

Sharp Lane Primary School

Acceptable Use Policy



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1 Introduction

This policy sets out the acceptable use of Information and Communication Technologies within the school. Copies of this document are available on the school website and should be read in conjunction with the E-Safety and Social Media Guidance for School Based Staff (April 2020).

2 Definition of Terms

The following terms are used in this document and relate to the following:

Network User – any person that uses the schools network infrastructure.

Staff – any employee of the school or visiting consultant, adviser or other visitor to the school.

Student – any person who attends the school for education purposes

Hacking – any attempt to bypass any of the school network's security features

The School – Sharp Lane Primary School

AUP – Acceptable Use Policy

VLE/FLE – the schools flexible learning environment

Laptop/Device/iPad/Tablet/Computer – these terms are used interchangeably and refer to a connected electronic device.

3 School-wide policies and procedures

The Schools Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is part of a suite of documentation which covers the safe and legal use of ICT within the school. These include child safety, antibullying, health and safety, data protection act, Online Safety and copyright. Use of ICT is monitored within the school, and cases of misuse by staff and students will be reported to the Headteacher. A log of any incidents is kept on the students information system or in staff files. The AUP will be reviewed annually, and action taken if a need for change is identified.

4 Communication with parents and carers

Parents are contacted directly where concerns exist regarding improper use of the Internet or schools ICT equipment. Improper use may result in students being banned from using the system and other disciplinary measures may be taken depending upon the nature of the abuse (e.g. Exclusion from school). All emails/communication/documents/etc. must be thought through and entirely professionally worded.

5 Acceptable use guidelines for staff

Any school computer equipment or service utilised by a member of staff is provided for the primary purpose as a work tool, for work related duties only. It must not be used to conduct a personal business/enterprise for personal gain or to access/store any information/media/photos/files that could be seen to be inappropriate on the device. Any electronic communication with other members of the school must be made using the internal school systems taking in to account that all communication/files must be of a professional nature.

Staff must keep their passwords secure and make sure their passwords are of significant strength. They should include a mixture of upper case, lower case and numbers to make it difficult for anyone to guess. Passwords must not be given to any other members of staff or students at any time and care must be taken when typing in passwords to a device/computer/laptop to make sure that no other person can identify the password or pin code.

Staff are responsible for the security and acceptable use of their laptop/device/network account. Staff must ensure that their laptop and other computer equipment is stored securely when not in use. Staff must not keep passwords with their laptop. If a laptop is lost or stolen, a report must be made to the Police. Staff must provide the Police with a phone number for ICT Support so that the equipment's serial number can be provided. ICT Support must be provided with the crime reference number for insurance purposes.

Laptops store cached copies of their files on their own internal hard discs which back up to the network at logon and logoff. The system will remind the member of staff when this fails but it is the responsibility of the member of staff to make sure this is carried out. Should a hard disc fail and no recent backup exists ICT support may not be able to rescue damaged files. In relation to devices such as smartphones or tablets any important documents should be emailed to your own account to keep them safe should the device fail.

Staff are expected to maintain reasonable care with all portable equipment. This includes taking measures to ensure that the equipment is transported in a safe and secure manner. Staff should be aware that all portable equipment is insured whilst in school or at home via the schools insurance where forced entry can be proven. The school's insurance does cover equipment which is left unattended in a motor vehicle as long as it is within the boot of the vehicle. Staff must not keep 'personal information' about students on their laptops in case of theft – data such as contact details etc should not be stored on laptops.

All software should be installed by ICT Support and must have the relevant license made available to them before installation. Software without the correct license must not be installed and staff who attempt to install software themselves will be responsible. With mobile devices staff may download free Apps using the password they are provided with. Payable apps will request payment by personal means.

ICT Support maintains a software audit, containing a list of the software installed on each computer or laptop. This audit will be made available to any official body who require it for the purposes of copyright enforcement. The use or copying of software without the licensor's permission is illegal and equally the terms and conditions of software licenses must always be adhered to.

The copying of music files, video and other copyright material if not legally purchased by the member of staff onto school computers may be illegal and removed if discovered. DVD's may only be played to an audience if it is within the terms of their license agreement. School mobile devices may be locked to not allow such content in which case no member of staff should circumvent this setting.

Whilst it is the user's responsibility to take reasonable care over the configuration of their computer hardware, it is possible for software to be installed on a machine without the full comprehension of the user. Users discovering software that has been installed in an unsolicited manner and which contravenes the licensing regulations above must contact ICT Support who will assist in resolving any issues. The school has the right to seize/reclaim any laptop or computer without explanation. ICT Support have the ability to view all files on the

network and devices but are prohibited from doing so without permission from the Headteacher, Chair of Governors or the E-learning Systems Manager permission. Staff are responsible for backing up data when they end their employment with the school. Staff must be aware of the Data Protection Act and are prohibited from taking copies of any personal data about students or other members of staff. Contact with Parents/Guardians should be carried out via phone call or formal letter/meeting where possible.

Electronic means of contact such as the use of 2Build a Profile in EYFS are carefully maintained. Any contact with students via electronic means must be for teaching and learning only and must only be carried out via the schools own systems (e.g. School email or VLE/FLE system) – this includes not sending emails to student personal accounts and only sending mails to their school email addresses. No use of personal email/social networking systems/mobile messaging etc. should ever be used to communicate with students of the school for child protection and staff protection (e.g. allegations against a member of staff etc). Staff are required to make themselves aware of the schools social networking policy. All emails/communication/documents/etc. must be thought through and entirely professionally worded. Staff should also follow the Acceptable use Guidelines for Students as detailed in Section 6 and against the safe use guidelines in section 10.

6 Acceptable use guidelines for students

Students:

- Must only use the own user area and not attempt to access other user's files.
- Must keep their passwords secure and make sure no one else knows it.
- May only use the computers/devices for school work or homestudy.
- May use flash drives or other media if installed on the computers, but only for purposes of transferring or saving their work.
- Must only send e-mails/messages to people known to themselves or with the permission of a member of staff.
- Must only send e-mails/messages that are polite and responsible and must not contain any personal information about themselves.
- Must report any damage to a member of staff immediately
- Must only use the school email/messaging system for school related messages.
- Must report to a member of staff any inappropriate messages they have received. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.
- Must report to a member of staff any inappropriate website, image or video clip if they discover one is accessible from the schools computers.
- Are subject to checks of their computer and Internet usage. Emails/messages may also be monitored.
- If students fail to abide by the above conditions, their Internet access will be blocked at the discretion of a senior member of staff. In severe cases network access may be removed.

- Must not attempt to breach the schools network security, intrude into other peoples 'e-space' or attempt to take the identity of another user (e.g. use another students username)
- Students must not contact staff via any 'personal systems' such as texting a member of staff or sending a message to a member of staff's personal account. Students can view the schools social network policy via the school website.

7 Data Protection Act

Data is stored in accordance with the regulations laid out by the Data Protection Act. We will take every reasonable precaution to protect information. Appropriate physical, electronic and procedural safeguards are in place to ensure the security, integrity and privacy of all information kept in our MIS. The need for confidentiality will be respected, and sharing of data will only occur with the express permission of parents/carers in line with our fair processing notification. All 'personal data' will only be allowed out of the school with the knowledge of the Headteacher and the E-learning Systems Manager.

8 Personally Owned Equipment

Students may bring personally owned equipment into school but must be aware that they are not covered by the schools insurance and are brought in to school at the owner's risk. If personally owned equipment is brought into school it is down to the member of staff in charge as to when/if the equipment is allowed to be used within lesson time. Students must seek the permission of the member of staff in charge of the class before using the equipment.

Should equipment use be abused or inappropriate use be discovered within school the students right to bring in such equipment into school may be revoked and disciplinary sanctions may be used dependent upon the nature of the abuse. If personally owned equipment is used within school it should not be used to make recordings (video and/or sounds) of others if the other parties permission has not be sought prior to the recording. The school reserves the right to confiscate any such equipment and it will be held securely until a parent/guardian is able to pick up the equipment from school. Any personally owned equipment must be used in accordance to this acceptable use policy. Such equipment may be placed onto the schools guest wireless network but will need to have adequate and automatically updating virus protection. Students should be aware that any work undertaken on non-school equipment or stored on memory sticks (or other removable media) is not backed up by the school system. Students must ensure they take adequate steps to back up their work to prevent loss of work and particularly any vital coursework.

10 Using the technologies safely

All users of the schools systems (staff and students) must be aware that any electronic communication or document is open for public access/accountability and scrutiny via such legislation as the Freedom of Information Act. All emails/communication/documents/etc. must be thought through and entirely professionally worded.

10.1 Internet

All Network Users must use their own network account to logon to the network. The School's auditing software automatically records the address of all websites accessed and this information can be retrieved by ICT Support. All Internet access is filtered by the 'Smoothwall Filtering System'. Despite all reasonable steps being taken if an unsuitable

content is discovered this should be reported immediately to a member of staff or ICT support. Attempts to bypass the filtering system are strictly prohibited and may result in a user's Internet access being removed. All websites accessed each day from the school are checked daily against the Internet Watch Foundations banned/illegal website list for attempts to access such content. ICT Support have access to allow access for testing purposes and its use is governed by this AUP. Use of the unfiltered access must be sanctioned by the E-Learning Systems Manager.

Securly is used to alert staff if there have been any inappropriate or concerning search terms used. These alerts go directly to designated staff members.

10.2 Email and Messaging

All Staff have an individual email account. All Network Users must use their school email account for all school related correspondence. Staff should be aware that, where necessary, their email account may be monitored by the E-learning Systems Manager. Staff should immediately report any inappropriate emails they receive to the Headteacher or ICT Support. ICT Support may be involved in extracting emails from the server. Staff should be aware that their school email account may be monitored, either randomly or where any suspicion has arisen. The random monitoring of the accounts will be done by ICT Support. Where suspicion has arisen, the E-Learning Systems Manager will be responsible for reviewing the emails, and ICT Support may be involved in extracting the emails from the server. The schools email system will monitor against a set of banned words for any messages including these words being 'referred' until either accepted or rejected by ICT Support.

10.3 Webmail

Webmail is available via the schools email system, enabling users to access their email account from any computer with Internet access. The webmail is a publicly accessible website and as such users must ensure that they have strong passwords in place to protect against unauthorised access.

10.4 Spam and Spoofing

The School uses the Smoothwall for Learning mail filtering service. This service reduces the amount of spam and spoofing emails but users should still be aware on how to recognise spam and spoofing emails and delete them immediately without opening them. Spam refers to unsolicited email – email that is sent without your permission, usually offering medication or other products such as computer software at lower prices. The subject of a spam message is usually designed to attract people to reading it and therefore you may see subjects such as 'Hot Stock Notice' or 'OEM Software'. Spoofing refers to an email which claims to be from a bona fide company, such as a bank, requesting that you visit 'their' website and confirm your details. Email subjects will often be similar to 'Regarding Your Online Account' or 'Confirm Your Internet Banking Records'. These sites do not belong to the company they claim to be from and subsequently use your details to access your bank account. A genuine organisation would never ask you to confirm details in such a manner.

10.5 Social Networking Sites and Chat Rooms

Staff and Students should not access social networking sites or chat rooms on the school network unless these systems are owned and or managed by the school (e.g. The schools VLE\FLE system).

Should Staff or Students wish to set up a social networking site or visit a chat room (or similar) in their own time outside of the schools IT system, they must ensure they do not give away any personal information, such as address. For their own protection, the school would like to remind all students to never upload a photo along with their full name or personal details such as which school they attend. The School regularly monitors websites to discover any inappropriate material about the School, Staff or other Students and will take appropriate action where necessary.

10.6 Instant Messaging

Student users are unable to install such software and the use of websites offering an alternative are not to be accessed.

10.7 Webcams

Where video conferencing/webcams are used within school, it must be with an authorised third party and overseen by a member of staff. If webcams are used within school it should be with permission of the member of staff in charge and should never be used to record people if they are unaware of the recording. Staff and Students should be aware that certain viruses and Trojans do exist which can activate a webcam without the owner's permission.

10.8 Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Networks

Staff and Students are forbidden from connecting to and/or downloading data from peer-to-peer networks.

Peer-to-Peer networks (such as LimeWire, BearShare or Morpheus) often contain copyrighted content, viruses, spyware or other inappropriate materials and users should be aware that downloading files from a Peer-to- Peer network may be illegal or compromise their computer.

11 School websites

The school has its own website, managed by an external company. It is the responsibility of the E-learning Systems Manager to ensure that all materials on the school website do not infringe the intellectual property rights of others. The Elearning Systems Manager will take all reasonable steps to ensure that material created by the school is protected under copyright. The E-learning Systems Manager will ensure that the website is regularly checked for inappropriate content or material and that access to the website server is secured by a strong password to prevent unauthorised access. The school cannot be held responsible for the content of external sites, even if they are linked to from the school website.

12 Use of Student Photographs

Students will have their photographs taken both formally (by school photographers and for use on the schools information systems) and informally (for example trips/visits or around school during activities). If photos are to be used for media/website/publications/newsletters then parental permission must be sought. Parents are asked for permission when students enter the school and yearly with information update forms. Students that have no permission or have 'exclusions' (such as not using on the web etc.) can be identified via the Photograph Permission Applet from within SIS. If exclusions exist or permission is denied then contact should be made with the parent to seek permission – if permission is not given in writing (form available from office) then the photo must not be used.

13 The use of personal devices

The school expect people to abide by this policy when accessing their personal devices. The use of personal devices should be limited to staff breaks/lunchtime when not on duty. Where possible we request that people turn off 3G/4G and connect to the wifi.

Appendix i ICT Use Frequently Asked Questions Introduction

The purpose of this frequently asked question sheet is to give generic examples of acceptable and safe use of the schools ICT systems in accordance with the schools ICT policy. If at any point you are unsure as to what is acceptable or safe then please contact the schools ICT support who can advise.

Q: A student has emailed me from their own personal email address (eg. Hotmail, Goglemail). Can I respond to that email address?

A: You should not reply to that student and not enter into communication using the external system.

Q: A student has asked me to be their 'friend' on Facebook (or other social networking site/online gaming system – Xbox etc). Can I accept them?

A: No – you should not make contact with students via any social networking site or messaging system (such as MSN messenger, Windows Live Messenger, text messaging, etc). Any such contact should be reported to the e-learning systems manager or Headteacher so follow up can occur with the student (via HOA etc). You should also read the schools social network policy which is available from the schools website.

Q: Can anyone request my communication/files/messages? Do I need to keep my communication/ files/messages professional at all times?

A: Yes - All users of the schools systems (staff and students) must be aware that any electronic communication or document is open for public access/accountability and scrutiny via such legislation as the Freedom of Information Act. All emails/communication/documents/etc. must be thought through and entirely professionally worded.

Q: Students are doing a presentation from my laptop/device and need my password to logon/remove screensaver. Can I give it to them?

A: No – your password has access to highly sensitive information and must be kept secure. Passwords should include a mix of uppercase letters, lowercase letters and at least one number to make sure they are secure. Care must be taken that when entering your password/passcode/pin that no other person is watching to try and obtain it for later use.

Q: I have been asked by an external contact/agency to provide them with a list of students in a year group. Can I send them this information?

A: No – any personal information going to external parties must be agreed by the head teacher or the e-learning systems manager. Information is protected under the data protection act. The school must have regards to this before transferring information to any external party.

Q: A parent has emailed me and I need to respond. Can I email them back?

A: Circumstance dependant – the response to the email should ideally be made by phone or formal letter (letters must go via the school admin support team before going home) and should be discussed with your line manager. Email is currently used through a secure system to inform EYFS parents of their child's ongoing learning and encourage home sharing.

Q: Can I take my laptop/tablet/device home?

A: Yes – you can take it home and join it to your own internet connection if desired. However, the laptop/tablet/device is for school use and must not be used to conduct a personal business/enterprise for personal gain (tax implications may exist). The laptop/tablet/device must be transported securely and safely. Insurance will only cover the laptop it is locked away out of sight when transported. Where a device has been locked by ICT support no attempt should be made to circumvent the security in place. You must make sure that the device is not used to access any illegal or inappropriate content when connected to your own internet connection – if any such content is discovered this will be referred to the Headteacher who is likely to enact the schools disciplinary procedures (staff and students)

Q: Who is responsible for backing up my laptop/device?

A: You – However, on a laptop your documents folder will sync to the schools system. Laptop drives do go wrong and ICT support can only get back what exists on your last backup. Staff must ensure that they do this regularly. If you have important files on other devices (mobiles/tablets etc) please regularly email these documents to your school email account to keep a copy off the device.

Q: I am working with a student and they could benefit from using my device. Can they do this?

A: When working directly with students they can use your device but only under your direct supervision so you can ensure that they do not use the device to access anything they should not view such as your email or an area of the network that is only for staff.

Q: Can I install my own software (personally owned or purchased) on to my laptop/device?

A: You must seek permission from the ICT support office – if you wish to have software installed that the school owns then please visit ICT support. For iPads/Tablets/Apps staff can download free apps using the provided password. Personal payment can be made for any apps that incur a charge.

Appendix ii – Laptop/Device Loan Agreement Staff

Device/Laptop Loan agreement.

Device Make: <make> Model : <model>

Serial Number : <serial>

Date: <date>

The laptop/device detailed above is loaned to _____ for the duration of their employment at the school subject to the following terms and the schools ICT policy. The laptop/device must be returned to the school on ceasing to be employed at the school or if required during a planned absence.

1. The laptop/device is for the work related use of the named member of staff to which it is issued.

2. Only software installed at the time of issue or software purchased by and licensed to The School may be installed on the machine.
3. The laptop/device remains the property of the School throughout the loan period. However the member of staff to which it is issued, will be required to take responsibility for its care and safe keeping.
4. The laptop/device is covered by The School's Insurance, when at home or school, providing it is not left unattended. If left unattended for a short period in a car it is placed in a locked boot out of sight.
5. If left unattended the laptop/device should be in a locked room or secure area.
6. Due regard must be given to the security of the computer if using other forms of transport.
7. In order to ensure the schools compliance with the Data Protection Act and to avoid breaches of confidentiality: under no circumstances should students be allowed to use the staff laptops/devices if not directly supervised by a member of staff. Staff should also be cautious when using the computer away from school particularly with files which may contain personal student data.
8. The laptop/device will be recalled from time to time for maintenance / upgrade and monitoring.

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions in this agreement.

I undertake to take due care of the computer and return it when requested.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures (including Child Protection). All our practice and activities must be consistent and in line with the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures noted above. Any deviations from these policies and procedures should be brought to the attention of the Headteacher so that the matter can be addressed.