outside the school when using school equipment or systems. The school policy restricts usage as follows:

User Actions		Acceptable	Acceptable at certain times	Acceptable for nominated users	Unacceptable	Unacceptable and illegal
Users shall not visit Internet sites, make, post, download, upload, data transfer, communicate or pass on, material, remarks, proposals or comments that contain or relate to:	Child sexual abuse images –The making, production or distribution of indecent images of children. Contrary to The Protection of Children Act 1978					X
	Grooming, incitement, arrangement or facilitation of sexual acts against children Contrary to the Sexual Offences Act 2003.					X
	Possession of an extreme pornographic image (grossly offensive, disgusting or otherwise of an obscene character) Contrary to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008					X
	Criminally racist material in UK – to stir up religious hatred (or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation) - contrary to the Public Order Act 1986					X
	Pornography				X	
	Promotion of any kind of discrimination				X	





threatening behaviour, including promotion of physical violence or mental harm				X	
Promotion of extremism or terrorism				X	
Any other information which may be offensive to colleagues or breaches the integrity of the ethos of the school or brings the school into disrepute				X	
Activities that might be classed as cyber-crime under the Computer Misuse Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gaining unauthorised access to school networks, data and files, through the use of computers/devices</li> <li>Creating or propagating computer viruses or other harmful files</li> <li>Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (e.g. financial / personal information, databases, computer / network access codes and passwords)</li> <li>Disable/Impair/Disrupt network functionality through the use of computers/devices</li> <li>Using penetration testing equipment (without relevant permission)</li> </ul>					X
Using systems, applications, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering or other safeguards employed by the school/academy				X	
Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (e.g. financial/personal information, databases, computer/network access codes and passwords)				X	
Unfair usage (downloading/uploading large files that hinders others in their use of the internet)				X	
Using school systems to run a private business				X	
Infringing copyright				X	
On-line gaming (educational)				X	
On-line gaming (non-educational)				X	
On-line gambling				X	
On-line shopping/commerce				X	
File sharing				X	



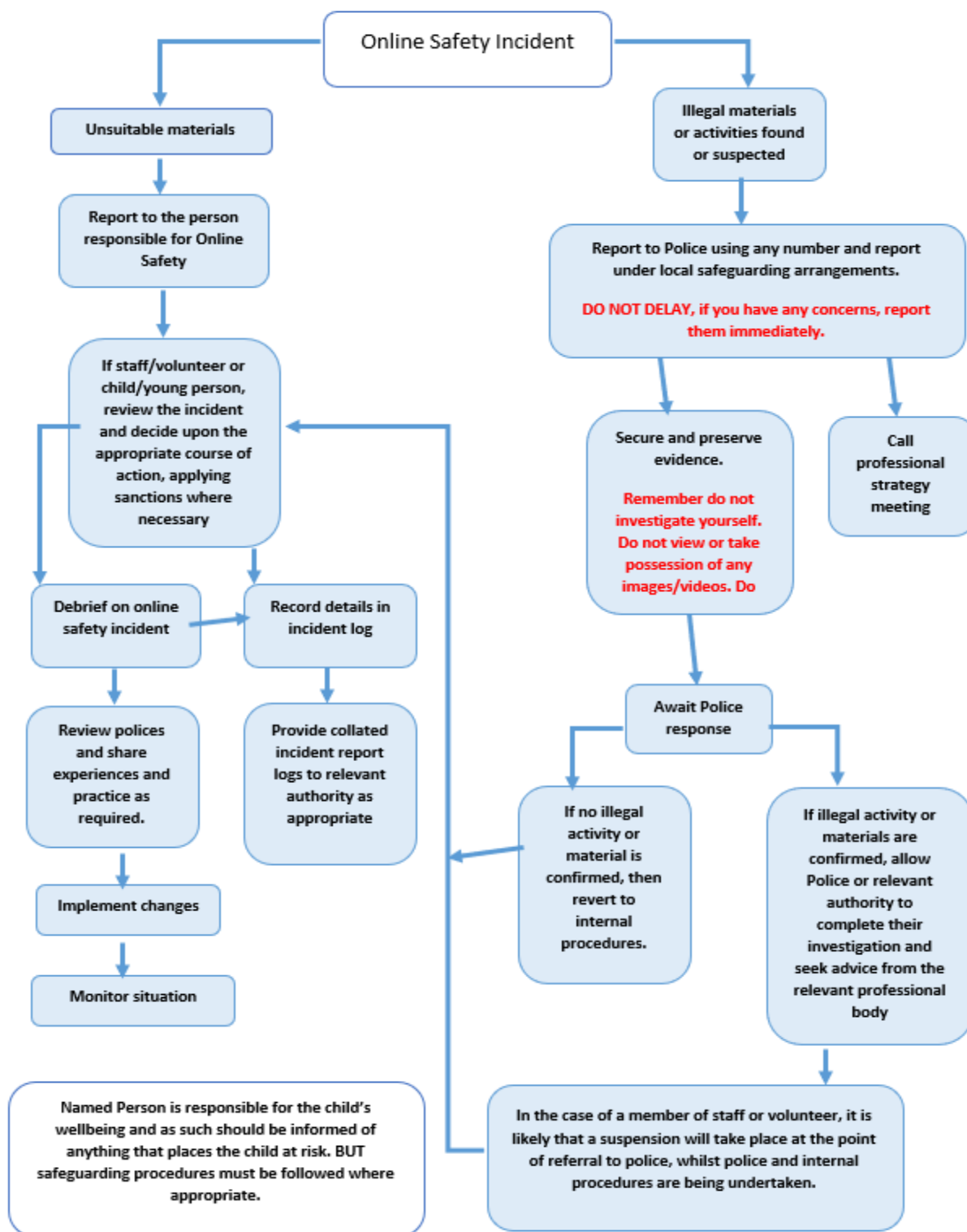
Use of social media				X	
Use of messaging apps				X	
Use of video broadcasting e.g. YouTube				X	

## 6. Responding to incidents of misuse

This guidance is intended for use when staff need to manage incidents that involve the use of online services. It encourages a safe and secure approach to the management of the incident. Incidents might involve illegal or inappropriate activities.

## 7. Illegal Incidents

If there is any suspicion that the web site(s) concerned may contain child abuse images, or if there is any other suspected illegal activity, refer to the right hand side of the Flowchart (below) for responding to online safety incidents and report immediately to the police





## 8. Other Incidents

It is hoped that all members of the school community will be responsible users of digital technologies, who understand and follow school policy. However, there may be times when infringements of the policy could take place, through careless or irresponsible or, very rarely, through deliberate misuse.

**In the event of suspicion, all steps in this procedure should be followed:**

- Have more than one senior member of staff involved in this process. This is vital to protect individuals if accusations are subsequently reported.
- Conduct the procedure using a designated computer that will not be used by young people and if necessary can be taken off site by the police should the need arise. Use the same computer for the duration of the procedure.
- It is important to ensure that the relevant staff should have appropriate internet access to conduct the procedure, but also that the sites and content visited are closely monitored and recorded (to provide further protection).
- Record the URL of any site containing the alleged misuse and describe the nature of the content causing concern. It may also be necessary to record and store screenshots of the content on the machine being used for investigation. These may be printed, signed and attached to the form (except in the case of images of child sexual abuse – see below)
- Once this has been completed and fully investigated the group will need to judge whether this concern has substance or not. If it does, then appropriate action will be required and could include the following:
  - Internal response or discipline procedures
  - Involvement by Local Authority/Academy Group or national/local organisation (as relevant).
  - Police involvement and/or action

**If content being reviewed includes images of child abuse, then the monitoring should be halted and referred to the Police immediately. Other instances to report to the police would include:**

- incidents of 'grooming' behaviour
- the sending of obscene materials to a child
- adult material which potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act
- criminally racist material
- promotion of terrorism or extremism
- offences under the Computer Misuse Act (see User Actions chart above)
- other criminal conduct, activity or materials

**Isolate the computer in question as best you can. Any change to its state may hinder a later police investigation.**

It is important that all of the above steps are taken as they will provide an evidence trail for the *school/academy* and possibly the police and demonstrate that visits to these sites were carried out for safeguarding purposes. The completed form should be retained by the group for evidence and reference purposes.



## 9. School Actions and Sanctions

It is more likely that the school will need to deal with incidents that involve inappropriate rather than illegal misuse. It is important that any incidents are dealt with as soon as possible in a proportionate manner, and that members of the school community are aware that incidents have been dealt with. It is intended that incidents of misuse will be dealt with through normal behaviour/disciplinary procedures as follows:

Students/Pupils Incidents	Refer to class teacher/	Refer to Headteacher	Refer to Police	Refer to technical support staff for action re filtering/security etc.	Inform parents/carers
<b>Deliberately accessing or trying to access material that could be considered illegal (see list in earlier section on unsuitable/inappropriate activities).</b>		X	X		X
Unauthorised use of non-educational sites during lessons	X				X
Unauthorised/inappropriate use of mobile phone/digital camera/other mobile device		X			X
Unauthorised/inappropriate use of social media/ messaging apps/personal email		X			X
Unauthorised downloading or uploading of files		X			X
Allowing others to access school network by sharing username and passwords		X			X
Attempting to access or accessing the school network, using another student's/pupil's account	X	X			X
Attempting to access or accessing the school network, using the account of a member of staff		X			X



Corrupting or destroying the data of other users	X	X			X
Sending an email, text or message that is regarded as offensive, harassment or of a bullying nature	X	X			X
Continued infringements of the above, following previous warnings or sanctions		X			X
Actions which could bring the school into disrepute or breach the integrity of the ethos of the school		X			X
Using proxy sites or other means to subvert the school's filtering system		X			X
Accidentally accessing offensive or pornographic material and failing to report the incident		X			X
Deliberately accessing or trying to access offensive or pornographic material		X			X
Receipt or transmission of material that infringes the copyright of another person or infringes the Data Protection Act		X			X

In the event of the above the Headteacher reserves the right to remove network and internet access rights and give appropriate sanctions in line with the schools behaviour policy.





## Staff Incidents

**Deliberately accessing or trying to access material that could be considered illegal (see list in earlier section on unsuitable/inappropriate activities).**

Inappropriate personal use of the internet/social media/personal email

Unauthorised downloading or uploading of files

Allowing others to access school network by sharing username and passwords or attempting to access or accessing the school network, using another person's account

Careless use of personal data e.g. holding or transferring data in an insecure manner

Deliberate actions to breach data protection or network security rules

Corrupting or destroying the data of other users or causing deliberate damage to hardware or software

Sending an email, text or message that is regarded as offensive, harassment or of a bullying nature

Using personal email/social networking/instant messaging/text messaging to carrying out digital communications with students/pupils

Actions which could compromise the staff member's professional standing

Actions which could bring the school into disrepute or breach the integrity of the ethos of the school/academy

Using proxy sites or other means to subvert the school's filtering system

Accidentally accessing offensive or pornographic material and failing to report the incident

Deliberately accessing or trying to access offensive or pornographic material

Breaching copyright or licensing regulations

Continued infringements of the above, following previous warnings or sanctions

Any of the actions above will be dealt with under schools appropriate policies which could result in any of the following:

- disciplinary action
- reported to the LADO
- refer to police



## Appendix - Student/Pupil Acceptable Use Policy Agreement – for younger pupils (Foundation/KS1)

### ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Name of pupil:

**When I use the school's ICT systems (like computers) and get onto the internet in school I will:**

- Ask a teacher or adult if I can do so before using them
- Only use websites that a teacher or adult has told me or allowed me to use
- Tell my teacher immediately if:
  - I select a website by mistake
  - I receive messages from people I don't know
  - I find anything that may upset or harm me or my friends
- Use school computers for school work only
- Be kind to others and not upset or be rude to them
- Look after the school ICT equipment and tell a teacher straight away if something is broken or not working properly
- Only use the username and password I have been given
- Try my hardest to remember my username and password
- Never share my password with anyone, including my friends
- Never give my personal information (my name, address or telephone numbers) to anyone
- Save my work on the school network
- Check with my teacher before I print anything
- Log off or shut down a computer when I have finished using it

**I agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and that there will be consequences if I don't follow the rules.**



## Appendix - Parent/Carer Acceptable Use Agreement

Digital technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people, both within schools and outside school. These technologies provide powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. They can stimulate discussion, promote creativity and stimulate awareness of context to promote effective learning. Young people should have an entitlement to safe internet access at all times.

### This acceptable use policy is intended to ensure:

- that young people will be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other communications technologies for educational, personal and recreational use.
- that school systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk.
- that parents and carers are aware of the importance of online safety and are involved in the education and guidance of young people with regard to their on-line behaviour.

The school will try to ensure that *students* will have good access to digital technologies to enhance their learning and will, in return, expect the *students/pupils* to agree to be responsible users. A copy of the *student/pupil* acceptable use agreement is attached to this permission form, so that parents/carers will be aware of the school expectations of the young people in their care.

Parents are requested to sign the permission form below to show their support of the school in this important aspect of the school's work.

### Permission Form

Parent/Carers Name: .....

Student/Pupil Name: .....

As the parent/carers of the above *students/pupils*, I give permission for my son/daughter to have access to the internet and to ICT systems at school.

#### Either: (KS2)

*I know that my son/daughter has signed an acceptable use agreement and has received, or will receive, online safety education to help them understand the importance of safe use of technology and the internet – both in and out of school.*

#### Or: (KS1)

*I understand that the school has discussed the acceptable use agreement with my son/daughter and that they have received, or will receive, online safety education to help them understand the importance of safe use of technology and the internet – both in and out of school.*

I understand that the school will take every reasonable precaution, including monitoring and filtering systems, to ensure that young people will be safe when they use the internet and systems. I also understand that the school cannot ultimately be held responsible for the nature and content of materials accessed on the internet



and using mobile technologies.

I understand that my son's/daughter's activity on the systems will be monitored and that the school will contact me if they have concerns about any possible breaches of the acceptable use agreement.

I will encourage my child to adopt safe use of the internet and digital technologies at home and will inform the school if I have concerns over my child's online safety.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

## Use of Digital/Video Images

The use of digital/video images plays an important part in learning activities. *Students/Pupils* and members of staff may use digital cameras to record evidence of activities in lessons and out of school. These images may then be used in presentations in subsequent lessons.

Images may also be used to celebrate success through their publication in newsletters, on the school website and occasionally in the public media..

The school will comply with the Data Protection Act and request parent's/carers permission before taking images of members of the school. We will also ensure that when images are published that the young people cannot be identified by the use of their names.

In accordance with guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office, parents/carers are welcome to take videos and digital images of their children at school events for their own personal use (as such use is not covered by the Data Protection Act). To respect everyone's privacy and in some cases protection, these images should not be published/made publicly available on social networking sites, nor should parents/carers comment on any activities involving other *students/pupils* in the digital/video images.

Parents/carers are requested to sign the permission form below to allow the school to take and use images of their children and for the parents/carers to agree.

## Digital/Video Images Permission Form

Parent/Carers Name:..... Student/Pupil Name:.....

May we use your child's photograph in printed publications produced by Gosforth Park First School or Newcastle Local Authority?	Yes/No
May we use any video containing your child in promotional material for Gosforth Park First School or the Gosforth Schools' Trust?	Yes/No
May we use your child's photograph on our Internet website a) as part of a large group or whole school activity?	Yes/No
b) showing an individual activity? (e.g. holding a winner's trophy)	Yes/No



May we allow your child's photograph (e.g. as part of a school team or record of a school event) to be used for publication in a newspaper?	Yes/No
May we use any photograph or video of your child internally as part of the regular curriculum and work of the school?	Yes/No
May we use any video containing your child to share good educational practice with teachers from other schools?	Yes/No
May we use a photograph of your child in a group to share with parents in your child's class/year group (e.g. class photos taken either by school or professional photographer such as Tempest)	Yes/No
May we use a video of your child in a group to share with parents in your child's class/year group/Key Stage (e.g. DVD of Christmas/end of Year show)	Yes/No
May we upload photos and videos of your child onto the school's Twitter account. Photos and names will never be displayed together.	Yes/No
I agree that if I take digital or video images at, or of school events which include images of children, other than my own, I will abide by these guidelines in my use of these images.	Yes/No

Signed: .....  
 Date: .....

## Use of Cloud Systems Permission Form

The school uses Seesaw (Year 1-4) and Tapestry (EYFS) \* for [pupils/students](#) and staff. This permission form describes the tools and pupil/student responsibilities for using these services.

The following services are available to each [pupil/student](#) as part of the school's online presence in [Seesaw and Tapestry but not limited to](#).

Using [Seesaw and Tapestry but not limited to](#) will enable your child to collaboratively create, edit and share files and websites for school related projects and communicate via email with other pupils and members of staff. These services are entirely online and available 24/7 from any internet-connected computer.

The school believes that use of the tools significantly adds to your child's educational experience.



Do you consent to your child to having access to this service? Yes/No

Student/Pupil Name: ..... Parent/Carers Name:.....  
Signed: ..... Date: .....





## Appendix - Staff (and Volunteer) Acceptable Use Policy Agreement

### School Policy

New technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people in today's society, both within schools and in their lives outside school. The internet and other digital information and communications technologies are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. These technologies can stimulate discussion, promote creativity and stimulate awareness of context to promote effective learning. They also bring opportunities for staff to be more creative and productive in their work. All users should have an entitlement to safe access to the internet and digital technologies at all times.

#### This acceptable use policy is intended to ensure:

- that staff and volunteers will be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other communications technologies for educational, personal and recreational use.
- that school systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk.
- that staff are protected from potential risk in their use of technology in their everyday work.

The school will try to ensure that staff and volunteers will have good access to digital technology to enhance their work, to enhance learning opportunities for *students/pupils* learning and will, in return, expect staff and volunteers to agree to be responsible users.

### Acceptable Use Policy Agreement

I understand that I must use school systems in a responsible way, to ensure that there is no risk to my safety or to the safety and security of the systems and other users. I recognise the value of the use of digital technology for enhancing learning and will ensure that students/pupils receive opportunities to gain from the use of digital technology. I will, where possible, educate the young people in my care in the safe use of digital technology and embed online safety in my work with young people.

#### For my professional and personal safety:

- I understand that the *school* will monitor my use of the school digital technology and communications systems.
- I understand that the rules set out in this agreement also apply to use of these technologies (e.g. laptops, email, VLE etc.) out of school, and to the transfer of personal data (digital or paper based) out of school
- I understand that the school digital technology systems are primarily intended for educational use and that I will only use the systems for personal or recreational use within the policies and rules set down by the school.
- I will not disclose my username or password to anyone else, nor will I try to use any other person's username and password. I understand that I should not write down or store a password where it is possible that someone may steal it.



- I will immediately report any illegal, inappropriate or harmful material or incident, I become aware of, to the appropriate person.

**I will be professional in my communications and actions when using *school* systems:**

- I will not access, copy, remove or otherwise alter any other user's files, without their express permission.
- I will communicate with others in a professional manner, I will not use aggressive or inappropriate language and I appreciate that others may have different opinions.
- I will ensure that when I take and/or publish images of others I will do so with their permission and in accordance with the school's policy on the use of digital/video images. I will not use my personal equipment to record these images, unless I have permission to do so. Where these images are published (e.g. on the school website/VLE) it will not be possible to identify by name, or other personal information, those who are featured.
- I will only use social networking sites in school in accordance with the school's policies.
- I will only communicate with students/pupils and parents/carers using official school systems. Any such communication will be professional in tone and manner.
- I will not engage in any on-line activity that may compromise my professional responsibilities.

**The school and the local authority have the responsibility to provide safe and secure access to technologies and ensure the smooth running of the *school*:**

- When I use my mobile devices in school, I will follow the rules set out in this agreement, in the same way as if I was using *school* equipment. I will also follow any additional rules set by the *school* about such use. I will ensure that any such devices are protected by up to date anti-virus software and are free from viruses.
- I will not use personal email addresses on the school/academy ICT systems.
- I will not open any hyperlinks in emails or any attachments to emails, unless the source is known and trusted, or if I have any concerns about the validity of the email (due to the risk of the attachment containing viruses or other harmful programmes)
- I will ensure that my data is regularly backed up, in accordance with relevant school policies.
- I will not try to upload, download or access any materials which are illegal (child sexual abuse images, criminally racist material, terrorist or extremist material, adult pornography covered by the Obscene Publications Act) or inappropriate or may cause harm or distress to others. I will not try to use any programmes or software that might allow me to bypass the filtering/security systems in place to prevent access to such materials.
- I will not try (unless I have permission) to make large downloads or uploads that might take up internet capacity and prevent other users from being able to carry out their work.
- I will not install or attempt to install programmes of any type on a machine, or store programmes on a computer, nor will I try to alter computer settings, unless this is allowed in school/academy policies.



- I will not disable or cause any damage to school equipment, or the equipment belonging to others.
- I will only transport, hold, disclose or share personal information about myself or others, as outlined in the School/LA Personal Data Policy (or other relevant policy). Where digital personal data is transferred outside the secure local network, it must be encrypted. Paper based documents containing personal data must be held in lockable storage.
- I understand that data protection policy requires that any staff or student/pupil data to which I have access, will be kept private and confidential, except when it is deemed necessary that I am required by law or by school policy to disclose such information to an appropriate authority.
- I will immediately report any damage or faults involving equipment or software, however this may have happened.

**When using the internet in my professional capacity or for school sanctioned personal use:**

- I will ensure that I have permission to use the original work of others in my own work
- Where work is protected by copyright, I will not download or distribute copies (including music and videos).

**I understand that I am responsible for my actions in and out of the school:**

- I understand that this acceptable use policy applies not only to my work and use of school digital technology equipment in school, but also applies to my use of school systems and equipment off the premises and my use of personal equipment on the premises or in situations related to my employment by the school
- I understand that if I fail to comply with this acceptable use agreement, I could be subject to disciplinary action. This could include a warning, a suspension, referral to Governors and/or the Local Authority and in the event of illegal activities the involvement of the police.

I have read and understand the above and agree to use the school digital technology systems (both in and out of school) and my own devices (in school and when carrying out communications related to the school) within these guidelines.

Staff/Volunteer Name: .....

Signed: .....

Date: .....