

Online safety policy

Percy Hedley School

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Policy Control/Monitoring

Approved by: (Position in Organisation)	Director of Education
Date (dd/mm/yyyy):	13/07/2026
Accountability: (Position in Organisation)	Computing Lead
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Brief details of amendments made	Online Safety blog timeframe. Accountability. AI tools. Filtering and Monitoring checks.

Equality Impact Assessment

The Foundation’s commitment is to create a positive culture of respect for all staff and service users and to identify, remove or minimise risks of unlawful discrimination and disadvantage in its policies, functions and activities. As part of its development this document has been assessed in line with The Foundation’s equality impact assessment procedure.

Version Control Tracker

Version Number	Date
1	July 2023
2	July 2024
3	July 2025

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Version Number	Date
4	September 2025
4(a)	January 2026
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1. Introduction

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

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

This policy includes:

- The purpose of the Online Safety Policy.
- The scope of the Online Safety Policy.
- Key definitions
- The principles of the Online Safety Policy.
- Monitoring and compliance of the Online Safety Policy.
- Associated policies and references, including relevant legislation and guidance.

[Appendix 1: EYFS and KS1 acceptable use agreement \(pupils and parents/carers\)](#)

[Appendix 2: KS2, KS3 and KS4 acceptable use agreement \(pupils and parents/carers\)](#)

[Appendix 3: acceptable use agreement \(staff, governors, volunteers and visitors\)](#)

[Appendix 4: online safety training needs – self-audit for staff](#)

[Appendix 5: online safety incident report log](#)

2. Purpose

Our school aims to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors
- Identify and support groups of pupils that are potentially at greater risk of harm online than others
- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as 'mobile phones')
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident, where appropriate

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.

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- **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

Contextual work this year will focus on the themes of KCSIE 2025, ensuring staff, parent and pupils training focusses upon the areas of:

- **Sextortion**
- **Misinformation**
- **Disinformation**
- **Conspiracy theories**
-

Work with Northumbria Police throughout the year will support our commitment to the work we do in school to protect our pupils in these areas.

3. Scope

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The governing board will make sure all staff undergo online safety training as part of child protection and safeguarding training, and ensure staff understand their expectations, roles and responsibilities around filtering and monitoring.

The governing board will also make sure all staff receive regular online safety updates (via email, e-bulletins and staff meetings), as required and at least annually, to ensure they are continually provided with the relevant skills and knowledge to effectively safeguard children.

The governing board will co-ordinate regular meetings with appropriate staff to discuss online safety, requirements for training, and monitor online safety logs as provided by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

The governing board should ensure children are taught how to keep themselves and others safe, including keeping safe online.

The governing board must ensure the school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place on school devices and school networks and will regularly review their effectiveness. The board will review the DfE filtering and monitoring standards, and discuss with IT staff and service providers what needs to be done to support the school in meeting those standards, which include:

- Identifying and assigning roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems.
- Reviewing filtering and monitoring provisions at least annually.

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- Blocking harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning.
- Having effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs.
- The governor who oversees online safety is Paul Cook, our safeguarding governor.
- See Appendix ?? for further guidelines on filtering and monitoring systems in Percy Hedley School.

All governors will:

- Ensure they have read and understand this policy.
- Agree and adhere to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendix 3)
- Ensure that online safety is a running and interrelated theme while devising and implementing their whole-school or college approach to safeguarding and related policies and/or procedures.
- Ensure that, where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, is adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This is because of the importance of recognising that a 'one size fits all' approach may not be appropriate for all children in all situations, and a more personalised or contextualised approach may often be more suitable.

The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that staff understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school.

The designated safeguarding lead

Details of the school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies are set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy, as well as relevant job descriptions.

The DSL takes lead responsibility for online safety in school, in particular:

- Supporting the headteacher in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently throughout the school.
- Working with the headteacher and governing board to review this policy annually and ensure the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly.
- Taking the lead on understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place on school devices and school networks
- Working with the ICT manager to make sure the appropriate systems and processes are in place.
- Working with the headteacher, ICT manager, computing steering group and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents.
- Managing all online safety issues and incidents in line with the school's child protection policy
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 5) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy.
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy.
- Updating and delivering staff training on online safety (appendix 4 contains a self-audit for staff on online safety training needs)
- Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary
- Providing regular reports on online safety in school to the headteacher and/or governing board

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- Undertaking annual risk assessments that consider and reflect the risks children face.
- Providing regular safeguarding and child protection updates, including online safety, to all staff, at least annually, in order to continue to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard effectively.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

The ICT manager

The ICT manager is responsible for:

- Putting in place an appropriate level of security protection procedures, such as filtering and monitoring systems on school devices and school networks, which are reviewed and updated at least annually to assess effectiveness and ensure pupils are kept safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material.
- Ensuring that the school's ICT systems are secure and protected against viruses and malware, and that such safety mechanisms are updated regularly.
- Conducting a full security check and monitoring the school's ICT systems on a weekly basis
- Blocking access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, preventing the downloading of potentially dangerous files
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 5) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy.
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

All staff and volunteers

All staff, including contractors and agency staff, and volunteers are responsible for:

- Maintaining an understanding of this policy
- Implementing this policy consistently
- Agreeing and adhering to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendix 3), and ensuring that pupils follow the school's terms on acceptable use (appendices 1 and 2)
- Knowing that the DSL is responsible for the filtering and monitoring systems and processes and being aware of how to report any incidents of those systems or processes failing by either CPOMs for an incident or emailing DSL or DDSL's.
- Following the correct procedures by emailing the IT team if they need to bypass the filtering and monitoring systems for educational purposes.
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged (see appendix 5) and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy.
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the school behaviour policy.
- Responding appropriately to all reports and concerns about sexual violence and/or harassment, both online and offline, and maintaining an attitude of 'it could happen here'.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

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Parents/carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Notify a member of staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding this policy.
- Ensure their child has read, understood and agreed to the terms on acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and internet (appendices 1 and 2a, 2b, 2c)

Parents/carers can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online from the following organisations and websites:

- What are the issues? – [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- Hot topics – [Childnet International](#)
- Parent resource sheet – [Childnet International](#)

Visitors and members of the community

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. If appropriate, they will be expected to agree to the terms on acceptable use (appendix 3).

4. Definitions

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

5. Principles

Educating pupils about online safety

Pupils will be taught about online safety as part of the curriculum at an age and stage that is appropriate to them:

All schools have to teach:

- [Relationships education and health education](#) in primary schools
- [Relationships and sex education and health education](#) in secondary schools

At the earliest stages (willow) pupils will be taught to:

- Use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private.

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- Identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies.

Pupils will then move onto explicit teaching about:

- Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly.
- Recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.
- Identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact.

By the end of the primary phases (cedar – pine), pupils will know:

- That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not
- That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online, including when we are anonymous.
- The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them.
- How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met.
- How information and data is shared and used online
- What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)
- How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know.

Within the upper school department, where appropriate, pupils will be taught to:

- Understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting their online identity and privacy.
- Recognise inappropriate content, contact and conduct, and know how to report concerns.

Pupils will move onto being about taught:

- To understand how changes in technology affect safety, including new ways to protect their online privacy and identity.
- How to report a range of concerns

Pupils working in the Pine, Maple and Oak stages of Upper School will know:

- Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online.
- About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online.
- Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them.
- What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online
- The impact of viewing harmful content
- That specifically sexually explicit material (e.g., pornography) presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners.
- That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence that carries severe penalties including jail.
- How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online

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- How to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours
- How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (in all contexts, including online)

The safe use of social media and the internet will also be covered in other subjects where relevant.

Where necessary, teaching about safeguarding, including online safety, will be adapted for vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some pupils with SEND.

Educating parents/carers about online safety

The school will raise parents/carers' awareness of internet safety in the online safety blog via our website, in person and online training and letters or other communications home. This policy will also be shared with parents/carers.

Online safety will also be covered during parents' visits and coffee mornings and training.

The school will let parents/carers know:

- What systems the school uses to filter and monitor online use
- What their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and who from the school (if anyone) their child will be interacting with online

If parents/carers have any queries or concerns in relation to online safety, these should be raised in the first instance with the headteacher and/or the DSL.

Concerns or queries about this policy can be raised with any member of staff or the headteacher.

Cyber-bullying

Definition

Cyber-bullying takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites. Like other forms of bullying, it is the repetitive, intentional harming of 1 person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. (See also the school behaviour support policy & procedure.)

Preventing and addressing cyber-bullying.

To help prevent cyber-bullying, we will ensure that pupils understand what it is and what to do if they become aware of it happening to them or others. We will ensure that pupils know how they can report any incidents and are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than the victim.

The school will actively discuss cyber-bullying with pupils, explaining the reasons why it occurs, the forms it may take and what the consequences can be. Teacher who teaches pupils computing and class teachers will discuss cyber-bullying with their tutor groups.

Teaching staff are also encouraged to find opportunities to use aspects of the curriculum to cover cyber-bullying. This includes personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, and other subjects where appropriate.

All staff, governors and volunteers (where appropriate) receive training on cyber-bullying, its impact and ways to support pupils, as part of safeguarding training (see section 11 for more detail).

The school also sends information/leaflets on cyber-bullying to parents/carers so they are aware of the signs, how to report it and how they can support children who may be affected.

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In relation to a specific incident of cyber-bullying, the school will follow the processes set out in the school behaviour policy. Where illegal, inappropriate, or harmful material has been spread among pupils, the school will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the incident is contained.

The DSL will report the incident and provide the relevant material to the police as soon as is reasonably practicable, if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that possessing that material is illegal. They will also work with external services if it is deemed necessary to do so.

Examining electronic devices.

The headteacher, and any member of staff authorised to do so by the headteacher, can carry out a search and confiscate any electronic device that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- Poses a risk to staff or pupils, and/or
- Is identified in the school rules as a banned item for which a search can be carried out, and/or
- Is evidence in relation to an offence.

Before a search, if the authorised staff member is satisfied that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting any of the above, they will also:

- Make an assessment of how urgent the search is and consider the risk to other pupils and staff. If the search is not urgent, they will seek advice from the DSL.
- Explain to the pupil why they are being searched, how the search will happen, and give them the opportunity to ask questions about it.
- Seek the pupil's co-operation.

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

When deciding whether there is a 'good reason' to examine data or files on an electronic device, the staff member should reasonably suspect that the device has, or could be used to:

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

If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the staff member in conjunction with the DSL / DDSL/ other member of the senior leadership team to decide on a suitable response. If there are images, data or files on the device that staff reasonably suspect are likely to put a person at risk, they will first consider the appropriate safeguarding response.

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

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

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

- **Not** view the image
- **Not** copy, print, share, store or save the image
- Confiscate the device and report the incident to the DSL immediately, who will decide what to do next. The DSL/ Headteacher will make the decision in line with the DfE's latest guidance on [screening, searching and confiscation](#) and the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS)

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guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

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

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

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

Acceptable use of the internet in school

All pupils, parents/carers, staff, volunteers and governors are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet (appendices 1 to 3). Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use if relevant.

Use of the school's internet must be for educational purposes only, or for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of an individual's role.

We will monitor the websites visited by pupils, staff, volunteers, governors and visitors (where relevant) to ensure they comply with the above and restrict access through filtering systems where appropriate.

More information is set out in the acceptable use agreements in appendices 1 to 3.

Pupils using mobile devices in school

Pupils may bring mobile devices into school, but are not permitted to use them during:

- Lessons
- Tutor group time
- Clubs before or after school, or any other activities organised by the school.
- Times between lessons

Any use of mobile devices in school by pupils must be in line with the acceptable use agreement (see appendices 1 and 2).

Any breach of the acceptable use agreement by a pupil may trigger disciplinary action in line with the school behaviour policy, which may result in the confiscation of their device.

Staff using work devices outside school

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Keeping the device password-protected – strong passwords are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters (e.g. asterisk or currency symbol)
- Ensuring their hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device.
- Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time.
- Not sharing the device among family or friends

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- Keeping operating systems up to date by always installing the latest updates

Staff members must not use the device in any way that would violate the school's terms of acceptable use, as set out in appendix 3.

Work devices must be used solely for work activities.

If staff have any concerns over the security of their device, they must seek advice from the IT Team.

How the school will respond to issues of misuse

Where a pupil misuses the school's ICT systems or internet, we will follow the procedures set out in our policies on behaviour support policy & procedure and ICT and internet acceptable use. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident, and will be proportionate.

Where a staff member misuses the school's ICT systems or the internet or misuses a personal device where the action constitutes misconduct, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the staff handbook and code of conduct. The action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, nature and seriousness of the specific incident.

The school will consider whether incidents that involve illegal activity or content, or otherwise serious incidents, should be reported to the police.

Training

All new staff members will receive training, as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues, including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation.

All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year as part of safeguarding training, as well as relevant updates as required (for example through emails and staff meetings).

By way of this training, all staff will be made aware that:

- Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues, and that children are at risk of online abuse.
- Children can abuse their peers online through:
 - Abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages
 - Non-consensual sharing of indecent nude and semi-nude images and/or videos, especially around chat groups
 - Sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who don't want to receive such content
- Physical abuse, sexual violence and initiation/hazing type violence can all contain an online element

Training will also help staff:

- Develop better awareness to assist in spotting the signs and symptoms of online abuse
- Develop the ability to ensure pupils can recognise dangers and risks in online activity and can weigh up the risks.
- Develop the ability to influence pupils to make the healthiest long-term choices and keep them safe from harm in the short term

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The DSL and deputies will undertake child protection and safeguarding training, which will include online safety, at least every 2 years. They will also update their knowledge and skills on the subject of online safety at regular intervals, and at least annually.

Governors will receive training on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues as part of their safeguarding training.

Volunteers will receive appropriate training and updates, if applicable.

More information about safeguarding training is set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

6. Monitoring and Compliance

The DSL logs behaviour and safeguarding issues related to online safety. This is done on our web based online reporting system CPOMS.

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Computing DSL. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board. The review (such as the one available [here](#)) will be supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks pupils face online. This is important because technology, and the risks and harms related to it, evolve and change rapidly.

7. Associated Policies and References

Legislation and Guidance

- This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping children safe in education 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) and its advice for schools on:
 - [Teaching online safety in schools](#)
 - [Preventing and tackling bullying](#) and [cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff](#)
 - [Relationships and sex education](#)
 - [Searching, screening and confiscation](#)

It also refers to the DfE's guidance on [protecting children from radicalisation](#).

It reflects existing legislation, including but not limited to the [Education Act 1996](#) (as amended), the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#) and the [Equality Act 2010](#). In addition, it reflects the [Education Act 2011](#), which has given teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by, if necessary, searching for and deleting inappropriate images or files on pupils' electronic devices where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

The policy also takes into account the National Curriculum computing programmes of study.

This online safety policy is linked to our:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Behaviour support policy procedure
- Staff disciplinary procedures
- Data protection policy and privacy notices
- Complaints procedure
- ICT and internet acceptable use policy
- AI policy
- Bring your own device policy

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Appendix 1: acceptable use agreement (parents/carers)

Adapt this agreement to reflect your school's approach, in line with any changes you made to this policy.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S ICT SYSTEMS AND INTERNET: AGREEMENT FOR PARENTS AND 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 click on 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 without the permission of my teacher or parent/carer
- 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.

Signed (pupil):

Date:

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

Signed (parent/carer):

Date:

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Appendix 2a: Acceptable use agreement for older pupils (Suggested High level AA students)



School policy- This document is intended to be read by an adult and discussed with each student to ensure their understanding.

Digital technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people, both within schools and outside school. These 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. Young people should have an entitlement to safe access to these digital technologies.

This acceptable use agreement is intended to ensure:

- that young people will be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other digital 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 will have good access to digital technologies to enhance their learning and will, in return, expect the *learners* to agree to be responsible users.

Acceptable Use 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.

For my own personal safety:

- I understand that the schools will monitor my use of the systems, devices and digital communications.
- I will keep my username and password safe and secure – I will not share it, 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 be aware of "stranger danger", when I am communicating on-line.
- I will not disclose or share personal information about myself or others when on-line (this could include names, addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers, age, gender, educational details, financial details etc.)
- If I arrange to meet people off-line that I have communicated with on-line, I will do so in a public place and take an adult with me.
- I will immediately report any unpleasant or inappropriate material or messages or anything that makes me feel uncomfortable when I see it on-line.

I understand that everyone has equal rights to use technology as a resource and:

- I understand that the school's systems and devices are primarily intended for educational use and that I will not use them for personal or recreational use unless I have permission.
- 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 use the school's systems or devices for on-line gaming, on-line gambling, internet shopping, file sharing, or video broadcasting (e.g. YouTube), unless I have permission of a member of staff to do so.
- I will not attempt to access, copy, remove or otherwise alter any staff files or documents.

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I will act as I expect others to act toward me:

- I will respect others' work and property and will not access, copy, remove or otherwise alter any other user's files, without the owner's knowledge and permission.
- I will be polite and responsible when I communicate with others, I will not use strong, aggressive or inappropriate language and I appreciate that others may have different opinions.
- I will not take or distribute images of anyone without their permission.

I recognise that the school has a responsibility to maintain the security and integrity of the technology it offers me and to ensure the smooth running of the school:

- I will only use my own personal devices (mobile phones/USB devices etc.) in school if I have permission. I understand that, if I do use my own devices in the school, I will follow the rules set out in this agreement, in the same way as if I was using school equipment.
- If I am using my own personal device, I must be connected to the set PHS network.
- I understand the risks and will not try to upload, download or access any materials which are illegal or inappropriate or may cause harm or distress to others, nor will I 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 immediately report any damage or faults involving equipment or software; however, this may have happened.
- I will not open any hyperlinks in emails or any attachments to emails, unless I know and trust the person/organisation who sent the email, 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 not install or attempt to install or store programmes of any type on any school device, nor will I try to alter computer settings.
- I will only use social media sites with permission and at the times that are allowed.

When using the internet for research or recreation, I recognise that:

- I should 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 try to download copies (including music and videos)
- When I am using the internet to find information, I should take care to check that the information that I access is accurate, as I understand that the work of others may not be truthful and may be a deliberate attempt to mislead me.
- I should not use AI tools and generative chatbots (such as ChatGPT and Google Bard) during assessments, including internal and external assessments, and coursework, or to write my homework or class assignments, where AI-generated text or imagery is presented as my own work.
- I will only use approved AI tools (CoPilot).

I understand that I am responsible for my actions, both in and out of school:

- I understand that the school also has the right to take action against me if I am involved in incidents of inappropriate behaviour, that are covered in this agreement, when I am out of school and where they involve my membership of the school community (examples would be online-bullying, use of images or personal information).
- I understand that if I fail to comply with this acceptable use agreement, I may be subject to disciplinary action. This could include loss of access to the school network/internet, detentions, suspensions, contact with parents and in the event of illegal activities involvement of the police.

Please complete the sections on the next page to show that you have read, understood and agree to the rules included in the acceptable use agreement. If you do not sign and return this agreement, access will not be granted to school systems and devices.

Learner Acceptable Use Agreement Form

This form relates to the learner acceptable use agreement; to which it is attached.

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Please complete the sections below to show that you have read, understood and agree to the rules included in the acceptable use agreement. If you do not sign and return this agreement, access will not be granted to school systems. (Schools will need to decide if they require learners to sign, or whether they wish to simply make them aware through education programmes/awareness raising).

I have read and understand the above and agree to follow these guidelines when:

- I use the school's systems and devices (both in and out of school)
- I use my own devices in the school (when allowed) e.g. mobile phones, gaming devices USB devices, cameras etc.
- I use my own equipment out of the school in a way that is related to me being a member of this school e.g. communicating with other members of the school, accessing school email, VLE, website etc.

Name of Learner:

Group/Class:

Signed:

Date:

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Appendix 2b1: Acceptable use agreement for younger pupils (suggested KS4+)

Introduction – This document is intended to be read by an adult and discussed with each student to ensure their understanding.

Digital technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people, both within and outside schools. These technologies are powerful tools, which open-up new opportunities for everyone. They can stimulate discussion, encourage creativity and stimulate awareness of context to promote effective learning. Learners should have an entitlement to safe access to these digital technologies.

This acceptable use agreement is intended:

- to ensure that learners will have good access to devices and online content, be responsible users and stay safe while using digital technologies for educational, personal and recreational use
- to help learners understand good online behaviours that they can use in school, but also outside school
- to protect school devices and networks from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk.

Acceptable Use Agreement

When I use devices I must behave responsibly to help keep me and other users safe online and to look after the devices.

For my own personal safety:

- I understand that what I do online will be supervised and monitored and that I may not be allowed to use devices in school unless I follow these rules and use them responsibly
- I will only visit internet sites that adults have told me are safe to visit
- I will keep my username and password safe and secure and not share it with anyone else
- I will be aware of “stranger danger” when I am online
- I will not share personal information about myself or others when online
- If I arrange to meet people off-line that I have communicated with online, I will do so in a public place and take a trusted adult with me
- I will immediately tell an adult if I see anything that makes me feel uncomfortable when I see it online.

I will look after the devices I use, so that the school and everyone there can be safe:

- I will handle all the devices carefully and only use them if I have permission.
- I will not try to alter the settings on any devices or try to install any software or programmes.
- I will tell an adult if a device is damaged or if anything else goes wrong.
- I will only use the devices to do things that I am allowed to do.

I will think about how my behaviour online might affect other people:

- When online, I will act as I expect others to act toward me.
- I will not copy anyone else’s work or files without their permission.
- I will be polite and responsible when I communicate with others and I appreciate that others may have different opinions to me.
- I will not take or share images of anyone without their permission.

I know that there are other rules that I need to follow:

- I will only use my own personal devices (mobile phones/USB devices etc.) in the school if I have permission. If I am allowed, I still have to follow all the other school rules if I use them.
- If I am using my own personal device, I must be connected to the set PHS network.
- I will only use social media sites with permission and at the times that are allowed.

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- Where work is protected by copyright, I will not try to download copies (including music and videos).
- When I am using the internet to find information, I should take care to check that the information is accurate, as I understand that the work of others may not be truthful and may be a deliberate attempt to mislead me.
- I should have permission if I use the original work of others in my own work.
- I should not use AI tools and generative chatbots (such as ChatGPT and Google Bard) to complete any of my class assignments or homework.
- I will only use approved AI tools (CoPilot).

I understand that I am responsible for my actions, both in and out of school:

- I know that I am expected to follow these rules in school and that I should behave in the same way when out of school as well.
- I understand that if I do not follow these rules, I may be subject to disciplinary action. This could include loss of access to the school network/internet, detentions, suspensions, parents/carers contacted and in the event of illegal activities involvement of the police.

Learner Acceptable Use Agreement Form

Please complete the sections below to show that you have read, understood and agree to the rules included in the acceptable use agreement. If you do not sign and return this agreement, access will not be granted to school systems. I have read and understand the above and agree to follow these guidelines when:

- I use the school systems and devices (both in and out of school)
- I use my own devices in the school (when allowed) e.g. mobile phones, gaming devices USB devices, cameras etc.
- I am out of school and involved in any online behaviour that might affect the school or other members of the school.

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Appendix 2b2- User agreement

1. For my own personal safety, I understand that what I do online will be supervised and monitored and that I may not be allowed to use devices in school unless I follow these rules.
2. I will look after the devices that I use so that the school and everyone there can be safe.
3. I will think about how my behaviour online might affect other people.
4. If I am using my own personal device, I must stay connected to a PHS network and follow the same rules for school devices.
5. I understand that I am responsible for my actions, both in and out of school.
6. I understand that if I do not follow these rules, I may be restricted in my use or not be able to use technology at all in school.

Name of Learner:

Signed:

Class group:

Date:

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Appendix 2c: Acceptable use agreement for younger pupils (1, suggested EYFS, KS1, KS2, KS3 and Nurture students).




The Percy Hedley Foundation

Computer Agreement

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technology.










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5. I will tell an adult if I see something that

upsets me on a screen.

6. I know that if I break the rules I might not be

allowed to use technology.

Signed (my name) _____

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



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 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 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 learners 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.

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- 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 learners 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.
- I will only use approved AI tools (CoPilot).

The school has 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's 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 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 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 learner 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 online systems 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

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- 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's 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/Trustees 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:

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Appendix 4: online safety training needs – self-audit for staff

ONLINE SAFETY TRAINING NEEDS AUDIT	
Name of staff member/volunteer:	Date:
Question	Yes/No (add comments if necessary)
Do you know the name of the person who has lead responsibility for online safety in school?	
Are you aware of the ways pupils can abuse their peers online?	
Do you know what you must do if a pupil approaches you with a concern or issue?	
Are you familiar with the school's acceptable use agreement for staff, volunteers, governors and visitors?	
Are you familiar with the school's acceptable use agreement for pupils and parents/carers?	
Are you familiar with the filtering and monitoring systems on the school's devices and networks?	
Do you understand your role and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring?	
Do you regularly change your password for accessing the school's ICT systems?	
Are you familiar with the school's approach to tackling cyber-bullying?	
Are there any areas of online safety in which you would like training/further training?	

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Appendix 5: Filtering and Monitoring systems

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
- 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. Notifications of attempts to access inappropriate websites and materials, or the use of concerning search terms on common platforms relating to adult matters, profanities, drugs and extremism will be reported to Safeguarding staff.

Requests to provide information about an individual's usage of ICT, give access to a person's account or carry out detailed investigation will only be accepted with the authorisation of a member of the Foundation Executive, the HR Team, Data Protection Officer or DSL depending on the context and nature of the request.

The school monitors ICT use in order to:

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

Our governing board is responsible for making sure that:

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

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

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

The school uses SonicTek as its filtering and monitoring provider. This system has been selected because it integrates effectively with the school's existing firewall infrastructure and meets the educational and safeguarding requirements of the school. SonicTek provides WebVue alerts, enabling the school to monitor and respond appropriately to online activity which may indicate safeguarding concerns or breaches of the school's Acceptable Use Policy. Web access blocking lists are automatically maintained by Sonicwall, supplemented by custom whitelist/blacklists maintained by the IT Team.

The filtering system is designed to prevent access to content that is inappropriate, harmful or unlawful. This includes, but is not limited to, websites and online content categorised as:

- Pornography and sexually explicit material
- Racial hatred and discriminatory content
- Extremist or radicalising material
- Gaming and gambling sites where deemed inappropriate for educational use
- Sites promoting or facilitating illegal activities

In addition to blocking inappropriate content, the monitoring functionality can identify and alert staff to potential safeguarding concerns, including indicators relating to:

- Self-harm or suicidal ideation
- Serious violent crime
- County lines exploitation and grooming
- Other behaviours or online activity that may place a child at risk

The school's email system is also subject to filtering and monitoring controls. Email filtering is provided through Microsoft's automated protection systems, supplemented by additional keyword-based filters configured and regularly reviewed by the ICT Manager.

The school's filtering provider utilises regularly updated Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) block lists to ensure that known harmful and illegal content is appropriately restricted. The ICT Manager carries out a monthly filtering and monitoring review, which includes verifying that IWF and CTIRU block lists are current, active and being correctly applied. The outcomes of these checks are circulated to relevant services and school leaders as appropriate.

To ensure that filtering and monitoring arrangements remain effective across the school's digital estate, regular testing is carried out on a representative range of devices, including:

- Staff laptops
- Student laptops

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- Desktop computers
- iPads
- Maintenance tablets
- Tablets used for Earwig
- School mobile phones

This list is not intended to be exhaustive. The school reserves the right to include any additional device, platform, service or technology within its filtering and monitoring testing programme where this is considered necessary to support safeguarding, security, compliance or operational requirements.

The school recognises that filtering and monitoring systems form an important part of its safeguarding arrangements but cannot guarantee that all unsuitable material will be blocked. Filtering and monitoring are therefore supported by appropriate supervision, education, staff training and clear reporting procedures to promote safe and responsible use of technology.

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