



Parent / Carer Acceptable Use Policy Agreement Template

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. Technologies open up new learning opportunities for everyone. They can stimulate discussion, promote creativity and effective learning, and promote more effective communications between parents / carers and the school in order to support young people with their learning. Young people should have an entitlement to safe internet access.

This Acceptable Use Policy is intended to ensure:

- All young people will be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other communications technologies for educational, personal and recreational use.
- School ICT systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk.
- 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 students have good access to ICT to enhance their learning and will, in return, expect the students to agree to be responsible users. A copy of the Student / Pupil Acceptable Use Policy is attached to this permission form, so that parents / carers will be aware of the school expectations of the young people in their care.

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.

Permission Form

Parent / Carers Name

Student / Pupil Name

As the parent / carer of the above student, I give permission for my son / daughter to have access to the internet and to ICT 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 ICT – 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 ICT 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 ICT systems will be monitored and that the school will contact me if they have concerns about any possible breaches of the Acceptable Use Policy.

Signed

Date



Home Use of the Internet

We hope you will reinforce the issues contained in the Student Acceptable Use Policy when your child uses the internet at home. In order to do this we recommend that you:

- Ensure that children's access to the internet is monitored (e.g. used in a communal room.)
- Ensure appropriate supervision for the age of your child including supervising all use of the internet by younger users.
- Set appropriate rules for using the ICT and the internet safely at home. The school rules could provide a starting point.
- Inform the school if you have concerns that the school could help to address through teaching.
- Ask your child about the sites they are visiting.
- Ensure that family computers are password protected and have robust anti-virus software which is regularly updated.
- Ensure content is appropriately filtered for younger users.
- Ensure that your child knows that any protection system does not stop all unsafe content and that they need to tell you if they access something inappropriate or get an upsetting message.
- Reassure your child that if they talk to you about a problem they are having on the internet you will not ban them from using it as this will discourage them from telling you.
- Ensure that your child knows not to leave computers logged on with their user name or logged on to sites with personal details entered as others could use them.

In order to support those parents who may be less familiar with use of the internet we have listed a variety of additional measures that you could take at home to support your child's safe use of the internet.

Additional Guidance on Safe Use of ICT at Home

Keeping Safe

- Discuss user names with children and talk about how to choose them carefully to protect their identity.
- Talk to young people about the information they should keep private in order to prevent them being contacted or traced including full name, address, telephone no, school, places they do regularly.
- Talk to young people about the need to limit access to their own information by using the safety and privacy features of sites to only give access to people they know and being careful who they add as friends.
- Model safe behaviour in your use of ICT.

Research and Fun on the internet

- Talk to your child about the fact that any information published on the web can be read by anyone and that they should only publish information they would be happy for anyone to read.
- Check information that younger users are publishing on the web before it is posted to ensure that they are not putting themselves at risk.
- Check that they are old enough for the sites they are using.



Communicating

- Discuss the need for young people to be polite to others online and that they should not use bad language or comments which might upset others.
- Discuss the fact that e-mails / messages can be intercepted and forwarded on to anyone (including parents, head teacher or future employer!).
- Ensure that young people know they should not open messages if the subject field contains anything offensive or if they do not recognise who it is from and that the safest thing to do is to delete it without opening it.
- Recognise that there is a difference between online friends who you will never meet and real world friends. Talk to your child about their online friends.
- Remind your child that people they talk to online may not be who they seem.
- You must be aware that, particularly due to the use of mobile devices, the sharing of inappropriate content such as obscene images or 'sexting' has increased over recent years. Your child's communication should be monitored for this at all times. If anyone sends them an inappropriate image or message, they should be told to let you know straight away.

Sharing

- Ensure your child knows that downloading games and music that is copyrighted without paying for it is illegal

Buying and Selling Online

- Help young people to tell the difference between web sites for information and web sites selling things.
- Discuss how to recognise commercial uses of the internet e.g. iTunes, mobile phone downloads, shopping.
- Remind young people that if an offer looks too good to be true it probably is and that they should not respond to unsolicited online offers.
- Remind young people that they should not purchase or download anything that costs money without asking permission and that they should not use someone else's identity to buy things online.

Problems

- Ensure that they know that if they receive an offensive or worrying message / e-mail they should not reply but should save it and tell you.

Bullying

Ensure they know that bullying online or on mobile devices is the same as bullying in the real world. Children should always let you know if they think they are being bullied online. They should also behave in a way that means they are not bullying other children.

Online bullying can be reported to the school, even if it happens at home. Schools have a responsibility to address online bullying of this nature.

Further advice can be found at:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse/>