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# ICT and Internet Acceptable Use Policy

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| Adopted by Utopia - for review by the Board of Directors and Governors |
| Adopted September 2026                                                 |
| For review - Annually - Review targets annually                        |

## **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/carers and governors
- Establish clear expectations for the way all members of the school community engage with each other online
- Support the school's policies on data protection, online safety and safeguarding
- Prevent disruption that could occur to the school through the misuse, or attempted misuse, of ICT systems
- Support the school in teaching 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, staff code of conduct and staff handbook.

## **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
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026
- Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools 2022
- National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC): Cyber Security for Schools

- Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act 2021
- UK Council for Internet Safety (et al.) guidance on sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people
- Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges

### 3. Definitions

- **ICT facilities:** all facilities, systems and services including, but not limited to, network infrastructure, desktop computers, laptops, tablets, phones, music players or hardware, software, websites, web applications or services, and any device system or service that may become available in the future which is provided as part of the school's ICT service
- **Users:** anyone authorised by the school to use the school's ICT facilities, including governors, staff, 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
- **Senior Leadership Team (SLT):** The SLT in this policy refers to the Headteacher, designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

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
- 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
- Using AI tools and generative chatbots (such as ChatGPT and Google Gemini):
  - During assessments, including internal and external assessments, and coursework
  - To write their homework or class assignments, where AI-generated text or imagery is presented as their own work

This is not an exhaustive list. The school reserves the right to amend this list at any time. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) 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. Students, staff and volunteers should seek an appropriate member of SLT to request access or clarification on specific queries of usage.

Students may use AI tools and generative chatbots:

- As a research tool to help them find out about new topics and ideas

- When specifically studying and discussing AI in schoolwork, for example in IT lessons or art homework about AI-generated images. All AI-generated content must be properly attributed

## 4.2 Sanctions

Students and staff who engage in any of the unacceptable activities listed above may face disciplinary action in line with the school's policies on behaviour, staff code of conduct and staff handbook.

In exceptional circumstances the headteacher may find it appropriate to revoke a Student's ICT privileges in order to safeguard them and other students at the school. This will be monitored and reviewed regularly to ensure that the student in question can gain the benefits of internet usage once it is deemed safe for them to do so.

Additional consequences can be found within our behaviour policy on our website and staff handbook within the secure staff cloud based server.

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

Our director board is responsible for making sure that:

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

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

Where appropriate, staff may raise concerns about monitored activity with the school's DSL and deputy DSL, as appropriate.

### 5.1 Access to school ICT facilities and materials

SLT 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 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 Headteacher.

All staff are required to sign the acceptable internet usage agreement in appendix 2.

### **5.1.1 Use of email and phones**

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/carers 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 a member of SLT immediately and follow our data breach procedure.

Phone use:

- Staff must not give their personal phone number(s) to parents/carers or students. Staff must use phones provided by the school to conduct all work-related business.
- School phones must not be used for personal matters.
- Staff who are provided with mobile phones as equipment for their role must abide by the same rules for ICT acceptable use as set out in section 4.

## **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 SLT may withdraw or restrict this permission at any time and at their discretion. Personal use is permitted provided that such use:

- Does not take place during teaching hours
- Does not constitute ‘unacceptable use’, as defined in section 4
- Takes place when no 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) in line with Appendix 4 in this policy.

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

Staff should take care to follow the school’s guidelines on use of social media (see appendix 1 staff handbook 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.

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

## **5.3 Remote access**

We allow staff to access the school’s ICT facilities and materials remotely via a security protected cloud based server. This system is managed by the school’s Headteacher and staff are provided with secure passwords that are regularly changed to access the server.

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

precautions as the SLT may require 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 our data protection policy found on our policies page on our website.

#### **5.4 School social media accounts**

The school has an official Instagram and X account, managed by the school's administration team. Staff members who have not been authorised to manage, or post to, the account, must not access, or attempt to access, the account.

The school has guidelines for what may and must not be posted on its social media accounts. Those who are authorised to manage, or post to, the account must make sure they abide by these guidelines at all times.

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

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

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

Only authorised ICT personnel may filter, inspect, monitor, intercept, assess, record and disclose the above, to the extent permitted by law. Utopia work alongside external ICT experts Zansys to ensure that the school meets the KCSIE & DfE guidelines for filtering and monitoring internet usage. The schools current KCSIE approved filtering and monitoring system is:

- Watchguard T25 Firewall

The alerts and monitoring reports provided by this system will be accessed by the DSL team to maintain the safety of the students at the school. The DSL will review all individual alerts, investigate the person responsible and the nature of the incident. Any safeguarding concerns will be dealt with in accordance with the schools safeguarding policy and recorded on cpoms.

The school may monitor 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

## 5.6 Visitors

Visitors and members of the community who use the school's ICT systems or internet will be made aware of this policy, when relevant, and expected to read and follow it.

All visitors must sign in before entering the building. Upon arrival visitors will sign in and are expected to read and agree to the following ICT statement:

***When using the school's ICT systems or accessing the internet on school premises, 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 that could harm the school's reputation.
- Access social networking sites or chat rooms including live streaming.
- Install any unauthorised software, or connect unauthorised hardware or devices to the school's network.
- Take photographs of students without checking with teachers first.
- 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.

***I will:***

- Access the internet and devices for educational purposes or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of my role.
- Agree that the school will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the school's ICT facilities and systems.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that work devices are secure and password-protected.
- I will let the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) know if a student informs me they have found any material that 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.*

## 6. Students

### 6.1 Access to ICT facilities

Students will have access to the following ICT facilities:

- Desktop computers within the ICT suite
- Laptops within classrooms
- Individual ipads

The school ensure that these facilities are effectively monitored in the following ways:

- Computers and equipment in the school's ICT suite and classroom 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 their personal log in details.
- All individual computers, laptops and ipads have their IP addresses logged to maintain additional monitoring and security.

### 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)

Please see the school's behaviour policy for further information on searching, screening and confiscation:

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

## 7. Parents/Carers

We inform parents and students about our internet usage, filtering and monitoring during our induction period through our welcome pack. We also update our parents annually to ensure they are up to date with our procedures and are satisfied that we are maintaining our systems to ensure the safety of their child.

### 7.1 Access to ICT facilities and materials

Parents/carers do not have access to the school's ICT facilities as a matter of course. However, parents/carers working for, or with, the school in an official capacity (for instance, as a volunteer or as a member of the PTA) may be granted an appropriate level of access, or be permitted to use the school's facilities at the headteacher's discretion.

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

## **7.2 Communicating with or about the school online**

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

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

We ask parents/carers to sign the agreement in appendix 3.

## **7.3 Communicating with parents/carers 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/carers in the same way that information about homework tasks is shared.

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

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

## **8. Data security**

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

Staff, students, parents/carers and others who use the school's ICT facilities should use safe computing practices at all times. We aim to meet the cyber security standards

recommended by the Department for Education's guidance on [digital and technology standards in schools and colleges](#), including the use of:

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

## **8.1 Passwords**

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

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

Members of staff or 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.

Teachers will generate passwords for students using an appropriate password procedure or generator and keep these in a secure location on the staff cloud based server in case students lose or forget their passwords.

## **8.2 Software updates, firewalls and anti-virus software**

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

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

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

## **8.3 Data protection**

All personal data must be processed and stored in line with data protection regulations and the school's data protection policy available via the school website.

## **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 Headteacher.

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 Headteacher 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 SLT.

## **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 by Webpoint 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
- Our cloud based server provide enhanced protection on data loss by *“Our datacenters are geo-distributed within the region and fault tolerant. Data is mirrored into at least two different Azure regions, which are at least several hundred miles away from each other, allowing us to mitigate the impact of a natural disaster or loss within a region.”*
- Make sure staff:
  - Enable multi-factor authentication where they can, on things like school email accounts
  - Store passwords securely using a password manager
- Make sure SLT 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

## 10. Internet access

The school’s wireless internet connection is secure.

The schools wifi is shared with staff for use on computers provided by the school, the wifi is monitored using the Watchguard T25 firewall with alerts sent to the DSL team when prohibited terminology is searched.

Staff should be aware that there is a small chance that inappropriate sites and content may be accessible and that if they become aware of this then they should immediately contact a member of SLT in order for the problem to be sorted working alongside external ICT specialist Webpoint.

Wifi is not shared with the public.

### 10.1 Students

Wifi is not shared with students, please see appendix 4 - Bring your own device statement to find out more information on how we support students to manage internet use on personal phones.

## **10.2 Parents/carers and visitors**

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

The headteacher will only grant authorisation if:

- Parents/carers are working with the school in an official capacity (e.g. as a volunteer or as a member of the PTA)
- Visitors 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, DSL, deputy DSL and Zansys will 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 year.

The board of directors are responsible for reviewing and approving this policy.

## **12. Related policies**

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

- Safeguarding and child protection
- Behaviour
- Staff conduct
- Data protection

## 10 rules for school staff on Facebook

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

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

## What to do if ...

### A student adds you on social media

- In the first instance, ignore and delete the request. Block the student from viewing your profile

- Check your privacy settings again, and consider changing your display name or profile picture
- If the student asks you about the friend request in person, tell them that you're not allowed to accept friend requests from students and that if they persist, you'll have to notify senior leadership and/or their parents/carers. If the student persists, take a screenshot of their request and any accompanying messages
- Notify the senior leadership team or the headteacher about what's happening

#### **A parent/carer adds you on social media**

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

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

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

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

**Name of staff member/governor/volunteer:**

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 any private business, 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) 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/director/governor/volunteer):**

**Date:**

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

**Name of student:**

**When I use the school's ICT facilities (like computers and equipment) and go on the internet in school, I will not:**

- Use them without asking a teacher first, or without a teacher in the room with me
- Use them to break school rules
- Go on any inappropriate websites
- Go on Facebook or other social networking sites (unless my teacher said I could as part of a lesson)
- Use chat rooms
- Open any attachments in emails, or click any links in emails, without checking with a teacher first
- Use mean or rude language when talking to other people online or in emails
- Send any photos, videos or livestreams of people (including me) who aren't wearing all of their clothes
- Share my password with others or log in using someone else's name or password
- Bully other people
- Use artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots, such as ChatGPT or Google Gemini, to create images or write for me, and then submit it as my own work

I understand that the school will check the websites I visit and how I use the school's computers and equipment. This is so that they can help keep me safe and make sure I'm following the rules.

I will tell a teacher or a member of staff I know immediately if I find anything on a school computer or online that upsets me, or that I know is mean or wrong.

I will always be responsible when I use the school's ICT systems and internet.

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/carers 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 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                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Antivirus</b>       | Software designed to detect, stop and remove malicious software and viruses.                                                                  |
| <b>Breach</b>          | When your data, systems or networks are accessed or changed in a non-authorised way.                                                          |
| <b>Cloud</b>           | Where you can store and access your resources (including data and software) via the internet, instead of locally on physical devices.         |
| <b>Cyber attack</b>    | An attempt to access, damage or disrupt your computer systems, networks or devices maliciously.                                               |
| <b>Cyber incident</b>  | Where the security of your system or service has been breached.                                                                               |
| <b>Cyber security</b>  | The protection of your devices, services and networks (and the information they contain) from theft or damage.                                |
| <b>Download attack</b> | Where malicious software or a virus is downloaded unintentionally onto a device without the user's knowledge or consent.                      |
| <b>Firewall</b>        | Hardware or software that uses a defined rule set to constrain network traffic - this is to prevent unauthorised access to or from a network. |
| <b>Hacker</b>          | Someone with some computer skills who uses them to break into computers, systems and networks.                                                |
| <b>Malware</b>         | Malicious software. This includes viruses, trojans or any code or content that can adversely impact individuals or organisations.             |
| <b>Patching</b>        | Updating firmware or software to improve security and/or enhance functionality.                                                               |
| <b>Pentest</b>         | Short for penetration test. This is an authorised test of a computer network or system to look for security weaknesses.                       |

| TERM                                          | DEFINITION                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pharming</b>                               | 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. |
| <b>Phishing</b>                               | Untargeted, mass emails sent to many people asking for sensitive information (such as bank details) or encouraging them to visit a fake website.      |
| <b>Ransomware</b>                             | Malicious software that stops you from using your data or systems until you make a payment.                                                           |
| <b>Social engineering</b>                     | Manipulating people into giving information or carrying out specific actions that an attacker can use.                                                |
| <b>Spear-phishing</b>                         | 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.                        |
| <b>Trojan</b>                                 | A type of malware/virus designed to look like legitimate software that can be used to hack a victim's computer.                                       |
| <b>Two-factor/multi-factor authentication</b> | Using 2 or more different components to verify a user's identity.                                                                                     |
| <b>Virus</b>                                  | Programmes designed to self-replicate and infect legitimate software programs or systems.                                                             |
| <b>Virtual private network (VPN)</b>          | An encrypted network which allows remote users to connect securely.                                                                                   |
| <b>Whaling</b>                                | Highly- targeted phishing attacks (where emails are made to look legitimate) aimed at senior people in an organisation.                               |

## Appendix 5: Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Usage Statement

### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this statement is to establish guidelines for the use of personal electronic devices in the workplace to ensure the security of data/systems and protect the privacy of staff/students and visitors.

The school uses various technologies to support staff and students for ongoing learning and future their careers. The challenge is to get the right balance between appropriate usage and security.

By 'devices' we mean laptops/Chromebooks/Tablets/Mobile Phones or any device that can be connected to the internet.

In most cases laptops/chromebooks/tablets will be provided by the college and in these circumstances, students will not be able to use their own laptops/chromebooks/tablets in classrooms or during learning activity.

## **2. Responsibility**

Senior Leadership Team (Headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead & Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead).

## **3. Mobile Phones**

Utopia recognises the importance that mobile phones play in today's society and the need to create inclusive practice in order promote safe and responsible usage amongst both students and staff. There are many benefits to mobile phone use during transport to and from school and at different parts of the school day, Utopia have created procedures to maximise these benefits whilst also giving careful consideration to the negative impact mobile phones can have on behaviour and safety.

### **3.1 Students**

Students are allowed to bring their mobile phones to school but must adhere to the following rules:

- Mobile phones must be handed in to the office during all lesson times
- Mobile phones can be collected from the office for break times and trips only
- Wifi will not be given to students
- You may not use your mobile phone in the toilets or changing rooms. This is to protect the privacy and welfare of other students.
- You cannot take photos or recordings (either video or audio) of school staff or other students without their consent.
- Avoid sharing your contact details with people you don't know, and don't share other people's contact details without their consent.
- Don't share your phone's password(s) or access code(s) with anyone else.
- Don't use your mobile phone to bully, intimidate or harass anyone. This includes bullying, harassing or intimidating students or staff via:
  - Email
  - Text/messaging app
  - Social media
- Don't use your phone to send or receive anything that may be criminal. For instance, by 'sexting'.

- Rules on bullying, harassment and intimidation apply to how you use your mobile phone even when you aren't in school.
- Don't use vulgar, obscene or derogatory language while on the phone or when using social media. This language is not permitted under the school's behaviour policy.
- Don't use your phone to view or share pornography or other harmful content.
- No live broadcasts can be made on any social media platform whilst on school premises unless agreed by a senior member of staff.
- You must comply with a request by a member of staff to switch off, or hand over, a phone. Refusal to comply is a breach of the school's behaviour policy and will be dealt with accordingly.
- Mobile phones are not permitted in any internal or external exam or test environment. If you have a mobile phone, you will be asked to store it appropriately, or turn it over to an exam invigilator, before entering the test room. Bringing a phone into the test room can result in your exam being declared invalid.

The behaviour policy will be followed if any student does not follow the above mobile phone usage rules.

### **3.2 Staff**

All staff (including teachers, support staff and supply staff) are responsible for consistently enforcing this statement.

Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this statement.

Staff will address any questions or concerns from parents/carers quickly, and clearly communicate the reasons for prohibiting the use of mobile phones.

#### **Personal phone use:**

Staff (including volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to use their personal mobile phone, while young people are present. Use of personal mobile phones must be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where students are not present (such as the staffroom).

There may be circumstances in which it's appropriate for a member of staff to have use of their phone during contact time for personal reasons. For instance (this list is non-exhaustive):

- For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school
- In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members

The headteacher will decide on a case-by-basis whether to allow for special arrangements.

### **4. Laptops, chromebooks and other personal devices**

Authorisation to bring your own device onto school premises must be agreed by SLT prior. Any personal device used on the school premises using the school network or accessing school resources must comply with the following. Any device that does not comply or poses a security risk will be denied access until it is made compliant to meet the below criteria:

- Hardware must be supported by the manufacturer.
- Running latest supported operating system.
- Have the latest security and critical updates applied on the device.
- Where available running a firewall.
- Where available running an antivirus application.
- Not have any inappropriate software running such as Crypto miners, malware etc. which pose significant cyber security risk to the school network.
- Not display any inappropriate/offensive messages/visuals.

## **5. Liability**

Users bring their own personal devices to use at Utopia at their own risk and responsibility. It is their duty to be responsible for the upkeep and protection (anti-virus software/security settings) of their devices and to have them charged and adequately insured as appropriate.

School staff may offer help and advice to students and staff in the use of devices where possible but are not responsible for any repair or configuration changes.

## **6. Responsibilities**

Utopia will NOT be responsible for:

- Charging of personal devices or any suspected damage caused by charging.
- Personal devices that are broken, damaged or malfunction while at school or during school-related activities.
- Storage/security of a personal device.
- Personal devices that are lost/stolen/damaged at college or during college-related activities.
- Maintenance or upkeep of any personal device including software updates, hardware upgrades or compatibility issues.
- Any possible device charges to an account that might be incurred during school related activities e.g. data usage.
- Lost or corrupted data on a device or in any server or cloud storage areas.

## **7. Reporting**

Any breach of this statement should be reported to SLT and in line with the procedures in our safeguarding policy.