



### Statement of Intent

Whilst our school promotes the use of technology and understands the positive effects it can have on enhancing pupils' learning and community engagement, we must also ensure that technology is used appropriately. Any misuse of technology will not be taken lightly and will be reported to the Headteacher in order for any necessary further action to be taken.

This acceptable use policy is designed to outline staff responsibilities when using technology, whether this is via personal devices or school devices, or on/off the school premises, and applies to all staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors.

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This policy applies to all employees, volunteers, supply staff and contractors using school ICT facilities.
- 1.2. The school acceptable use policy is divided into the following three sections.
  - General policy and code of practice
  - Internet policy and code of practice
  - Email policy and code of practice

- 1.3. This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Data Protection Policy, Privacy Policy and Records Management Policy.

## 2. General Policy and Code of Practice

- 2.1. The school has well-developed and advanced ICT systems, which it intends for you to benefit from.
- 2.2. This policy sets out the rules that you must comply with to ensure that the system works effectively for everyone.

### Privacy

- 2.3. The GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 require all personal and special category data to be processed with the utmost credibility, integrity and accuracy. This applies to all data the school stores on its network regarding staff, pupils and other natural persons it deals with whilst carrying out its functions.
- 2.4. The school will only process data in line with its lawful basis to uphold the rights of both pupils and staff and other third parties.
- 2.5. In order to protect pupils' safety, wellbeing and also that of the staff and to protect the school from any third party claims or legal action against it, the school may view any data, information or material on the school's ICT systems (whether contained in an email, on the network, notebooks or laptops) and in certain circumstances, disclose that data, information or material to third parties, such as the police or social services. The school's Privacy Policy details the lawful basis under which the school is lawfully allowed to do so. All user's online activity is monitored
- 2.6. The school disclaimer that automatically appears at the end of each of your emails notifies the recipient that any email correspondence between you may be monitored. You must not remove this disclaimer. You should bring to the attention of any person who wishes or intends to send you an email that the school may monitor the content of their email.

<p>The school's philosophy</p>	<p>In using ICT, you will follow the school's ethos and consider the work and feelings of others. You must not use the system in a way that might cause annoyance or loss of service to other users.</p>
<p>Times of access</p>	<p>The network is available 24/7, 365 days of the year. However, at times the servers and network will be subject to upgrades and maintenance and will be unavailable for short periods. Staff will be given advance notice of any planned downtime.</p>
<p>User ID and password and logging on</p>	<p>You will be given your own user ID, password and printer PIN. You must keep these private and not tell or show anyone what they are.</p> <p>Your password must be a mix of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contain at least eight characters</li> <li>• A mixture of lower case and capital letters</li> <li>• At least one number</li> <li>• At least one symbol (!, @, #, \$, %, ^, &amp;, *, )</li> </ul> <p>Passwords must not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any portion of your name</li> <li>• Any portion of your address</li> <li>• Date of birth</li> <li>• Username</li> <li>• Nickname</li> <li>• Family name</li> <li>• Pet name</li> <li>• Sports team</li> <li>• The word "Password"</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A name or word that appears in a dictionary</li> </ul> <p>If you forget or accidentally disclose your password to anyone else, you must report it immediately to the Network Manager.</p> <p>You must not use another person's account or allow another person to use your account. The facilities are allocated to you on a personal basis and you are responsible for the use of the machine when you are logged on. The school's system monitors usage and the Network Manager monitors your use of the system.</p> <p>Use of the school's facilities by a third party using your user name or password will be attributable to you, and you will be held accountable for any misuse.</p> <p>You will be required to change your password once per term.</p>
Printing	<p>The school may wish to check that its resources are being used efficiently and other members of staff may suggest strategies to help you save on resources. Personal printing is permitted provided users select the "Personal Printing" option when they do so. Print usage is monitored on a regular basis including the user's code, document type, name and source of document printed but not the contents.</p>
Remote Access	<p>Remote access is available to all staff members. When a staff member uses their own equipment, they are responsible for the maintenance and repair of it and ensuring they have suitable anti-virus software installed.</p>
Logging off	<p>All staff computers must be locked to prevent unauthorised access when unattended.</p>

	<p>If another member of staff is scheduled to teach in the same room after you, then you must log off from the computer and wait for the login screen to appear before leaving. Do this as a courtesy to other colleagues to ensure resources are available for them to use and the start of their lesson is not delayed.</p> <p>Please leave your computer switched ON to allow the server to push out updates overnight, they will go to sleep after 30 minutes of inactivity. If computers are switched off, then essential updates will be sent out during the day which may disrupt lessons.</p> <p>Please note: To maintain the security and integrity of the school network it is vital that you restart computers as soon as possible when prompted to do so by windows updates.</p>
<p>Access to information not normally available</p>	<p>You must not use the system or the internet to find or use facilities or flaws in the system that might give access to information or areas of the network not normally available.</p> <p>You must not attempt to install software to explore or harm the system. Use of hacking tools, e.g. 'loggers', 'sniffers', 'evidence elimination software' or 'proxy bypass tools' is expressly forbidden.</p>
<p>Connections to the system</p>	<p>You must not connect any hardware which may be detrimental to the school's network. Students are not permitted to use the school's IT facilities for personal use and must not connect any personal device to the school's Wi-Fi network.</p>

<p>Connections to the computer</p>	<p>Use the keyboard and mouse provided along with any other connected peripherals. You must not remove any equipment, adjust or alter any settings or switches without first obtaining the</p> <p>Use of unencrypted USB memory sticks, or any other portable USB storage media is blocked. Encrypted USB devices are permitted in “Read-Only” mode, they are blocked for writing.</p> <p>You are not permitted to connect anything else to the computer without the permission of the Network Manager</p>
<p>Virus</p>	<p>If you suspect that your computer has a virus, you must report it to the Network Manager immediately.</p>
<p>Installation of software, files or media</p>	<p>You must not install or attempt to install software of any kind to network or local computer hard drives.</p> <p>You must not alter or re-configure software on any part of the school’s system.</p>
<p>Storage space</p>	<p>You must manage your own file space by deleting old data regularly and by deleting emails that you no longer require.</p> <p>If you believe that you have a real need for additional space, please discuss this with the Network Manager.</p>
<p>Transferring files</p>	<p>You may transfer files to and from your network home directories using your cloud storage.</p> <p>When transferring files to and from your network home directories, you must not import or export any material unless the owner of that material expressly permits you to do so.</p>

Reporting faults and malfunctions	You must report any hardware faults or software malfunctions to the Network Manager as soon as possible, including full details and all error messages.
Food and drink	You must not eat or drink, or bring food or drink, including sweets and chewing gum, into the ICT rooms.  You must always maintain a clean and quiet working environment.
Copying and plagiarising	You must not plagiarise or copy any material which does not belong to you. This includes the copying of DVDs/CDs.
Copies of important work	A backup of all network drives are taken overnight and a snapshot of the system is taken twice day at 7.00am and 12.00 midday. Users can restore network files by right clicking on the relevant folder and choosing properties > previous version. Please Note: Local drives are NOT BACKED UP.  Any data containing personal and special category data must not be stored on laptops, home computers or unencrypted media and paper back-ups must be stored in a secure lockable location.
Email language and appropriateness	Lancashire County Council's - <a href="#">Guide to Clear Writing</a> When sending an email on behalf of the school ensure you use appropriate business language and are not over familiar with the recipient.

### 3. Internet Policy and Code of Practice

- 3.1. The school can provide access to the internet from desktop PCs via the computer network and through a variety of electronic devices connected wirelessly to the network.
- 3.2. Whenever accessing the internet using the school's or personal equipment you must observe the code of practice below.

- 3.3. This policy and code of practice is designed to reduce and control the risk of offences being committed, liabilities being incurred, staff or other pupils being offended and the school's facilities and information being damaged.
- 3.4. Any breach of this policy and the code of practice will be treated extremely seriously, and it may result in disciplinary or legal action or expulsion.
- 3.5. The school may take steps, including legal action where appropriate, to recover from an individual any expenses or liabilities the school incurs because of the breach of this policy and code of practice.

### **Why is internet access available?**

- 3.6. The internet is a large and very useful source of information. Numerous websites and services, both official and unofficial, provide information or links to information which would be useful for educational purposes.

### **Why is a code of practice necessary?**

There are four main issues:

- Although the internet is often described as 'free', there is a significant cost to the school for using it. This cost includes telephone line charges, subscription costs (which may depend on how much a service is used) and the computer hardware and software needed to support internet access.
- Although there is much useful information on the internet, there is a great deal more material which is misleading or irrelevant. Using the internet effectively requires training and self-discipline. Training is available on request from ICT staff.
- Unfortunately, the internet carries a great deal of unsuitable and offensive material. It is important for legal reasons, reasons of principle, and to protect to protect the staff and pupils who access to the internet, that it is properly managed. Accessing certain websites and services, and viewing, copying or changing certain material, could amount to a criminal offence and give rise to legal liabilities.
- There is a danger of importing viruses on to the school's network, or passing viruses to a third party, via material downloaded from or received via the internet, or brought into the school on disks or other storage media.



## Code of Practice

<p>Use of the internet</p>	<p>The school's IT facilities are provided for educational, administrative, research and personal development use by staff in the course of their employment and by students in the course of their education.</p> <p>The Internet should not normally be used for private or leisure purposes. You may use the internet for other purposes provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Such use is occasional and reasonable;</li> <li>• Such use does not interfere in any way with your duties; and</li> <li>• You always follow the code of practice.</li> </ul>
<p>Inappropriate material</p>	<p>You must not use the internet to access any newsgroups, links, list-servers, web pages or other areas of cyberspace that could be offensive because of pornographic, indecent, racist, violent, illegal, illicit, or other inappropriate content. "Inappropriate" in this context includes material which is unsuitable for viewing by pupils.</p> <p>You are responsible for rejecting any links to such material which may appear inadvertently during research.</p> <p>If you encounter any material which could be regarded as offensive you must leave that website or service immediately and not make any copy of that material. If you encounter any difficulty in leaving a website or service, you must inform the ICT support staff immediately.</p>
<p>Misuse, abuse and access restrictions</p>	<p>Users must not deliberately attempt to bypass the proxy server, introduce any virus, worm, Trojan horse or other harmful or nuisance program or file into any IT equipment or take deliberate action to circumvent any precautions taken or prescribed by the school to prevent this. Users must not</p>

	<p>attempt to penetrate the security and/or privacy of other users' files or attempt to install unauthorised software. Users must not use school IT facilities to access, produce, obtain, download, store, view, share, or distribute material (including images, video, text or sound files) which is either illegal under UK law, in breach of copyright law and/ or can reasonably be judged to be offensive, obscene, indecent, abusive or likely to incite racial hatred.</p>
Monitoring	<p>All of the school's computers have anti-virus protection and activity monitoring software installed, including the monitoring of email activity. All IT rooms have CCTV.</p> <p>The information collected includes which website and services you visit, how long you remain there and which material you view. This information will be analysed and retained, and it may be used in disciplinary and legal proceedings.</p>
Giving out information	<p>You must not give any information concerning the school, its pupils or parents, or any member of staff when accessing any website or service. This prohibition covers the giving of names of any of these people – the only exception being the use of the school's name and your name when accessing a service which the school subscribes to.</p>
Personal safety	<p>You should take care with who you correspond with.</p> <p>You should not disclose where you are or arrange meetings with strangers you have got in contact with over the internet.</p>
Hardware and software	<p>You must not make any changes to any of the school's hardware or software. This prohibition also covers changes to any of the browser settings.</p> <p>The settings put in place by the school are an important part of the school security arrangements and making any changes, however innocuous they might seem, could allow hackers and computer viruses to access or damage the school's systems.</p>

	<p>If accidental damage occurs, this must be reported to the Network Manager. The term 'damage' includes any unauthorised installation of hardware or software. There is an expectation that users will not cause any intentional damage to the school's IT facilities.</p>
Copyright	<p>You should assume that all material on the internet is protected by copyright and must be treated appropriately and in accordance with the owner's rights.</p> <p>You must not copy, download or plagiarise material on the internet unless the owner of the website expressly permits you to do so.</p>

#### 4. Email Policy and Code of Practice

- 4.1. The school's computer system enables members of the school to communicate by email with any individual or organisation with email facilities throughout the world.
- 4.2. For the reason outlined above, it is essential that a written policy and code of practice exists, which sets out the rules and principles for use of email by all.
- 4.3. Any breach of this policy and code of practice will be treated seriously and it may result in disciplinary or legal action or expulsion.
- 4.4. The school may take steps, including legal action where appropriate, to recover from an individual any expenses or liabilities the school incurs because of the breach of this policy and code of practice.

#### Code of Practice

Purpose	<p>You should only use the school's email system for work related emails.</p> <p>You are only permitted to send a reasonable number of emails.</p>
---------	--

Trust's disclaimer	<p>The school's email disclaimer is automatically attached to all outgoing emails and you must not cancel or disapply it.</p> <p><i>This e-mail is confidential and privileged. If you are not the intended recipient do not disclose, copy or distribute information in this e-mail or take any action in reliance on its content. This email has been checked for known viruses.</i></p>
Monitoring	<p>Copies of all incoming and outgoing emails, together with details of their duration and destinations are stored centrally (in electronic form).</p> <p>The frequency and content of incoming and outgoing external emails are checked termly to determine whether the email system is being used in accordance with this policy and code of practice.</p> <p>The <u>headteacher</u>, senior staff and technical staff are entitled to have read-only access to your emails.</p>
Security	<p>As with anything else sent over the internet, emails are not completely secure. There is no proof of receipt, emails can be 'lost', they can suffer from computer failure and a determined 'hacker' could intercept, read and possibly alter the contents.</p> <p>As with other methods of written communication, you must make a judgment about the potential damage if the communication is lost or intercepted. Never send bank account information, passwords, or pupil data by email.</p>
Program files and non-business documents	<p>You must not introduce program files or non-business documents from external sources on to the school's network.</p> <p>This might happen by opening an email attachment or by downloading a file from a website. Although virus detection software is installed, it can never be guaranteed 100 percent</p>

	<p>successful, so introducing nonessential software is an unacceptable risk for the school.</p> <p>If you have any reason for suspecting that a virus may have entered the school's system, you must contact the ICT support staff immediately.</p>
Quality	<p>Emails constitute records of the school and are subject to the same rules, care and checks as other written communications sent by the school.</p> <p>Emails will be checked under the same scrutiny as other written communications.</p> <p>Staff members should consider the following when sending emails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether it is appropriate for material to be sent to third parties</li> <li>• The emails sent and received may have to be disclosed in legal proceedings</li> <li>• The emails sent and received maybe have to be disclosed as part of fulfilling an SAR</li> <li>• Whether any authorisation is required before sending</li> <li>• Printed copies of emails should be retained in the same way as other correspondence, e.g. letter</li> <li>• The confidentiality between sender and recipient</li> <li>• Transmitting the work of other people, without their permission, may infringe copyright laws.</li> <li>• The sending and storing messages or attachments containing statements which could be construed as abusive, libelous, harassment may result in disciplinary or legal action being taken.</li> <li>• Sending or storing messages or attachments containing statements which could be construed as improper, abusive, harassing the recipient, libelous, malicious, threatening or contravening discrimination legislation or</li> </ul>

	<p>detrimental to the is a disciplinary offence and may also be a legal offence.</p>
Inappropriate emails or attachments	<p>You must not use email to access or send offensive material, chain messages or for the purposes of bullying or plagiarising work.</p> <p>You must not send personal or inappropriate information by email about yourself, other members of staff, pupils or other members of the school community.</p> <p>If you receive any inappropriate emails or attachments you must report them to the Network Manager.</p>
Viruses	<p>If you suspect that an email has a virus attached to it, you must inform the technical staff immediately.</p>
Spam	<p>You must not send spam (sending the same message to multiple email addresses)</p>
Storage	<p>Old emails may be deleted from the school's server after 12 months.</p> <p>You are advised to regularly delete material you no longer require and to archive material that you wish to keep. For further information please see our Records Management Policy.</p>
Message size	<p>Staff are limited to sending messages with attachments which are up to 2Mb in size. If you wish to distribute files within the school, you can do so by using shared areas.</p>
Confidential Emails	<p>You must ensure that confidential emails are always suitably protected. If working at home or remotely, you should be aware of the potential for an unauthorised third party to be privy to the content of the email.</p> <p>Confidential emails should be deleted when no longer required.</p>

Social Media	Members of staff must not contact current St Mary's Catholic High School students via social networking sites or via their own personal email account. Staff should ensure they conduct their on-line presence in a manner in keeping with their professional status as an employee of the school.
--------------	--

## 5. Email Policy – Advice to staff

5.1. Staff should remind themselves of the ICT Acceptable Use Policy which relates to the monitoring, security and quality of emails. In addition, staff should be guided by the following good practice:

- Staff should check their emails daily and respond, as appropriate, within a reasonable period if the email is directly addressed to them.
- Staff should avoid spam, as outlined in this policy.
- Staff should avoid using the email system as a message board and thus avoid sending trivial global messages.
- Whilst accepting the convenience of the staff distribution list, staff should try to restrict its use to important or urgent matters.
- Staff should send emails to the minimum number of recipients.
- Staff are advised to create their own distribution lists, as convenient and appropriate.
- Staff should always include a subject line, which must not contain names of staff or pupils or abbreviations of their names.
- Staff are advised to keep old emails for the minimum time necessary.
- Your school email is for school business only. It is not to be used for personal communications.

## 6. Further Guidance

- Remember – emails remain a written record and can be forwarded to others or printed for formal use.
- As a rule of thumb, staff should be well advised to only write what they would say face to face and should avoid the temptation to respond to an

incident or message by email in an uncharacteristic and potentially aggressive fashion.

- Remember, “tone” can be misinterpreted on the printed page and once it is sent it could end up in the public domain forever. Email lacks the other cues and clues that convey the sense in which what you say is to be taken, and you can easily convey the wrong impression.
- Remember that sending emails from your school account is similar to sending a letter on school letterhead, so don't say anything that might bring discredit or embarrassment to yourself or the school.
- Linked with this and given the popularity and simplicity for recording both visual and audio material, staff are advised to remember the possibility of being recorded in all that they say or do.
- Use the LCC guide [Clear Guide to Writing](#) and keep the tone professional

For further information or to clarify any of the points raised in this policy please speak to the [DPO](#).

By Logging onto the school's computer network you indicate your acceptance of the above terms and conditions.

## **ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ICT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

Signed by employee/volunteer/contractor/supplier:

---



Print name:

---

Date:

---