



# Willow Wood Community Primary School

## Acceptable Use Policy



## **Context**

*Harnessing Technology: Transforming learning and children's services*<sup>1</sup> sets out the government plans for taking a strategic approach to the future development of ICT.

*"The Internet and related technologies are powerful tools, which open up new prospects for communication and collaboration. Education is embracing these new technologies as they bring with them fresh opportunities for both teachers and learners.*

*To use these technologies effectively requires an awareness of the benefits and risks, the development of new skills, and an understanding of their appropriate and effective use both in and outside of the classroom."* DfES, eStrategy 2005

The Green Paper *Every Child Matters* and the provisions of the *Children Act 2004, Working Together to Safeguard Children* sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The 'staying safe' outcome includes aims that children and young people are:

- safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation
- safe from accidental injury and death
- safe from bullying and discrimination
- safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school
- secure, stable and cared for.

Much of these aims apply equally to the 'virtual world' that children and young people will encounter whenever they use ICT in its various forms. For example, we know that the internet has been used for grooming children and young people with the ultimate aim of exploiting them sexually; we know that ICT can offer new weapons for bullies, who may torment their victims via websites or text messages; and we know that children and young people have been exposed to inappropriate content when online, which can sometimes lead to their involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.

It is the duty of the school to ensure that every child in their care is safe, and the same principles should apply to the 'virtual' or digital world as would be applied to the school's physical buildings.

This Policy document is drawn up to protect all parties – the pupils, the staff and the school and aims to provide clear advice and guidance on how to minimise risks and how to deal with any infringements.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/e-strategy/>



## Staff and Volunteers

### Child Safeguarding Statement

Staff need to ensure that there may be issues relating to a child's behaviour as a result of child protection issues. Where staff have any concerns of this nature the agreed steps outlined in the school's 'Child Protection Policy' should be followed.

### School Policy

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

This Acceptable Use Policy is intended to ensure:

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

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

## Acceptable Use Policy Agreement

I understand that I must use school ICT systems in a responsible way, to ensure that there is no risk to my safety or to the safety and security of the ICT systems and other users. I recognise the value of the use of ICT for enhancing learning and will ensure that students / pupils receive opportunities to gain from the use of ICT. I will, where possible, educate the young people in my care in the safe use of ICT 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 ICT systems, email and other digital communications.
- I understand that the rules set out in this agreement also apply to use of school ICT systems (eg laptops, email, VLE etc) out of school.
- I understand that the school ICT systems are primarily intended for educational use and that I will only use the systems for personal or recreational use within the policies and rules set down by the school.



- I will not disclose my username or password to anyone else, nor will I try to use any other person's username and password.
- I will immediately report any illegal, inappropriate or harmful material or incident; I become aware of, to the appropriate person.

I will be professional in my communications and actions when using school 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.
- I will ensure that when I take and/or publish images of others I will do so with their permission. Images taken on non school equipment should only be downloaded using school equipment and then deleted from the original device. I will not use my personal equipment to record these images, unless I have permission to do so. Where these images are published (eg on the school Acceptable Use Policy website/school Twitter account) 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 for personal use. Information shared should never compromise the school's duty to provide the highest possible standard of education or bring the school's reputation into disrepute. Members of staff who have genuine concerns about any school matter should follow school current guidelines and policies e.g. whistle-blowing to resolve issues and not networking sites. Staff should report all contacts through networking sites which may concern them to the headteacher. Examples may include: child below 13 on Facebook requesting to be a friend or inappropriate comments by a parent directed to themselves.
- I will only communicate with students/pupils and parents/carers using official school systems. Any such communication will be professional in tone and manner.
- I will not engage in any on-line activity that may compromise my professional responsibilities.

The school and the local authority have the responsibility to provide safe and secure access to technologies and ensure the smooth running of the school: Where permission needs to be sought please see the headteacher.

- When I use my personal hand held /external devices (PDAs/laptops/mobile phones/USB devices, tablets etc) in school, I will follow the rules set out in this agreement, in the same way as if I was using school equipment. This includes downloading photographs on school computers. 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 ICT systems for pupil's personal data.
- 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, in accordance with relevant school policies.
- I will not try to upload, download or access any materials which are illegal (child sexual abuse images, criminally racist material, 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.
- I understand that data protection policy requires that any staff or student/pupil data to which I have access, will be kept private and confidential, except when it is deemed necessary that I am required by law or by school policy to disclose such information to an appropriate authority.
- I will immediately report any damage or faults involving equipment or software, however this may have happened.

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

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

I understand that I am responsible for my actions in and out of 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 ICT 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 include a warning, a suspension, referral to Governors and /or the Local Authority and in the event of illegal activities the involvement of the police.



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

Staff/Volunteer Name:

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Signed:

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Date:

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## **Keeping safe: Stop and Think, before you Click!**

### **10 rules for responsible technology use**

These rules will keep everyone safe and help us to be fair to others.

- I will ask permission from a member of staff before using the internet and will not visit websites I know to be banned by the school.
- I will not look at other people's files without their permission.
- I will not bring files or software into school without permission.
- I will only delete my own files.
- I will only e-mail people I know, or my teacher has approved.
- The messages I send, or information I upload, will always be polite and sensible.
- I will not open an attachment, or download a file, unless I have permission or I know and trust the person who has sent it.
- I will not give my home address, phone number, send a photograph or video, or give any other personal information that could be used to identify me, my family or my friends, unless my teacher has given permission.
- I will never arrange to meet someone I have only ever previously met on the internet or by e-mail or in a chat room, unless my parent, guardian or teacher has given me permission and I take a responsible adult with me.
- If I see anything I am unhappy with or I receive a message I do not like, I will not respond to it but I will tell a teacher / responsible adult.



**Keeping safe: Stop and Think, before you Click!**

Pupil name: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the school 'rules for responsible technology use'. My teacher has explained them to me.

I understand these rules are there to help keep me safe, and my friends and family safe. I agree to follow the rules.

This means I will use the computers, internet, e-mail, digital cameras, video recorders, and other technology in a safe and responsible way.

I understand that the school can check my computer files, and the websites I visit, and that if they have any concerns about my safety, that they may contact my parent/carer.

Pupil's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_