



# Acceptable use of ICT and electronic devices

Matlock & Dales Primary Partnership

Review: Annually

Version	Date	Narrative	Minute No.	Review Date
1	AS: 6.9.22 DCT: 5.10.22 St. G: 13.9.22	No amendments to established policy from the Local Authority.	FGB/2223/060922/15 FGB/2223/051022/15 FGB/2223/130922/15	September 2023
1	29 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	New policy (based upon TSB).  This policy has been adapted to reflect the partnership of schools.	RMC/2223/290823/1	August 2024
2	September 2024	Slightly amendment to reflect changes from Governing Body to LAC in line with the Scheme of Delegation.	DCT/LAC/2425/190924/10  AS/LAC/2425/170924/10  STG/LAC/2425/170924  BI/LAC/2425/230924	September 2025



## Contents:

### Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Classifications
4. **[Updated]** Acceptable use
5. Emails and the internet
6. **[Updated]** Portable equipment
7. Removeable media
8. Cloud-based storage
9. Storing messages
10. Unauthorised use
11. Safety and security
12. Loss, theft and damage
13. Implementation
14. Monitoring and review

### **Appendices**

- A. Staff Declaration Form

## Statement of intent

The schools in the Matlock and Dales Primary Partnership (All Saints' CE Infant, All Saints' CE Junior, Bakewell CE Infants, Darley Churchtown CE Primary and St. Giles CE Primary) believe that ICT plays an important part in both teaching and learning over a range of subjects, and the school accepts that both school-owned and personal electronic devices are widely used by members of staff. Each school is committed to ensuring that both staff and pupils have access to the necessary facilities and support to allow them to carry out their work.

Each school has a sensible and practical approach that acknowledges the use of devices, and this policy is intended to ensure that:

- Members of staff are responsible users and remain safe while using the internet.
- School ICT systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse which could put the security of the systems and/or users at risk.
- Members of staff are protected from potential risks in their everyday use of electronic devices.

## 1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Data Protection Act 2018
- Computer Misuse Act 1990
- Communications Act 2003
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Data Protection Policy (Trust)
- Complaints Procedures Policy (Trust)
- Disciplinary Policy and Procedure (Trust)
- Online Safety Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct (Trust)
- Cyber-security Breach Prevention and Management Plan (Trust)

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

Each school's Local Academy Committee has the responsibility for the overall implementation of this policy, ensuring it remains compliant with relevant legislation.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Reviewing and amending this policy, taking into account new legislation, government guidance and previously reported incidents, to improve procedures.

- The day-to-day implementation and management of the policy.
- The overall allocation and provision of resources.
- Handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the Complaints Procedures Policy.
- Informing staff that school reserves the right to access personal devices for the purpose of ensuring the effectiveness of this policy.

The ICT technician is responsible for:

- Monitoring the computer logs on the school's network and to report any logged inappropriate use to the headteacher.
- Remotely viewing or interacting with any of the computers on the school's network. This may be done randomly to implement this policy and to assist in any difficulties.
- Ensuring routine security checks are carried out on all school-owned devices to check that appropriate security measures and software have been updated and installed.
- Ensuring that, though appropriate steps will be taken to ensure personal information is not seen during security checks, staff are made aware of the potential risks.
- Accessing files and data to solve problems for a user, with their authorisation.
- Adjusting access rights and security privileges in the interest of the protection of the school's data, information, network and computers.
- Assisting the headteacher in all matters requiring reconfiguration of security and access rights and in all matters relating to this policy.
- Assisting staff with authorised use of the ICT facilities and devices, if required.
- Immediately reporting any breach of personal devices to the DPO.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Reporting misuse of ICT facilities or devices, by staff or pupils, to the headteacher.
- Reading and signing a Device User Agreement to confirm they understand their responsibilities and what is expected of them when they use school-owned devices.

The **Operations Manager** is responsible for:

- Maintaining a Fixed Asset Register to record and monitor **each** school's assets.
- Ensuring value for money is secured when purchasing electronic devices.
- Overseeing purchase requests for electronic devices.

### **3. Classifications**

School-owned devices or ICT facilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Computers, laptops and software
- Monitors
- Keyboards
- Mouses
- Scanners
- Cameras
- Camcorders

- Other devices including furnishings and fittings used with them
- Mail systems (internal and external)
- Internet and intranet (email, web access and video conferencing)
- Telephones (fixed and mobile)
- Tablets and other portable devices
- Pagers
- Fax equipment
- Computers
- Photocopying, printing and reproduction equipment
- Recording and playback equipment
- Documents and publications (any type of format)

#### **4. Acceptable use**

This policy applies to any computer or other device connected to the school's network and computers.

The school will monitor the use of all ICT facilities and electronic devices. Members of staff will only use school-owned devices for work duties and educational purposes. The duties for which use is permitted include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Preparing work for lessons, activities, meetings, reviews, etc.
- Researching any school-related task
- Any school encouraged tuition or educational use
- Collating or processing information for school business
- Communicating with other members of staff, such as contacting the school office for assistance.

Inappropriate use of school-owned devices could result in a breach of the Data Protection Policy.

Inappropriate use of school-owned devices could result in a breach of legislation, including the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

Any member of staff found to have breached the school's Data Protection Policy or relevant legislation will face disciplinary action.

Staff will always be an example of good practice to pupils, serving as a positive role model in the use of ICT and related equipment.

Since ICT facilities are also used by pupils, the school will have acceptable use agreements in place for pupils – staff will ensure that pupils comply with these.

Pupils found to have been misusing the ICT facilities will be reported to the headteacher.

School-owned electronic devices will not be used to access any material which is illegal, inappropriate, or may cause harm or distress to others.

Any illegal, inappropriate or harmful activity will be immediately reported to the headteacher.

Members of staff will not:

- Open email attachments from unknown sources.
- Use programmes or software that may allow them to bypass the filtering or security systems.
- Give their home address, phone number, social networking details or email addresses to pupils or parents – contact with parents will be done through authorised school contact channels.

All data will be stored appropriately in accordance with the Data Protection Policy.

Members of staff will only use school-owned electronic devices to take pictures or videos of people who have given their consent.

School-owned electronic devices will not be used to access personal social media accounts.

Staff will ensure they:

- Express neutral opinions when representing the school online.
- Avoid disclosing any confidential information or comments regarding the school, or any information that may affect its reputability.
- Have the necessary privacy settings applied to any social networking sites.

Images or videos of pupils, staff or parents will only be published online for the activities which consent has been sought.

Copyrighted material will not be downloaded or distributed.

School-owned devices will be taken home for work purposes only. Remote access to the school network will be given to staff using these devices at home.

School equipment that is used outside the premises, e.g. laptops, will be returned to the school when the employee leaves employment, or if requested to do so by the headteacher.

While there is scope for staff to utilise school equipment for personal reasons, this will not be done during working hours unless approved by the headteacher or in the case of a personal emergency.

Private business will not be mixed with official duties, e.g. work email addresses will be reserved strictly for work-based contacts only.

Abuse of ICT facilities or devices could result in privileges being removed. Staff will be aware of acceptable ICT use, and misuse of the facilities, as defined in this policy, will be reported to the headteacher.

Failure to adhere to the rules described in this policy may result in disciplinary action, in line with the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

## **5. Emails and the internet**

The schools' email system and internet connection are available for communication and use on matters directly concerned with school business.

Emails will not be used as a substitute for face-to-face communication, unless it is otherwise impossible.

Unprofessional messages will not be tolerated. All emails will be written in a professional tone and will be proof read by the staff member sending the email to ensure this prior to sending.

Abusive messages will not be tolerated – any instant of abuse may result in disciplinary action.

If any email contains confidential information, the user will ensure that the necessary steps are taken to protect confidentiality.

Each school will be liable for any defamatory information circulated either within the school or to external contacts.

The school email system and accounts will never be registered or subscribed to spam or other non-work-related updates, advertisements or other personal communications. School email addresses will not be shared without confirming that they will not be subjected to spam or sold on to marketing companies.

The types of information sent through emails to a personal device will be limited to ensure the protection of personal data, e.g. pupils' details.

Contracts sent via email or the internet are as legally binding as those sent on paper. An exchange of emails can lead to a contract being formed between the sender, or the school, and the recipient. Staff will never commit the school to any obligations by email or the internet without ensuring that they have the authority to do so.

Purchases for school equipment will only be permitted to be made online with the permission of the headteacher, and a receipt will be obtained in order to comply with monitoring and accountability. Hard copies of the purchase will be made for the purchaser and the SBM. This is in addition to any purchasing arrangement followed according to the school's Finance Policy.

Any suspicious emails will be recorded in the incident log and will be reported to the headteacher. All incidents will be responded to in accordance with the Online Safety Policy.

## **6. Portable equipment**

Portable equipment will be transported in its protective case, if supplied.

Where the school provides mobile technologies, such as phones, laptops and personal digital assistants, for off-site visits and trips, staff will only use these devices.

## **7. Removable media**

Personal and confidential information will not be stored on any removable media.

The ICT technician will encrypt all removable media with appropriate security measures.

Removable media will be disposed of securely by the ICT technician.

## **8. Cloud-based storage**

Data held in remote and cloud-based storage is still required to be protected in line with the UK GDPR and DPA 2018; therefore, members of staff will ensure that cloud-based data is kept confidential and no data is copied, removed or adapted.

## **9. Storing messages**

Emails and messages stored on school-owned devices will be stored digitally.

Information and data on the school's network and computers will be kept in an organised manner and should be placed in a location of an appropriate security level.

Employees who feel that they have cause for complaint as a result of any communications on school-owned devices will raise the matter initially with the headteacher, as appropriate. The complaint will then be raised through the grievance procedure in line with the Grievance Policy.

## **10. Unauthorised use**

Staff will not be permitted, under any circumstances, to:

- Use the ICT facilities for commercial or financial gain without the explicit written authorisation from the headteacher.
- Physically damage ICT and communication facilities or school-owned devices.
- Relocate, take off-site, or otherwise interfere with the ICT facilities without the authorisation of the ICT technician or headteacher. Certain items are asset registered and security marked; their location is recorded by the SBM for accountability. Once items are moved after authorisation, staff will be responsible for notifying the SBM of the new location. The exception to this point is when items are moved to the designated secure room for insurance purposes over holiday periods.
- Use or attempt to use someone else's user account. All users of the ICT facilities will be issued with a unique user account and password. User account passwords will never be disclosed to or by anyone.
- Use the ICT facilities at any time to access, download, send, receive, view or display any of the following:
  - Any material that is illegal
  - Any message that could constitute bullying, harassment (including on the grounds of sex, race, religion/religious belief, sexual orientation or disability) or any negative comment about other persons or organisations
  - Online gambling
  - Remarks, which may adversely affect the reputation of any organisation or person, whether or not you know them to be true or false
  - Any sexually explicit content, or adult or chat-line phone numbers
- Generate messages or documents that appear to originate from someone else, or otherwise impersonate someone else.
- Install hardware or software without the consent of the ICT technician or the headteacher.



- Introduce any form of stand-alone software or removable hardware likely to cause malfunctioning of the ICT facilities or that will bypass, over-ride or overwrite the security parameters on the network or any of the school's computers.
- Use or attempt to use the school's ICT facilities to undertake any form of piracy, including the infringement of software licenses or other copyright provisions whether knowingly or not. This is illegal.
- Purchase any ICT facilities without the consent of the ICT technician or headteacher. This is in addition to any purchasing arrangements followed according to the Finance Policy.
- Use or attempt to use the school's phone lines for internet or email access unless given authorisation by the headteacher. This will include using or attempting to use any other form of hardware capable of telecommunication, regardless of ownership.
- Use any chat-lines, bulletin boards or pay-to-view sites on the internet. In addition, staff will not download or attempt to download any software of this nature.
- Use the internet for any auctioning activity or to purchase items unless given authority to do so by the headteacher. This is in addition to any purchasing arrangement followed according to the Finance Policy.
- Knowingly distribute or introduce a virus or harmful code onto the school's network or computers. Doing so may result in disciplinary action, including summary dismissal.
- Use the ICT facilities for personal use without the authorisation of the headteacher. This authorisation will be requested on each occasion of personal use.
- Copy, download or distribute any material from the internet or email that may be illegal to do so. This can include computer software, music, text, and video clips. If a staff member it is not clear that they have permission to do so, or if the permission cannot be obtained, they will not download the material.
- Use, or attempt to use, the communication facilities to call overseas without the authorisation of the headteacher.
- Obtain and post on the internet, or send via e-mail, any confidential information about other employees, the school, its customers or suppliers.
- Interfere with someone else's use of the ICT facilities.
- Be wasteful of ICT resources, particularly printer ink, toner and paper.
- Use the ICT facilities when it will interfere with their responsibilities to supervise pupils.
- Share any information or data pertaining to other staff or pupils at the school with unauthorised parties. Data will only be shared for relevant processing purposes.
- Operate equipment to record an image beneath a person's clothing with the intention of observing, or enabling another person to observe, the victim's genitals or buttocks without their knowledge or consent, whether exposed or covered by underwear – otherwise known as "upskirting".

Any unauthorised use of email or the internet will likely result in disciplinary action, including summary dismissal, in line with the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

If a member of staff is subjected to, or knows about harassment, upskirting or bullying that has occurred via staff email or through the use of school-owned devices, they will report this immediately to the headteacher.

## **11. Safety and security**

The school's network will be secured using firewalls in line with the Data and Cyber-security Breach Prevention and Management Plan.

Filtering of websites, as detailed in the Data and Cyber-security Breach Prevention and Management Plan, will ensure that access to websites with known malware are blocked immediately and reported to the ICT technician.

Approved anti-virus software and malware protection will be used on all approved devices.

The school will use mail security technology to detect and block any malware transmitted via email.

Members of staff will ensure that all school-owned electronic devices are made available for anti-virus updates, malware protection updates and software installations, patches or upgrades.

Programmes and software will not be installed on school-owned electronic devices without permission from the ICT technician.

Staff will not be permitted to remove any software from a school-owned electronic device without permission from the ICT technician.

Members of staff who install or remove software from a school-owned electronic device without seeking authorisation from the ICT technician, may be subject to disciplinary measures.

All devices will be secured by a password or biometric access control.

Passwords will be kept confidential and must not be shared with pupils, unauthorised members of staff or third parties.

Devices will be configured so that they are automatically locked after being left idle for a set time.

All devices must be encrypted using a method approved by the DPO.

Further security arrangements are outlined in the Data and Cyber-security Breach Prevention and Management Plan.

## **12. Loss, theft and damage**

For the purpose of this policy, "**damage**" is defined as any fault in a school-owned electronic device caused by the following:

- Connections with other devices, e.g. connecting to printers which are not approved by the ICT technician
- Unreasonable use of force
- Abuse
- Neglect
- Alterations
- Improper installation

The ICT technician will be contacted if a school-owned electronic device has a technical fault.

If a school-owned device is lost or stolen, or is suspected of having been lost or stolen, the DPO will be informed as soon as possible to ensure the appropriate steps are taken to delete data from the device that relates to the school, its staff and its pupils, and that the loss is reported to the relevant agencies.

The school will not be responsible for the loss, damage or theft of any personal device, including phones, cameras, tablets, removable media, etc.

### **13. Implementation**

Staff will report any breach of this policy to the headteacher.

Regular monitoring and recording of email messages will be carried out on a random basis. Hard copies of email messages can be used as evidence in disciplinary proceedings.

Use of the telephone system will be logged and monitored.

Use of the school internet connection will be recorded and monitored.

The **Operations Manager** will conduct random checks of asset registered and security marked items.

Unsuccessful and successful log-ons will be logged on every computer connected to the school's network.

Unsuccessful and successful software installations, security changes and items sent to the printer will also be logged.

The ICT technician may remotely view or interact with any of the computers on the school's network. This may be used randomly to implement this policy and to assist in any difficulties.

The school's network has anti-virus software installed with a centralised administration package; any virus found will be logged to this package.

The school's database systems are computerised. Unless given permission by the ICT technician, members of staff will not access the system. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in disciplinary action.

All users of the database system will be issued with a unique individual password. Staff will not, under any circumstances, disclose this password to any other person.

Attempting to access the database using another employee's user account and/or password without prior authorisation will likely result in disciplinary action, including summary dismissal.

User accounts will be accessible by the headteacher and the ICT technician.

Users will ensure that critical information is not stored solely within the school's computer system. Hard copies will be kept or stored separately on the system. If necessary, documents will be password protected.

Users will be required to familiarise themselves with the requirements of the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018, and to ensure that they operate in accordance with the requirements of the regulations and the Data Protection Policy.

Any breach of the rules in this policy may result in disciplinary action, which may lead to dismissal.

A misuse or breach of this policy could also result in criminal or civil actions being brought against the persons involved or the school.

## **14. Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Any changes or amendments to this policy will be communicated to all staff members by the headteacher.

## Staff Declaration Form

All members of staff are required to sign this form before they are permitted to use electronic devices that are owned by the school.

By signing this form, you are declaring that you have read, understood and agree to the terms of the Staff ICT and Electronic Devices Policy. You should read and sign the declaration below before returning it to the school office.

Members of staff are required to re-sign this declaration form if changes are made to the policy.

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I have read the school's Staff Acceptable Use of ICT and Electronic Devices Policy and understand that:

- School equipment must not be used for the fulfilment of another job or for personal use, unless specifically authorised by the headteacher.
- Illegal, inappropriate or unacceptable use of school or personal equipment will result in disciplinary action.
- The school reserves the right to monitor my work emails, phone calls, internet activity and document production.
- Passwords must not be shared and access to the school's computer systems must be kept confidential.
- I must act in accordance with this policy at all times.

<b>Name of staff</b>	
<b>Job title</b>	
<b>Home school</b>	
<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Headteacher signed</b>	
<b>Date signed</b>	