

E-Safety Policy

This policy applies to all members of Spruce House School (including staff, pupils, volunteers, parents/carers, visitors, community users) who have access to and are users of Halliwell School ICT systems, both in and out of a Halliwell School.

This policy pays due regard to the latest DfE guidance 'Teaching Online Safety in School' (January 2023). This policy also pays due regard to the latest DfE Guidance 'Meeting Digital and Technology Standards in Schools and Colleges' (May 2024).

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers Headteachers to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site and empowers members of staff to impose disciplinary penalties for inappropriate behaviour.

This is pertinent to incidents of cyber-bullying, or other e-safety incidents covered by this policy, which may take place outside of the school, but is linked to membership of the school. The 2011 Education Act increased these powers with regard to the searching for and of electronic devices and the deletion of data.

Spruce House School will deal with such incidents within this policy and associated behaviour and anti-bullying policies and will, where known, inform parents/carers and social workers of incidents of inappropriate e-safety behaviour that take place out of school.

Roles and Responsibilities

The following section outlines the e-safety roles and responsibilities of individuals and groups within Spruce House School.

Proprietors:

Proprietors are responsible for the approval of the E-Safety Policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy. This will be carried out by the Proprietors receiving regular information about e-safety incidents and monitoring reports. The Head of Education has taken on the role of E-Safety and Filtering and Monitoring Lead. The role of the E-Safety and Filtering and Monitoring Lead will include:

- regular meetings with the E-Safety Co-ordinator/Designated Senior Person
- regular monitoring of e-safety incident logs
- regular monitoring of filtering/change control logs
- reporting to relevant Proprietors

Head Of Education:

- The Head Of Education have a duty of care for ensuring the safety (including e-safety) of members of the school community, though the day to day responsibility for e-safety will be delegated to the E-Safety Co-ordinator/Designated Senior Person.
- The Head Of Education should be aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious e-safety allegation being made against a member of staff. (see flow chart on dealing with e-safety incidents – included in a later section – “Responding to incidents of misuse” and relevant Local Authority HR / other relevant body disciplinary procedures).
- The Head Of Education are responsible for ensuring that the E-Safety Coordinator/Designated Senior Person and other relevant staff receive suitable training to enable them to carry out their e-safety roles and to train other colleagues, as relevant.
- The Head Of Education will ensure that there is a system in place to allow for filtering and monitoring and support of those in school who carry out the internal e-safety monitoring role. This is to provide a safety net and also support to those colleagues who take on important monitoring roles.
- The Head Of Education will receive regular filtering and monitoring reports from the E-Safety Co-ordinator/ Designated Senior Person.

Teaching and Support Staff:

Teaching and Support Staff are responsible for ensuring that:

- they have an up-to-date awareness of e-safety matters and of the current school e-safety policy and practices.
- they have read, understood and signed the Staff Acceptable Use Agreement.
- they report any suspected misuse or problem to the Head of Education/E-Safety Coordinator/Designated Senior Person for investigation/action/sanction.
- all digital communications with pupils/parents/carers should be on a professional level and only carried out using official school systems.
- e-safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other activities.
- pupils understand and follow the e-safety and acceptable use agreements.
- pupils have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations.
- they monitor the use of digital technologies, mobile devices, cameras etc in lessons and other school activities (where allowed) and implement current policies with regard to these devices.
- in lessons where internet use is pre-planned pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches

Pupils:

- are responsible for using the school digital technology systems in accordance with the Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement.
- have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations.
- need to understand the importance of reporting abuse, misuse or access to inappropriate materials and know how to do so.
- will be expected to know and understand policies on the use of mobile devices and digital cameras. They should also know and understand policies on the taking/use of images and on cyber-bullying.
- should understand the importance of adopting good e-safety practice when using digital technologies out of school and realise that the school's E-Safety Policy covers their actions out of school, if related to their membership of the school.

Education – pupils

Whilst regulation and technical solutions are very important, their use must be balanced by educating pupils to take a responsible approach. The education of pupils in e-safety is therefore an essential part of the school's e-safety provision. Children and young people need the help and support of the school to recognise and avoid e-safety risks and build their resilience.

E-safety should be a focus in all areas of the curriculum and staff should reinforce e-safety messages across the curriculum. The e-safety curriculum should be broad, relevant and provide progression, with opportunities for creative activities and will be provided in the following ways:

- A planned e-safety curriculum should be provided as part of ICT/PHSE/other lessons and should be regularly revisited.
- Key e-safety messages should be reinforced as part of a planned programme of assemblies and tutorial/pastoral activities.
- Pupils should be taught in all lessons to be critically aware of the materials / content they access on-line and be guided to validate the accuracy of information.
- Pupils should be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet
- Pupils should be helped to understand the need for the pupil Acceptable Use Agreement and encouraged to adopt safe and responsible use both within and outside school
- Staff should act as good role models in their use of digital technologies the internet and mobile devices in lessons where internet use is pre-planned, it is best practice that pupils should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches.
- Where pupils are allowed to freely search the internet, staff should be vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites the young people visit.
- It is accepted that from time to time, for good educational reasons, pupils may need to research topics (e.g. racism, drugs, discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being blocked. In such a situation, staff can request that the Technical Staff (or other relevant designated person) can temporarily

remove those sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Any request to do so, should be auditable, with clear reasons for the need.

Technical – infrastructure/equipment, filtering and monitoring:

The school will be responsible for ensuring that the school infrastructure/network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible and that policies and procedures approved within this policy are implemented. It will also need to ensure that the relevant people named in the above sections will be effective in carrying out their e-safety responsibilities. This ***includes regular completion of the filtering and monitoring checklist which can be found in Appendix A at the back of this policy.***

School technical systems will be managed in ways that ensure that the school meets recommended technical requirements There will be regular reviews and audits of the safety and security of school technical systems:

- All users will have clearly defined access rights to school systems and devices.
- All users will be provided with a username and secure password. Users are responsible for the security of their username and password.
- The school has provided enhanced/differentiated user-level filtering
- School technical staff regularly monitor and record the activity of users on the school systems and users are made aware of this in the Acceptable Use Agreement.
- An appropriate system is in place for users to report any actual/potential incident/security breach to the relevant person, as agreed.
- An agreed policy is in place for the provision of temporary access of “guests” (e.g. trainee teachers, supply teachers, visitors) onto the school systems.
- An agreed policy is in place regarding the extent of personal use that users are allowed on school devices that may be used out of school.
- Users are not permitted to download and or install applications (including executable or similar types) on to a school device or whilst using the schools’ systems, without agreement from the IT department.

Users may use the following types of removable media for the purposes detailed:

- CD/DVD – Playing original video material, original music and viewing data written to the media that is owned by the user (who has copyright ownership). The use of software written to writable versions of this media is strictly prohibited.
- USB Media (memory sticks) – this type of media can be used on school devices for transferring personal work, this being data created by the user. The use of applications on this type of media is strictly prohibited.
- Other types of media that may exist may only be used for the movement of personal data where the user owns the copyright.

Use of digital and video images:

The development of digital imaging technologies has created significant benefits to learning, allowing staff and pupils instant use of images that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet. However, staff, parents/carers and pupils

need to be aware of the risks associated with publishing digital images on the internet. Such images may provide avenues for cyberbullying to take place. Digital images may remain available on the internet forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term. It is common for employers to carry out internet searches for information about potential and existing employees.

The school will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement policies to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm:

- When using digital images, staff should inform and educate pupils about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images. In particular they should recognise the risks attached to publishing their own images on the internet e.g. on social networking sites.
- In accordance with guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office, parents/carers are welcome to take videos and digital images of their children at school events for their own personal use (as such use is not covered by the Data Protection Act). To respect everyone's privacy and in some cases protection, these images should not be published/made publicly available on social networking sites, nor should parents/carers comment on any activities involving other pupils in the digital/video images.

Staff and volunteers are allowed to take digital/video images to support educational aims, but must follow school policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images. Written permission from parents or carers or social workers will be obtained before photographs of pupils are published. Pupil's work can only be published with the permission of the pupil and parents or carers.

Data Protection:

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the Data Protection Act 1998, GDPR Regulations (May 2018) and the schools' Data Protection Policy. Staff must always transfer data using encryption and secure password protected devices.

Appropriate and Inappropriate Use by Staff or Adults:

Staff members have access to the network so that they can obtain age appropriate resources for their classes and create folders for saving and managing resources. They have a password to access a filtered internet service and know that this should not be disclosed to anyone or leave a computer or other device unattended whilst they are logged in.

All staff should receive a copy of the E-Safety Policy and a copy of the Acceptable Use Agreement, which they need to sign, return to the school, to keep under file with a signed copy returned to the member of staff.

The Acceptable Use Agreement will be displayed in the staff room as a reminder that staff members need to safeguard against potential allegations and a copy of this policy is provided to all staff for home use.

When accessing the Learning Platform from home, the same Acceptable Use Agreement will apply. The acceptable use should be similar for staff to that of the children and young people so that an example of good practice can be established

In the Event of Inappropriate Use

If a member of staff is believed to misuse the internet or learning platform in an abusive or illegal manner, a report must be made to the Head of Education/Senior Designated Person immediately.

Appropriate and Inappropriate Use by Children or Young People:

Acceptable Use Agreements detail how children and young people are expected to use the internet and other technologies within school, including downloading or printing of any materials. The agreements are there for children and young people to understand what is expected of their behaviour and attitude when using the internet. This will enable them to take responsibility for their own actions. For example, knowing what is polite to write in an e-mail to another child, or understanding what action to take should there be the rare occurrence of sighting unsuitable material. This also includes the deliberate searching for inappropriate materials and the consequences for doing so.

School should encourage parents/carers to support the agreement with their child or young person. This can be shown by signing the Acceptable Use Agreements together so that it is clear to the school/education setting or other establishment that the agreement are accepted by the child or young person with the support of the parent/carer. This is also intended to provide support and information to parents/carers and social workers when children and young people may be using the Internet beyond school/education setting or other establishment.

Further to this, it is hoped that parents/carers will add to future rule amendments or updates to ensure that they are appropriate to the technologies being used at that time and reflect any potential issues that parents/carers feel should be addressed, as appropriate.

The downloading of materials, for example, music files and photographs need to be appropriate and 'fit for purpose' based on research for work and be copyright free. File-sharing via e-mail, weblogs or any other means online should be appropriate and be copyright free when using the learning platform in or beyond school/education setting or other establishment.

In the Event of Inappropriate Use

Should a child or young person be found to misuse the online facilities whilst at school, the following consequences should occur:

Any child found to be misusing the internet by not following the Acceptable Use Agreement may have a letter sent home to parents/carers and social workers explaining the reason for suspending the child or young person's use for a particular lesson or activity.

Further misuse of the agreement may result in further sanctions which could include not being allowed to access the internet for a period of time.

A letter may be sent to parents/carers outlining the breach in Safeguarding Policy where a child or young person is deemed to have misused technology against another child or adult.

In the event that a child or young person **accidentally** accesses inappropriate materials the child should report this to an adult immediately and take appropriate action to hide the screen or close the window, so that an adult can take the appropriate action. Where a child or young person feels unable to disclose abuse, sexual requests or other misuses against them to an adult, they can use the Report Abuse button (www.thinkuknow.co.uk) to make a report and seek further advice. The issue of a child or young person deliberately misusing online technologies should also be addressed by the establishment.

Children should be taught and encouraged to consider the implications for misusing the internet and posting inappropriate materials to websites, for example, as this may have legal implications.

Procedure for responding to incidents of misuse:

This guidance is intended for use when staff need to manage incidents that involve the use of online services. It encourages a safe and secure approach to the management of the incident. Incidents might involve illegal or inappropriate activities (see “In the Event of Inappropriate Use” above).

Other Incidents

It is hoped that all members of the school community will be responsible users of digital technologies, who understand and follow school policy. However, there may be times when infringements of the policy could take place, through careless or irresponsible or, very rarely, through deliberate misuse.

In the event of suspicion, all steps in this procedure should be followed:

- Have more than one senior member of staff/volunteer involved in this process. This is vital to protect individuals if accusations are subsequently reported.
- Conduct the procedure using a designated computer that will not be used by young people and if necessary, can be taken off site by the police should the need arise. Use the same computer for the duration of the procedure.
- It is important to ensure that the relevant staff should have appropriate internet access to conduct the procedure, but also that the sites and content visited are closely monitored and recorded (to provide further protection).
- Record the URL of any site containing the alleged misuse and describe the nature of the content causing concern. It may also be necessary to record and store screenshots of the content on the machine being used for investigation. These may be printed, signed and attached to the form (except in the case of images of child sexual abuse – see below).

Once this has been completed and fully investigated the group will need to judge whether this concern has substance or not. If it does then appropriate action will be required and could include the following:

- Internal response or discipline procedures.
- Involvement by Local Authority or national/local organisation (as relevant).
- Police involvement and/or action.
- If content being reviewed includes images of child abuse, then the monitoring should be halted and referred to the Police immediately. Other instances to report to the Police would include:
 - ☐ incidents of 'grooming' behaviour.
 - ☐ the sending of obscene materials to a child.
 - ☐ adult material which potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act.
 - ☐ criminally racist material.
 - ☐ other criminal conduct, activity or materials.
 - ☐ isolate the computer in question as best you can. Any change to its state may hinder a later police investigation.

It is important that all of the above steps are taken as they will provide an evidence trail for the school and possibly the police and demonstrate that visits to these sites were carried out for child protection purposes. The completed form should be retained by the group for evidence and reference purposes.

Date approved: March 2016

Date last reviewed: September 2026

Next review (or before): September 2027

Signed: 

Position: Education Director

Staff Acknowledgement

In signing this document I am confirming I have read the information and have an understanding of the procedures outlined within the information provided.

I have had the opportunity to discuss this document with a Senior Leadership member of staff to gain further clarity.

I also know that if I feel I need further guidance I know I can access through the Head Of Education.

School name:

Staff member name:

Position:

Date:

School name:

Staff member name:

Position:

Date:

School name:

Staff member name:

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Staff member name:

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School name:

Staff member name:

Position:

Date:

ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

(Staff/Volunteer)

2026/27

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 staff and volunteers 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.
- that staff are protected from potential risk in their use of ICT in their everyday work.
- School will try to ensure that staff and volunteers will have good access to ICT to enhance their work, to enhance learning opportunities for pupils learning and will, in return, expect staff and volunteers to agree to be responsible users.
- This policy applies to any device in school. It applies across the whole network and includes WiFi.

Spruce House School carries out secure content inspection (SSL inspection). This means that when you access a site that uses techniques to secure the information between the website and yourself the school can read the information and remove inappropriate content or prevent access to the material. Excluded from this inspection are sites that contain sensitive financial information, including banks and payment systems.

Your activity on the internet is closely monitored by the school, logs are kept of activity, whether on a school device or using your own device through the school Wi-Fi. These logs include who is accessing what material for how long from which device.

The school email system is provided for educational purposes, where required the school has the ability to access your school email for safeguarding purposes.

Acceptable Use Policy Agreement

I understand that I must use Spruce House 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 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 Spruce House 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 Spruce House School ICT systems (eg laptops, email,) out of school, and to the transfer of personal data (digital or paper based) out of school.
- I understand that Spruce House 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 understand that I should not write down or store a password where it is possible that someone may steal it.

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 Spruce House 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 and in accordance with the school's policy on the use of digital/video images. I will not use my personal equipment to record these images, unless I have permission to do so. Where these images are published 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 in accordance with the school's policies
- I will only communicate with 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.

Spruce House School has the responsibility to provide safe and secure access to technologies and ensure the smooth running of the school:

- When I use my mobile devices (PDAs/laptops/mobile phones/USB devices etc) in school, I will follow the rules set out in this agreement, in the same way as if I was using school equipment. I will also follow any additional rules set by the school about such use. 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.
- I will not open any hyperlinks in emails or any attachments to emails, unless the source is known and trusted, or if I have any concerns about the validity of the email (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 understand that Data Protection Policy requires that any staff or 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 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 Spruce House School:

- I understand that this Acceptable Use Agreement 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 off the premises and my use of personal equipment on the premises or in situations related to my employment by the school
- I understand that if I fail to comply with this Acceptable Use Agreement, I could be subject to disciplinary action. This could include a warning, a suspension, referral to Proprietors 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:

Signed:

Date:

ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

(Pupils)

2026/27

I understand that I must use school ICT systems in a responsible way, to make sure that there is no risk to my safety or to the safety of other users.

For my own personal safety:

- I understand that the school will monitor my use of the ICT systems, email and other digital communications.
- I will not disclose or share personal information about myself or others when on-line.
- If I arrange to meet people off-line that I have communicated with on-line, I will do so in a public place and take an adult with me.
- I will immediately report any unpleasant or inappropriate material or messages or anything that makes me feel uncomfortable when I see it on-line.

I understand that everyone has equal rights to use technology as a resource and:

- I understand that the school ICT systems are for educational use and that I will not use the systems for personal or recreational use unless I have permission to do so.
- I will try not (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 act as I expect others to act toward me:

- I will respect others' work and property and will not access, copy, remove or change any other user's files, without their knowledge and permission.
- I will not take or distribute images of anyone without their permission.

I recognise that the school has a responsibility to maintain the security of the technology it offers me and to ensure the smooth running of the school:

- I will immediately report any damage or faults involving equipment or software, however this may have happened.
- I will not use personal e-mail accounts in school.
- I will not install or attempt to install programmes on a machine or try to alter computer settings.
- I will only use chat and social networking sites with permission and at the times that are allowed.

When using the internet for research or recreation, I recognise that:

- Where work is protected by copyright, I will not try to download copies (including music and videos)
- When I am using the internet to find information, I should take care to check that the information that I access is accurate, as I understand that the work of others may not be truthful.

I understand that I am responsible for my actions, both in and out of school:

- I understand that the school also has the right to take action against me if I am involved in incidents of inappropriate behaviour, that are covered in this agreement, when I am out of school and where they involve my membership of the school community (examples would be cyber-bullying, use of images or personal information).

Please sign below to show that you have understood and agree to the rules included in the Acceptable Use Agreement.

I have read and understand the above and agree to follow all the guidelines when:

- I use the school ICT systems and equipment (both in and out of school)
- I use my own equipment out of school in a way that is related to me being a member of this school e.g. communicating with other members of the school, accessing school email, virtual learning environment, website etc.

Pupil Name:

Signed:

Date:

Appendix A

Filtering and Monitoring Checklist

Date	Staff Member completing checks	What was tested / checked?	Actions
	Name: Signature:	-	-
	Name: Signature:	-	-
	Name: Signature:	-	-
	Name: Signature:	-	-
	Name: Signature:	-	-
	Name: Signature:	-	-