



Cyber and E-Safety Policy ***September 2025***

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Version Control / Change Log

Date	Version / Change	Details
November 2024	E-Safety Policy	Original E-Safety Policy published.
May 2025	AI Staff Policy	Artificial Intelligence Policy for Staff published.
September 2025	Cyber and E-Safety Policy	Merged E-Safety Policy (Nov 2024) and AI Staff Policy (May 2025). Integrated AI responsibilities, monitoring, acceptable use; review date aligned to Sept 2026.

Background and rationale

The potential that technology has to impact on the lives of all citizens increases year on year. This is probably even more true for children, who are generally much more open to developing technologies than many adults. In many areas technology is transforming the way that schools teach and that children learn. At home, technology is changing the way children live and the activities in which they choose to partake; these trends are set to continue.

While developing technology brings many opportunities, it also brings risks and potential dangers of which these are just a few:

- Access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate images or other content.
- Unauthorised access to / loss of / sharing of personal information.
- The risk of being subject to grooming by those with whom they make contact on the internet.
- The sharing / distribution of personal images without an individual's consent or knowledge.
- Inappropriate communication / contact with others, including strangers.
- Cyber-bullying.
- Access to unsuitable video / internet games.
- An inability to evaluate the quality, accuracy and relevance of information on the internet.
- Plagiarism and copyright infringement.
- Illegal downloading of music or video files.
- The potential for excessive use which may impact on social and emotional development and learning.

This policy sets out how we strive to keep children safe with technology while they are in school. We recognise that children are often more at risk when using technology at home (where we have no control over the technical structures we put in place to keep them safe) and so this policy also sets out how we educate children of the potential risks. We also explain how we attempt to inform those people who work with our children beyond the school environment (parents, friends and the wider community) to be aware and to assist in this process.

Policy and leadership

This section begins with an outline of the key people responsible for developing our Cyber and E-Safety Policy and keeping everyone safe with ICT. It also outlines the core responsibilities of all users of IT in our school.

It goes on to explain how we maintain our policy and then to outline how we try to remain safe while using different aspects of IT.

Responsibilities: The Cyber and e-safety committee

Each school has a Cyber and E-Safety committee led by the school's Computing and E-Safety Lead and is made up of pupils (Digital leaders) and meets on a termly basis to:

- Review and monitor this e-safety policy.
- Consider any issues relating to school filtering.
- Discuss any e-safety issues that have arisen and how they should be dealt with.

Fern Academy Trust schools will monitor the e-safety within their Digital Leaders roles. Issues that arise are referred to other school bodies as appropriate and when necessary to bodies outside the school such as the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB).

Responsibilities: Computing and E-Safety Lead

Our Computing and E-Safety Lead is the person responsible to the head teacher and governors for the day to day issues relating to e-safety.

Computing and E-Safety Lead:

- leads the Digital Leaders E-Safety committee as well as discussions on e-safety with the School's pupil voice.
- takes day to day responsibility for e-safety issues and has a leading role in establishing and reviewing the school Cyber and E-Safety policies / documents.
- ensures that all staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an e-safety incident.
- provides training and advice for staff.
- liaises with the Local Authority.
- liaises with school IT technical staff.
- receives reports of e-safety incidents and creates a log of incidents to inform future e-safety developments.
- meets with e-safety governor to discuss current issues, review incident logs and filtering change control logs.
- attends relevant meetings and committees of Governing Body.
- reports regularly to Senior Leadership Team.
- receives appropriate training and support to fulfil their role effectively.
- has responsibility for blocking / unblocking internet sites in the school's filtering system / passing on requests for blocking / unblocking to filtering company Exa Networks via Focusnetworks.

- maintains logs of any occasions where the school has used its powers of search and deletion of electronic devices.

Responsibilities: governors

Our governors are responsible for the approval of this policy and for reviewing its effectiveness. This will be carried out by the governors (or a governors' subcommittee) receiving regular information about e-safety incidents and monitoring reports. Governors are not only responsible for monitoring e-safety incidents but also for evaluating the impact of the school's approach to online safety on pupil outcomes. This includes:

A member of the governing body has taken on the role of e-safety governor which involves:

- regular meetings with the Computing and E-Safety Lead with an agenda based on:
- monitoring of e-safety incident logs.
- monitoring of filtering change control logs.
- monitoring logs of any occasions where the school has used its powers of search and deletion of electronic devices.
- reporting to relevant Governors committee / meeting.

Strategic Oversight by Governors

- scrutinising how effectively e-safety education prepares pupils to manage online risks
- challenging leaders on how incidents are resolved and lessons learned
- ensuring staff and governor training is up to date with current online risks
- confirming that filtering and monitoring meet DfE statutory standards

The governing body will receive an annual safeguarding report which includes online safety data, trends, and evidence of impact, and will use this to inform school improvement.

Responsibilities: head teacher

- The head teacher is responsible for ensuring the safety (including e-safety) of members of the school community, though the day to day responsibility for e-safety is delegated to the Computing and E-Safety Lead.
- The head teacher and another member of the senior management team should be aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious e-safety allegation being made against a member of staff (See flow chart on dealing with e-safety incidents – below and relevant Local Authority HR / disciplinary procedures).

Responsibilities: classroom-based staff

Teaching and Support Staff are responsible for ensuring that:

- they have an up to date awareness of e-safety matters and of the current school e-safety policy and practices.
- they use only authorised AI tools for school business (currently: Microsoft 365 Co-Pilot and ChatGPT). Any other AI tool must be approved by the Computing and E-Safety Lead with CEO consent.
- they use AI tools for drafting internal guidance/training, lesson planning, research, summaries, idea generation. Other purposes require Headteacher and CEO approval.
- they do not input personal data (pupil or staff names, contact details, or any identifiable information) into AI tools.
- their communications and outputs must remain professional, accurate, and free from bias; staff are accountable for any AI-assisted work they use.
- they have read, understood and signed the school's Acceptable Use Policy for staff.
- they report any suspected misuse or problem to the Computing and E-Safety Lead.
- digital communications with students should be on a professional level and only carried out using official school systems.
- e-safety issues are embedded in the curriculum and other school activities.

Responsibilities: IT technician

The IT Technician is responsible for ensuring that:

- the school's IT infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack.
- users may only access the school's networks through a properly enforced password protection policy.
- shortcomings in the infrastructure are reported to the Computing Lead and E-Safety or head teacher so that appropriate action may be taken.
- they maintain a current list of authorised AI applications and access controls.
- they enable proportionate monitoring/auditing of AI usage logs to protect confidential information and ensure compliance with policy and law.
- support staff training and report significant risks, incidents, or misuse to the Computing and E-Safety Lead and Headteacher.

Policy development, monitoring and review

This e-safety policy has been developed by a working group made up of:

- Computing and E-Safety Lead
- Head teacher / Senior Leaders
- Teachers
- IT Technical staff
- Governors (especially the e-safety governor)
- Pupils

Schedule for development / monitoring / review of this policy

The implementation of this e-safety policy will be monitored by the:	The Digital Leaders e-safety committee under the direction of the Computing and E-Safety Lead.
Monitoring will take place at regular intervals:	Annually
The governing body will receive a report on the implementation of the e-safety policy generated by the monitoring group (which will include anonymous details of e-safety incidents) at regular intervals:	Annually
The Cyber and E-Safety policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly in the light of any significant new developments in the use of the technologies, new threats to e-safety or incidents that have taken place. The next anticipated review date will be:	September 2026
Should serious e-safety incidents take place, the following external persons / agencies should be informed:	Hereford Safeguarding Children Board e-safety representative Herefordshire Police

Monitoring of AI

The Trust may monitor AI usage to prevent misuse, protect confidential information, ensure standards of conduct, and comply with legal obligations, in line with Computing and Cyber & E-Safety policies.

Suspected breaches must be reported immediately to the Computing and E-Safety Lead.

Policy Scope

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

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers head teachers, to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site and empowers members of staff to impose disciplinary penalties for inappropriate behaviour. This is pertinent to incidents of cyber-bullying, or other e-safety incidents covered by this policy, which may take place out of school, but is linked to membership of the school.

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

Acceptable Use Policies

All members of the school community are responsible for using the school IT systems in accordance with the appropriate acceptable use policy, which they will be expected to sign before being given access to school systems.

Acceptable use policy agreement are provided in Appendix 1 of this policy for:

- Pupils (EYFS + KS1 / KS2)
- Staff (and volunteers)
- Parents / carers (including permissions to use pupil images / work and to use IT systems)
- Community users of the school's IT system
- Use of AI by staff and pupils

Pupil acceptable use policy agreements are revisited and resigned annually at the start of each school year and amended accordingly in the light of new developments and discussions with the children which take place at the time.

For children in EYFS, teacher will sign on behalf of the children.

Staff and volunteers sign when they take up their role in school and in the future if significant changes are made to the policy agreement.

Parents sign once when their child enters the school. The parents' policy agreement also includes permission for use of their child's image (still or moving) by the school, permission for their child to use the school's IT resources (including the internet) and permission to publish their work. A copy of the pupil acceptable use policy agreement is made available to parents at this stage and at the beginning of each year.

Community users sign when they first request access to the school's IT system.

Induction policies for all members of the school community include this guidance.

Whole School approach and links to other policies

This policy has strong links to other school policies as follows:

Computing policy

Computing Policy How IT is used, managed, resourced and supported in our school

Other policies relating to e-safety

Anti-bullying	How our school strives to illuminate bullying – link to cyber bullying.
PSHE	E-Safety has links to this – staying safe.
Safeguarding	Safeguarding children electronically is an important aspect of E-Safety. The e-safety policy forms a part of the school's safeguarding policy.
Prevent	Our filtering software takes into account any associated language of extremism.
Behaviour	Linking to positive strategies for encouraging e-safety and sanctions for disregarding it.

Illegal or inappropriate activities and related sanctions

The school believes that the activities listed below are inappropriate in a school context (**those in bold are illegal**) and that users should not engage in these activities when using school equipment or systems (in or out of school).

Users shall not visit Internet sites, make, post, download, upload, data transfer, communicate or pass on, material, remarks, proposals or comments that contain or relate to:

- **child sexual abuse images (illegal - The Protection of Children Act 1978)**
- **grooming, incitement, arrangement or facilitation of sexual acts against children (illegal – Sexual Offences Act 2003)**
- **possession of extreme pornographic images (illegal – Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008)**
- **criminally racist material in UK – to stir up religious hatred (or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation) (illegal – Public Order Act 1986)**
- pornography
- promotion of any kind of discrimination
- promotion of racial or religious hatred – **linking with Prevent Policy**
- threatening behaviour, including promotion of physical violence or mental harm

- any other information which may be offensive to colleagues or breaches the integrity of the ethos of the school or brings the school into disrepute
- using AI to generate or disseminate illegal, harmful, discriminatory, or pornographic content
- inputting or extracting personal data without a lawful basis and specific authorisation.
- attempting to bypass technical or policy controls on AI systems.

Additionally, the following activities are also considered unacceptable on IT kit provided by the school:

- Using school systems to run a private business
- Use systems, applications, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering or other safeguards employed by the school
- Uploading, downloading or transmitting commercial software or any copyrighted materials belonging to third parties, without the necessary licensing permissions
- Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (e.g. financial / personal information, databases, computer / network access codes and passwords)
- Creating or propagating computer viruses or other harmful files
- Carrying out sustained or instantaneous high-volume network traffic (downloading / uploading files) that causes network congestion and hinders others in their use of the internet
- On-line gambling and non-educational gaming
- Use of personal social networking sites / profiles for non-educational purposes

If members of staff suspect that misuse might have taken place, but that the misuse is not illegal (see above) it is essential that correct procedures are used to investigate, preserve evidence and protect those carrying out the investigation.

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

Pupil sanctions

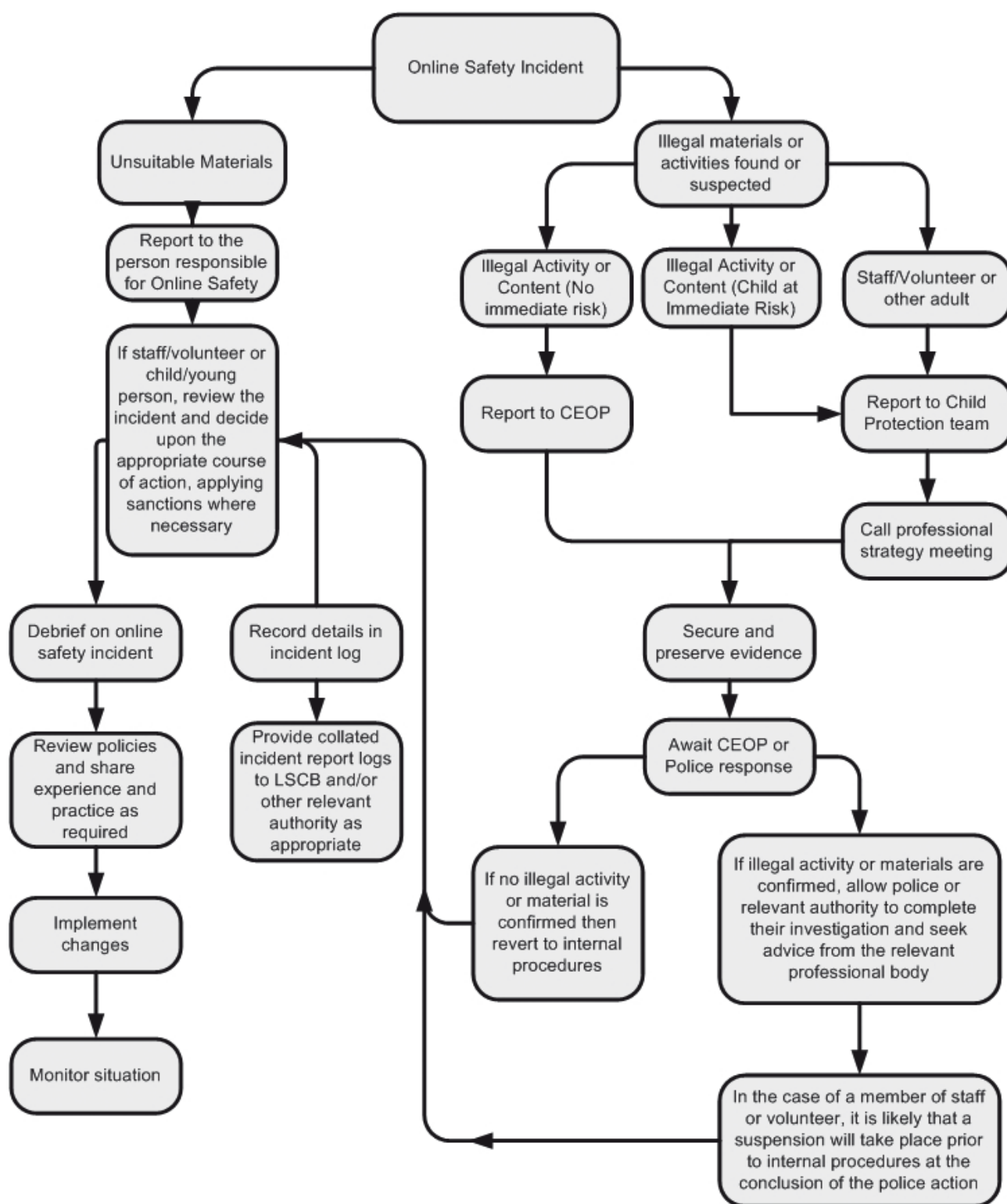
	Refer to class teacher	Refer to Computing & E-safety Lead	Refer to head teacher	Refer to Policy	Refer to Computing & E-Safety Lead	Inform parents / carers	Removal of network / internet access rights	Warning	Further sanction e.g. detention / exclusion
Deliberately accessing or trying to access material that could be considered illegal (see list in earlier section on unsuitable / inappropriate activities).	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Unauthorised use of non-educational sites during lessons	X				X		X		
Unauthorised use of mobile phone / digital camera / other handheld device	X		X			X			
Unauthorised use of social networking / instant messaging / personal email	X				X				
Unauthorised downloading or uploading of files	X				X				
Allowing others to access school network by sharing username and passwords	X	X	X		X		X		
Attempting to access the school network, using another pupil's account	X	X	X		X		X		
Attempting to access or accessing the school network, using the account of a member of staff	X	X	X				X		
Corrupting or destroying the data of other users	X	X	X			X	X	X	
Sending an email, text or instant message that is regarded as offensive, harassment or of a bullying nature	X	X	X			X		X	
Continued infringements of the above, following previous warnings or sanctions	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Actions which could bring the school into disrepute or breach the integrity of the ethos of the school	X	X	X			X		X	
Using proxy sites or other means to subvert the school's filtering system	X	X	X		X		X	X	
Accidentally accessing offensive or pornographic material and failing to report the incident	X	X	X		X	X			
Deliberately accessing or trying to access offensive or pornographic material	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Receipt or transmission of material that infringes the copyright of another person or infringes the Data Protection Act	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Accessing AI applications or websites	X				X		X		

Staff sanctions

	Refer to line manager	Refer to head teacher	Refer to Local Authority / HR	Refer to Police	Refer to Technical Support Staff for action re filtering etc	Warning	Suspension	Disciplinary action
Deliberately accessing or trying to access material that could be considered illegal (see list in earlier section on unsuitable / inappropriate activities).	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Excessive or inappropriate personal use of the internet / social networking sites / instant messaging / personal email	X	X			X	X		
Unauthorised downloading or uploading of files	X	X			X	X		
Allowing others to access school network by sharing username and passwords or attempting to access or accessing the school network, using another person's account	X	X				X		
Careless use of personal data e.g. holding or transferring data in an insecure manner	X	X				X		
Deliberate actions to breach data protection or network security rules	X	X			X	X	X	
Corrupting or destroying the data of other users or causing deliberate damage to hardware or software	X	X	X			X	X	X
Sending an email, text or instant message that is regarded as offensive, harassment or of a bullying nature	X	X	X			X	X	
Using personal email / social networking / instant messaging / text messaging to carrying out digital communications with pupils	X	X	X			X		
Actions which could compromise the staff member's professional standing	X	X				X		
Actions which could bring the school into disrepute or breach the integrity of the ethos of the school	X	X				X		
Using proxy sites or other means to subvert the school's filtering system	X	X			X	X	X	
Accidentally accessing offensive or pornographic material and failing to report the incident	X	X			X	X		
Deliberately accessing or trying to access offensive or pornographic material	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Breaching copyright or licensing regulations	X	X				X		
Continued infringements of the above, following previous warnings or sanctions	X	X	X			X	X	X
Using AI applications or websites outside of the trusts AI policy	X	X			X	X		

Reporting of e-safety breaches

It is hoped that all members of the school community will be responsible users of IT, who understand and follow this policy. However, there may be times when infringements of the policy could take place, through careless or irresponsible or, very rarely, through deliberate misuse. Listed below are the responses that will be made to any apparent or actual incidents of misuse:



Child-on-Child Online Abuse & Harmful Sexual Behaviour Online

The school recognises that child-on-child abuse can occur online as well as face-to-face. This includes, but is not limited to:

- online bullying (through messaging apps, gaming, or social media)
- sharing of nudes and semi-nudes (sometimes called sexting)
- coercion, harassment or sexualised comments online
- non-consensual sharing of images or videos

All incidents will be treated as safeguarding concerns and reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL will follow the procedures set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2025) and the school's Safeguarding Policy, including referrals to external agencies where appropriate.

Pupils are taught age-appropriate strategies to recognise, resist and report harmful sexual behaviour online. Staff receive regular training in how to respond to disclosures, including using the UKCIS "Sharing nudes and semi-nudes" guidance.

Audit / Monitoring / Reporting / Review

The Computing and E-Safety Lead will ensure that full records are kept of incidents involving the searching for and of mobile phones and electronic devices and the deletion of data / files.

These records will be reviewed by the head teacher / and a governor on a termly basis.

Use of hand-held technology (personal phones and hand-held devices)

We recognise that the area of mobile technology is rapidly advancing and it is our school's policy to review its stance on such technology on a regular basis. Currently our policy is this:

- Members of staff are permitted to bring their personal mobile devices into school. They are required to use their own professional judgement as to when it is appropriate to use them. Broadly speaking this is:
 - Personal hand-held devices will be used in lesson time only in an emergency or extreme circumstances.
 - Members of staff are free to use these devices in school, outside teaching time.
- Pupils are not currently permitted to bring their personal hand-held devices into school and therefore are required to hand their devices in to the school office whilst attending school.

Email

Access to email is provided for all users in school via the intranet page accessible via the web browser (internet Explorer) from their desktop.

These official school email services may be regarded as safe and secure and are monitored.

- Staff and pupils should use only the school email services to communicate with others when in school, or on school systems (e.g. by remote access).
- Users need to be aware that email communications may be monitored.
- Pupils have access to an individual email account for communication within school.
- A structured education programme is delivered to pupils which helps them to be aware of the dangers of and good practices associated with the use of email.
- Staff may only access personal email accounts on school systems for emergency or extraordinary purposes (these may be blocked by filtering).
- Users must immediately report, to their class teacher / Computing and E-Safety Lead – in accordance with the school policy the receipt of any email that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such email.

Videoconferencing

Videoconferencing equipment in classrooms must be switched off when not in use and not set to auto answer.

Equipment connected to the National Education Network (NEN) should use the national E.164 numbering system and display their H323 ID name.

External IP addresses should not be made available to other sites.

Videoconferencing contact information should not be put on the school Website.

Only web-based conferencing products that are authorised by the school are permitted for classroom use.

Videoconferencing is normally supervised by a teacher. In the event of this not being the case pupils should ask permission from the supervising teacher before making or answering a videoconference call.

Permission for children to take part in video conferences is sought from parents / carers at the beginning of the pupil's time in schools and only where it is granted may children participate.

Only key administrators have access to videoconferencing administration areas.

Unique log on and password details for the educational videoconferencing services (such as the Janet booking system) are only issued to members of staff.

Use of digital and video images

- When using digital images, staff should inform and educate pupils about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images. In

particular they should recognise the risks attached to publishing their own images on the internet e.g. on social networking sites.

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

See also the following section for guidance on publication of photographs

Use of web-based publication tools

Fern Academy Trust uses the public facing website, www.fernacademytrust.co.uk for sharing information with the community beyond the Trust. Each school within the Trust have their own websites, these are all hyperlinked for quick access across the Trust. Communication includes, from time-to-time celebrating work and achievements of children. All users are required to consider good practice when publishing content.

- Personal information should not be posted on the school website and only official email addresses (provided as links rather than appearing directly on the site) should be used to identify members of staff (never pupils).
- Only pupil's first names are used on the website, and only then when necessary.
- Detailed calendars are not published on the school website.
- Photographs published on the website, or elsewhere that include pupils will be selected carefully and will comply with the following good practice guidance on the use of such images:
 - pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on a website or blog, and never in association with photographs
 - Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of pupils are published on the school website.
- Pupil's work can only be published with the permission of the pupil and parents or carers.

Professional standards for staff communication

In all aspects of their work in our school teachers abide by the **Teachers' Standards** as described by the DfE (link: [Teachers' standards - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk/teachers-standards)).

Teachers translate these standards appropriately for all matters relating to e-safety.

Any digital communication between staff and pupils or parents / carers (email, chat, VLE etc) must be professional in tone and content.

- These communications may only take place on official (monitored) school systems.
- Personal email addresses, text messaging or public chat / social networking technology must not be used for these communications.

Staff constantly monitor and evaluate developing technologies, balancing risks and benefits, and consider how appropriate these are for learning and teaching. These evaluations help inform policy and develop practice.

The views and experiences of pupils are used to inform this process also.

Filtering

Introduction

The filtering of internet content provides an important means of preventing users from accessing material that is illegal or is inappropriate in an educational context. The filtering system cannot, however, provide a 100% guarantee that it will do so. It is therefore important that the school has a filtering policy to manage the associated risks and to provide preventative measures which are relevant to the situation in this school.

As a school buying broadband services from Exa Networks via our IT support of Focusnetworks we automatically receive the benefits of a managed filtering service, with some flexibility for changes at local level.

Responsibilities

The day-to-day responsibility for the management of the school's filtering policy is held by the Computing and E-Safety Lead (with ultimate responsibility resting with the head teacher and governors). They manage the school filtering, in line with the processes outlined below and keep logs of changes to and breaches of the filtering system.

To ensure that there is a system of checks and balances and to protect those responsible, changes to the standard Herefordshire school filtering service must:

- be logged in change control logs
- be authorised by a second responsible person prior to changes being made (this will normally happen anyway, as part of the process and will be the class teacher who originally made the request for the change).

All users have a responsibility to report immediately to class teachers / Computing and E-Safety Lead any infringements of the school's filtering policy of which they become aware or any sites that are accessed, which they believe should be blocked.

Users must not attempt to use any programmes or software that might allow them to bypass the filtering / security systems in place to prevent access to such materials.

Education / training / awareness

Pupils are made aware of the importance of filtering systems through the school's e-safety education programme.

Staff users will be made aware of the filtering systems through:

- signing the Acceptable Use agreement (a part of their induction process)
- briefing in staff meetings, training days, memos etc. (from time to time and on-going).

Parents will be informed of the school's filtering policy through the Acceptable Use agreement and through e-safety awareness sessions / newsletter etc.

Monitoring

No filtering system can guarantee 100% protection against access to unsuitable sites. The school will therefore monitor the activities of users on the school network and on school equipment.

Compliance with DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards (2023)

The school's filtering and monitoring arrangements comply with the Department for Education's statutory standards (September 2023). Specifically:

- Filtering blocks access to illegal and harmful content, including child sexual abuse images, extremist content, and inappropriate adult material.
- Monitoring systems are proportionate, age-appropriate, and reviewed regularly to balance safeguarding with privacy.
- All filtering change requests are logged, authorised, and subject to governor oversight.
- Effectiveness of filtering and monitoring is reviewed annually and reported to governors, with urgent risks escalated immediately.

Parents are informed about the filtering and monitoring approach so they can support children's safety online at home.

Audit / reporting

Logs of filtering change controls and of filtering incidents are made available to

- the e-safety governor
- the digital leaders

- the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) on request

This filtering policy will be reviewed in the response to the evidence provided by the audit logs of the suitability of the current provision.

E-safety education

Whilst regulation and technical solutions are very important, their use must be balanced by educating pupils to take a responsible approach. The education of pupils in e-safety is therefore an essential part of the school's e-safety provision. Children and young people need the help and support of the school to recognise and avoid e-safety risks and build their resilience. This is particularly important for helping children to stay safe out of school where technical support and filtering may not be available to them.

E-Safety education will be provided in the following ways:

- A planned e-safety programme should be provided as part of Computing and PSHE lessons and should be regularly revisited – this will cover both the use of IT and new technologies in school and outside school.
- We use the resources on CEOP's Think U Know site as a basis for our e-safety education.
- Learning opportunities for e-safety are built into every year groups planning documents under a specific e-safety area.
- Key e-safety messages should be reinforced through further input via assemblies and pastoral activities as well as informal conversations when the opportunity arises.
- Pupils should be helped to understand the need for the pupil acceptable use agreement and encouraged to adopt safe and responsible use of ICT both within and outside school.
- In lessons where internet use is pre-planned, it is best practice that pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches.
- Where pupils are allowed to freely search the internet, e.g. using search engines, staff should be vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites the young people visit.

Information literacy

Pupils should be taught in all lessons to be critically aware of the content they access on-line and be guided to validate the accuracy of information by employing techniques such as:

- Checking the likely validity of the URL (web address)
- Cross checking references (can they find the same information on other sites)

- Checking the pedigree of the compilers / owners of the website
- Pupils should be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet.
- Pupils are taught how to make best use of internet search engines to arrive at the information they require

The contribution of the children to e-learning strategy

It is our general school policy to require children to play a leading role in shaping the way our school operates and this is very much the case with our e-learning strategy. Children often use technology out of school in ways that we do not in school and members of staff are always keen to hear of children's experiences and how they feel the technology, especially rapidly developing technology (such as mobile devices) could be helpful in their learning.

Pupils play a part in monitoring this policy. The Digital Leaders made up of children from every year group discuss this policy every renewal period.

SEND and Vulnerable Pupils

E-Safety for Pupils with SEND and Vulnerable Groups

We recognise that some pupils, particularly those with SEND or additional vulnerabilities, may face greater online risks, including grooming, exploitation, or difficulties in recognising unsafe content. To address this, we:

- adapt e-safety teaching materials to ensure accessibility (e.g., simplified language, visual resources, role-play)
- provide additional adult support during online activities for pupils who need it
- work with parents and carers of vulnerable pupils to reinforce safe online practices at home
- monitor more closely the digital activity of pupils identified as at greater risk

These adaptations are in line with KCSIE 2025 requirements that safeguarding practice must meet the needs of all pupils.

Staff training

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

- A planned programme of formal e-safety training will be made available to staff. An audit of the e-safety training needs of all staff will be carried out regularly.
- It is expected that some staff will identify e-safety as a training need within the performance management process.
- All new staff should receive e-safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the school e-safety policy and acceptable use policies which are signed as part of their induction.
- The Computing and E-Safety Lead will receive regular updates through attendance at local authority or other information / training sessions and by reviewing guidance documents released by the DfE, local authority, the HSCB and others.
- All teaching staff have been involved in the creation of this e-safety policy and are therefore aware of its content.
- The Computing and E-Safety Lead will provide advice, guidance and training as required to individuals as required on an on-going basis.
- AI awareness and safe-use training will be provided. Human reviewers must understand risks such as bias and privacy, and how to review AI outputs.

Governor training

Governors should take part in e-safety training / awareness sessions, with particular importance for those who are members of any subcommittee or group involved in IT, e-safety, health and safety or child protection. This may be offered in a number of ways:

- Attendance at training provided by the Local Authority (Governor Services or Learning and Achievement Service), National Governors Association or other bodies.
- Participation in school training / information sessions for staff or parents.

The e-safety governor works closely with the Computing and E-Safety Lead and reports back to the full governing body.

Parent and carer awareness raising

Many parents and carers have only a limited understanding of e-safety risks and issues, yet they play an essential role in the education of their children and in the monitoring and regulation of the children's on-line experiences. Parents often either underestimate or do not realise how often children and young people come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the internet and are often unsure about what they would do about it. "There is a generational digital divide" (Byron Report).

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

- Letters, newsletters, website, VLE
- Parents evenings
- Reference to the parents materials on the Think U Know website (www.thinkuknow.co.uk) or others
- termly updates on emerging apps, platforms, and games (e.g., TikTok, Snapchat, Roblox, Discord, livestreaming services, Artificial Intelligence apps)
- signposting to practical guides from the NSPCC, UK Safer Internet Centre, and CEOP
- workshops for parents on how to set up parental controls, monitor online gaming, and talk to children about online risks

This partnership helps ensure consistency between school and home in promoting safe and responsible use of technology.

Wider school community understanding

The school will offer family learning courses in IT, media literacy and e-safety so that parents and children can together gain a better understanding of these issues. Messages to the public around e-safety should also be targeted towards grandparents and other relatives as well as parents. Everyone has a role to play in empowering children to stay safe while they enjoy these new technologies, just as it is everyone's responsibility to keep children safe in the non-digital world.

Community Users who access school IT systems / website / VLE as part of the Extended School provision will be expected to sign a Community User AUP before being provided with access to school systems.

Fern Academy Trust AI policy

Background to the policy

Although Data Protection law does not specifically define or discuss the guidelines for Artificial Intelligence ('AI'), the guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office and the UK government defines it as using non-human systems to imitate human intelligence. In this time of constant development and increased usage, there is a need to provide staff with guidelines for use and to recognise an employer's right to monitor such usage.

Introduction

The use of AI is transforming the way individuals are working. Informed and responsible use of AI has the potential to increase efficiency and improve decision making. With these benefits come potential risks, including data protection breaches, the protection of confidential

information, ethical considerations, and compliance with wider legal obligations. We permit the informed and responsible use of authorised AI applications by staff, in carrying out specific and authorised tasks. **Until a full risk assessment, safety, security procedures/protocols and training are fully put in place, no pupils are authorised to use any AI applications.**

This policy must be complied with when using AI to carry out such tasks. The purpose of this policy is to set out our rules on the use of AI in the workplace and how it should be adopted by staff to ensure we maximise the benefits of AI while minimising any risks or concerns. Pupils and staff's names and personal data must not be used with the AI applications. This is to reduce any potential risk of harm to pupils and staff whose data might be shared with the authorised systems.

This policy covers all employees, volunteers and agency workers.

Authorised AI applications

The school allow access to the following AI applications for business purposes:

- Chat GPT
- Microsoft 365 Co-Pilot

The listed AI applications may be updated at any time. Should staff wish to use another AI application not listed, they must contact the Computing and E-safety Lead to review permission to do so.

Authorised usage of AI for staff

Authorised AI applications must only be used by staff for the following business purposes:

- (a) Drafting internal guidance, training and presentations
- (b) Lesson planning
- (c) Conducting research
- (d) Providing summaries
- (e) Idea generation

All other purposes must be authorised in advance by the Head of school/ Headteacher. Before using any AI applications, staff will be offered training to ensure human reviewers (those who conduct monitoring of these applications) have a correct understanding and do not add any bias into the AI systems.

Data Privacy

Fern Academy Trust are yet to permit or encourage the usage of AI to process personal data at this time but are aware of the data protection responsibilities to be transparent of such usage and will update the policy as and when needed.

Staff should always ensure AI tools used comply with UK GDPR and other data protection regulations. They must verify that tools meet data security standards before using them for work related to the school.

Monitoring

We reserve the right to monitor all content on any AI applications used for business purposes. This will only be carried out by Fern Academy Trust to comply with a legal obligation or for our legitimate business purposes, in order to:

- (a) prevent misuse of the content and protect confidential information (and the confidential information of our pupils, staff or other stakeholders);
- (b) ensure compliance with our rules, standards of conduct and policies in force;
- (c) monitor performance at work;
- (d) ensure that staff do not use AI for any unlawful purposes or activities;
- (e) comply with legislation for the protection of intellectual property rights;

Fern Academy Trust will also conduct monitoring under our Computing, Cyber and E-Safety Policies.

Training

As AI becomes an integral part of modern education, it is essential for staff to be trained in its effective use. Training equips educators with the knowledge and skills to integrate AI tools responsibly into teaching, learning, and administrative processes. It ensures that AI is used to enhance educational outcomes, streamline workloads, and promote equity while safeguarding ethical practices and data privacy. By fostering AI literacy, staff can confidently prepare pupils for a future where AI is a key driver of innovation and opportunity.

- We will provide comprehensive training to all staff on the effective, responsible, and ethical use of AI technologies in education, ensuring these tools enhance teaching, learning, and administrative processes.
- We will integrate AI-related risks and safeguards into annual safeguarding training, aligning with statutory guidance, including "Keeping Learners Safe."
- We will ensure all staff are equipped with the knowledge and skills to confidently integrate AI into their professional practice and to prepare pupils for a future shaped by AI-driven innovation and opportunities.
- We will train staff to identify, assess, and mitigate risks associated with AI technologies, including issues such as biased algorithms, privacy breaches, and harmful content.
- We will train staff on robust data protection practices, ensuring compliance with UK GDPR and other relevant regulations while using AI systems.

- We will promote ethical practices in the use of AI, ensuring that these technologies contribute to equity, fairness, and inclusivity in education.
- We will empower educators to teach learners about the safe and ethical use of AI, cultivating a culture of awareness, resilience, and informed decision-making in the digital age.
- We will train staff to use AI responsibly as a tool to monitor and address online risks, reinforcing our commitment to a safe learning environment.

Training materials for using AI in education can be found on the UK government website [Using AI in education settings: support materials - GOV.UK](#)

Breach of this policy

Breach of this policy may, where appropriate, result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal or termination of your employment or engagement with the Trust.

Where disciplinary action is appropriate, it may be taken whether the breach is committed during or outside normal hours of work, and whether at home, in school or from a remote working location.

You are required to assist with any investigation into a suspected breach of this policy. This may involve providing us with access to AI applications, whether or not this is an authorised application, and any relevant passwords and login details.

You must report any breach of this policy immediately to the Computing and E-Safety Lead in the first instance.

Related Policies

Staff should refer to the following policies that are related to this AI Staff Policy: -

- Code of Conduct Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Privacy Notice – Workforce Policy
- Computing and Cyber & E-Safety Policies

Guidance for Reviewing Internet Sites

This guidance is intended for use when the school needs to manage incidents that involve the use of online services. It encourages a safe and secure approach to the management of the incident. Incidents might typically include cyber-bullying, harassment, anti-social behaviour and deception. These may appear in emails, texts, social networking sites, messaging sites, gaming sites or blogs etc.

Do not follow this procedure if you suspect that the web site(s) concerned may contain child abuse images. If this is the case please refer to the Flowchart for responding to online safety incidents and report immediately to the police. Please follow all steps in this procedure:

- Have more than one senior member of staff / volunteer involved in this process. This is vital to protect individuals if accusations are subsequently reported.
- Conduct the procedure using a designated computer that will not be used by young people and if necessary can be taken off site by the police should the need arise. Use the same computer for the duration of the procedure.
- It is important to ensure that the relevant staff should have appropriate internet access to conduct the procedure, but also that the sites and content visited are closely monitored and recorded (to provide further protection).
- Record the URL of any site containing the alleged misuse and describe the nature of the content causing concern. It may also be necessary to record and store screenshots of the content on the machine being used for investigation. These may be printed, signed and attached to the form (except in the case of images of child sexual abuse – see below)
- Once this has been completed and fully investigated the group will need to judge whether this concern has substance or not. If it does then appropriate action will be required and could include the following:
 - Internal response or discipline procedures.
 - Involvement by Local Authority or national / local organisation (as relevant).
 - Police involvement and/or action.
- If content being reviewed includes images of Child abuse then the monitoring should be halted and referred to the Police immediately. Other instances to report to the police would include:
 - incidents of ‘grooming’ behaviour.
 - the sending of obscene materials to a child.
 - Isolate the computer in question as best you can. Any change to its state may affect a later police investigation.
- It is important that all of the above steps are taken as they will provide an evidence trail for the group, possibly the police and demonstrate that visits to these sites were carried out for child protection purposes. The completed form should be retained by the group for evidence and reference purposes.

Sample documents for recording the review of and action arriving from the review of potentially harmful websites can be found in the PDF version of the SWGfL template: <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/online-safety-policy-templates/>

Criteria for website filtering

A. ORIGIN - What is the website's origin?

- The organisation providing the site is clearly indicated.
- There is information about the site's authors (about us, our objectives, etc.)
- There is a contact for further information and questions concerning the site's information and content.

B. DESIGN - Is the website well designed? Is it / does it:

- appealing to its intended audience (colours, graphics, layout)?
- easy to navigate through the site - links are clearly marked etc?
- have working links?
- Have inappropriate adverts?

C. CONTENT - Is the website's content meaningful in terms of its educational value?

- The site is free of spelling mistakes, grammatical errors, syntax errors, or typos.
- The site promotes equal and just representations of racial, gender, and religious issues.
- The site does not contain inappropriate content such as pornography, abuse, racial hatred and terrorism.
- The site does not link to other sites which may be harmful / unsuitable for the pupils
- Is the website current?

D. ACCESSIBILITY - Is the website accessible?

- Loads quickly?
- Does the site require registration or passwords to access it?
- The site does not require usage fees to be paid.

Relevant legislation:

Education Act 1996

Education and Inspections Act 2006

Education Act 2011 Part 2 (Discipline)

The School Behaviour (Determination and Publicising of Measures in Academies) Regulations 2012

Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

Obscene Publications Act 1959

Children Act 1989

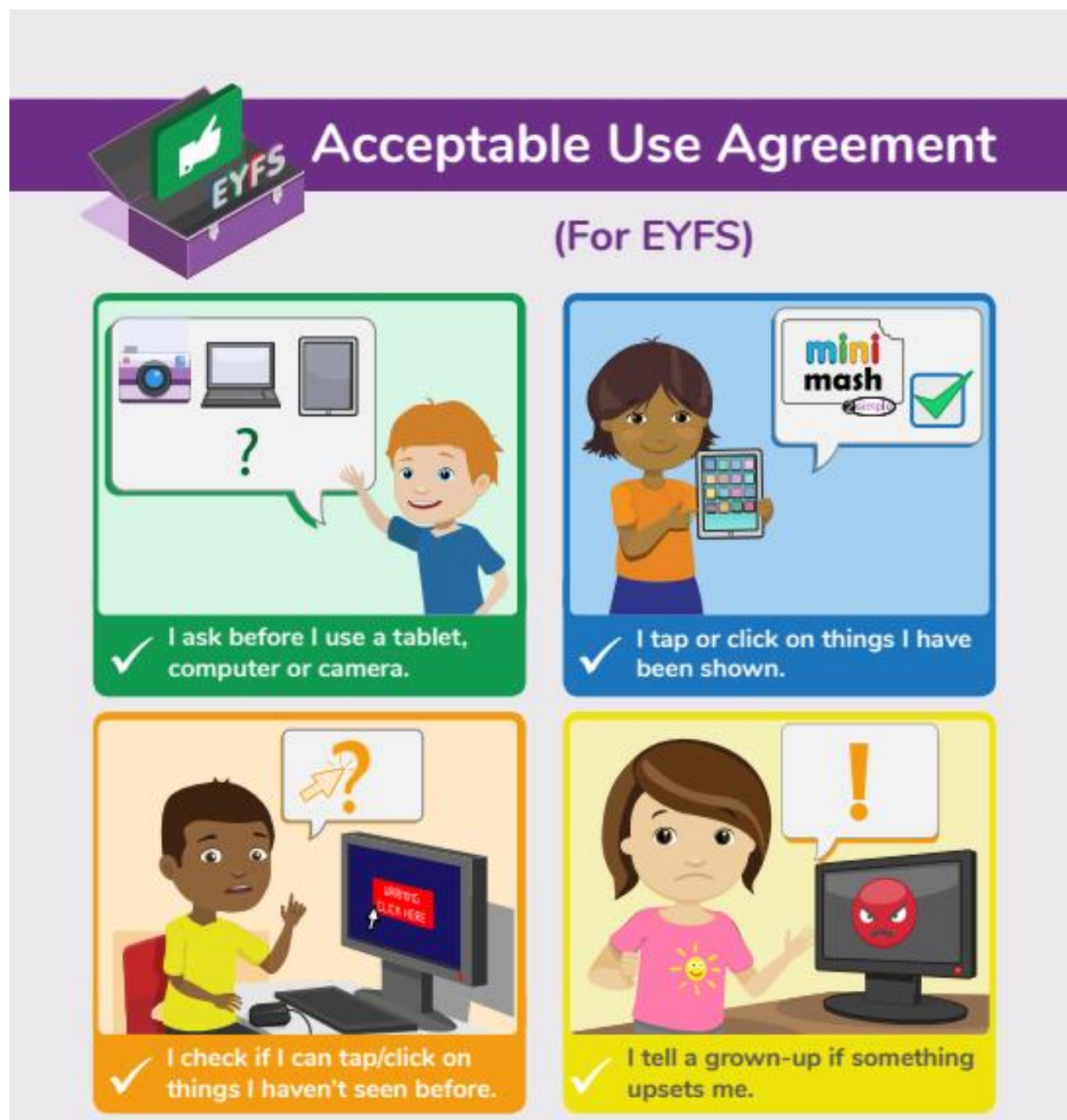
Human Rights Act 1998

Computer Misuse Act 1990

This is not a full list of Acts involved in the formation of this advice. Further information about relevant legislation can be found via the above link to the DfE advice document.

Appendix 1

Acceptable use policy agreement templates



The above EYFS acceptable user agreement has been discussed with all children in the class.

Class: _____

Teacher signed: _____

Date: _____

Acceptable use policy agreement – pupil (KS1)

This is how we stay safe when we use computers:

- I will ask an adult if I want to use the computer
- I will only use activities that an adult says are OK.
- I will take care of the computer and other equipment.
- I will ask for help from an adult if I am not sure what to do or if I think I have done something wrong.
- I will tell an adult if I see something that upsets me on the screen.
- I know that if I break the rules I might not be allowed to use a computer.

I understand these computer rules and will do my best to keep them

My name:		Date
Y1 - Signed (child):		
Y2- Signed (child):		

Acceptable use policy agreement – pupil (KS2)

I understand that while I am a member of St Martin's Primary School/Marlbrook Primary School/Wellington Primary School I must use technology in a responsible way.

For my own personal safety:

- I understand that my use of technology (especially when I use the internet) will, wherever possible be supervised and monitored.
- I understand that my use of the internet will be monitored
- I will keep my password safe and will not use anyone else's (even with their permission)
- I will keep my own personal information safe as well as that of others.
- I will tell a trusted adult if anything makes me feel uncomfortable or upset when I see it online.
- I will not use any Artificial Intelligence (AI) apps or websites (e.g. ChatGPT, Claude, OpenAI, etc)

For the safety of others:

- I will not interfere with the way that others use their technology.
- I will be polite and responsible when I communicate with others,
- I will not take or share images of anyone without their permission.

For the safety of the school:

- I will not try to access anything illegal.
- I will not download anything that I do not have the right to use.
- I will only use my own personal IT kit if I have permission and then I will use it within the agreed rules.
- I will not deliberately bypass any systems designed to keep the school safe (such as filtering of the internet).
- I will tell a responsible person if I find any damage or faults with technology, however this may have happened.
- I will not attempt to install programmes on IT devices belonging to the school unless I have permission.
- I will only use social networking, gaming and chat through the sites the school allows

I understand that I am responsible for my actions and the consequences. I have read and understood the above and agree to follow these guidelines:

Name:		Date
Y3: Signed		
Y4: Signed		
Y5: Signed		
Y6: Signed		

Acceptable use policy agreement – staff & volunteer

Background

Technology has transformed learning, entertainment and communication for individuals and for all organisations that work with young people. However, the use of technology can also bring risks. All users should have an entitlement to safe internet access at all times.

I understand that I must use school IT systems in a responsible way, to ensure that there is no risk to my safety or to the safety and security of the IT systems and other users. I will, where possible, educate the young people in my care in the safe use of IT and embed e-safety in my work with young people.

For my professional and personal safety:

- I understand that the school will monitor my use of the IT systems, email and other digital communications.
- I understand that the rules set out in this agreement also apply to use of school IT systems (laptops, email, VLE etc) out of school.
- I understand that the school IT 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 in the e-safety policy.
- I will not disclose my username or password to anyone else, nor will I try to use anyone else's username and password.
- I will immediately report any illegal, inappropriate or harmful material or incident I become aware of, to the appropriate person.

Acceptable Use – AI

- Staff must comply with the Acceptable Use Statement for AI. Pupils and staff personal data must not be shared with AI applications.
- Bypassing filters or using unapproved AI services is prohibited.
- AI-generated content must be reviewed by a human before use with pupils or publication.

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

- I will not access, copy, remove or otherwise alter any other user's files, without their express permission.
- I will communicate with others in a professional manner, I will not use aggressive or inappropriate language and I appreciate that others may have different opinions.
- I will ensure that when I take and / or publish images of others I will do so with their permission and in accordance with the school's policy on the use of digital 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) it will not be possible to identify by name, or other personal information, those who are featured.

- I will only use chat and social networking sites in school in accordance with the school's policies.
- I will only communicate with pupils and parents / carers using official school systems. Any such communication will be professional in tone and manner.
- I will not engage in any on-line activity that may compromise my professional responsibilities.

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

- I will only use my personal mobile IT devices as agreed in the e-safety policy and then in the same way as if I was using school equipment. 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 IT systems except in an emergency.
- I will not open any attachments to emails, unless the source is known and trusted, due to the risk of the attachment containing viruses or other harmful programmes.
- I will ensure that my data is regularly backed up.
- I will not try to upload, download or access any materials which are illegal (child sexual abuse images, criminally racist 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 / LA Personal Data Policy. Where personal data is transferred outside the secure school network, it must be encrypted.
- I understand that data protection policy requires that any staff or pupil data to which I have access, will be kept private and confidential, except when it is deemed necessary that I am required by law or by school policy to disclose such information to an appropriate authority.
- I will immediately report any damage or faults involving equipment or software, however this may have happened.

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

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

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

- I understand that this Acceptable Use Policy applies not only to my work and use of school ICT equipment in school, but also applies to my use of school IT systems and equipment out of school and my use of personal equipment in school or in situations related to my employment by the school.
- I understand that if I fail to comply with this Acceptable Use Policy Agreement, I could be subject to disciplinary action. This could involve a warning, a suspension, referral to Governors and / or the Local Authority and in the event of illegal activities the involvement of the police.

I have read and understand the above and agree to use the school ICT systems (both in and out of school) within these guidelines.

Staff / volunteer Name:	
Signed:	
Date:	

Acceptable use policy agreement and permission forms – parent / carer

Technology has transformed learning, entertainment and communication for individuals and for all organisations that work with young people. However, the use of technology can also bring risks. All users should have an entitlement to safe internet access at all times. This Acceptable Use Policy is intended to ensure:

- that young people will be responsible users and stay safe while using IT (especially the internet).
- that school IT systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk.
- that parents and carers are aware of the importance of e-safety and are involved in the education and guidance of young people with regard to their on-line behaviour.

The school will try to ensure that pupils will have good access to IT to enhance their learning and will, in return, expect them to agree to be responsible users.

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

Child's name	
Parent's name	
Parent's signature:	
Date:	

Permission for my child to use the internet and electronic communication

As the parent / carer of the above pupil(s), I give permission for my son / daughter to have access to the internet and to IT systems at school.

I know that my son / daughter has signed an Acceptable Use Agreement and has received, or will receive, e-safety education to help them understand the importance of safe use of IT – both in and out of school.

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

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

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

Parent's signature:	
Date:	

Permission to use digital images (still and video) of my child

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

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

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

As the parent / carer of the above pupil, I agree to the school taking and using digital images of my child(ren). I understand that the images will only be used to support learning activities or in publicity that reasonably celebrates success and promotes the work of the school.

I agree that if I take digital or video images at school events, where permitted, which include images of children I will abide by these guidelines in my use of these images.

Parent's signature:	
Date:	

Permission to publish my child's work (including on the internet)

It is our school's policy, from time to time, to publish the work of pupils by way of celebration. This includes on the internet; via the school website and in the school's virtual learning environment (VLE)

As the parent / carer of the above child I give my permission for this activity.

Parent's signature:	
Date:	

Your agreement of consent will carry through the school. If your circumstances change it is your responsibility to inform the school.

Our school's Cyber and E-Safety Policy, which contains this Acceptable Use Policy Agreement, and the one signed by your child (to which this agreement refers), is available on the school website.

Acceptable use policy agreement – community user

You have asked to make use of our school's IT facilities. Before we can give you a log-in to our system we need you to agree to this acceptable use policy.

For my professional and personal safety:

- I understand that the school will monitor my use of the IT systems, email and other digital communications.
- 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 will immediately report any illegal, inappropriate or harmful material or incident, of which I become aware, to a member of the school's staff.

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

- I will not access, copy, remove or otherwise alter any other user's files, without their express permission.
- I will communicate with others in a professional manner, I will not use aggressive or inappropriate language and I appreciate that others may have different opinions.

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

- I will not open any attachments to emails, unless the source is known and trusted, due to the risk of the attachment containing viruses or other harmful programmes.
- I will not try to upload, download or access any materials which are illegal (child sexual abuse images, criminally racist 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, except with the specific approval of the school.
- I will not disable or cause any damage to school equipment, or the equipment belonging to others.
- I will immediately report any damage or faults involving equipment or software, however this may have happened.

I have read and understand the above and agree to use the school IT systems (both in and out of school) within these guidelines. I understand that failure to comply with this agreement will result in my access to the school's IT system being withdrawn.

Community user Name:	
Signed:	
Date:	

Social Media Misuse

Fern Academy Trust considers the use of social media websites being used in a negative manner towards staff as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community.

Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the Class Teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated within the Fern Academy Trust is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. The Trust will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases Fern Academy Trust will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by any member of the school community to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying.