



Aldenham School

Acceptable Use of ICT and Mobile Phones Policy for Pupils

Please read this document carefully and discuss with your child.

Then complete the consent form (using the link below) with your child to confirm that they agree to abide by the School's ICT Acceptable Use Agreement for Pupils

**[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE ICT AND MOBILE
PHONE ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT](#)**

**July 2022
by Head of Technology (CC)**

Scope

This policy applies to all students at Aldenham School who use school IT systems as a condition of access. The School provides a computing network which allows a range of devices to connect. The policy sets out the way in which devices should be used and includes guidelines for the safe and responsible use of the network and the internet and identifies those activities which constitute an abuse of our ICT facilities.

Parents are encouraged to read this policy with their child. The School actively promotes the participation of parents to help the School safeguard the welfare of pupils and promote the safe use of technology.

Aims

The aims of this policy are as follows:

- To educate and encourage pupils to make good use of the educational opportunities presented by access to technology.
- To safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, in particular by anticipating and preventing the risks arising from:
 - exposure to harmful or inappropriate material (such as pornographic, racist, extremist or offensive materials).
 - the sharing of personal data, including images.
 - inappropriate online contact or conduct.
 - cyberbullying and other forms of abuse.
- To minimise the risk of harm to the assets and reputation of the School.
- To help pupils take responsibility for their own safe use of technology.
- To ensure that pupils use technology safely and securely and are aware of both external and peer-to-peer risks when using technology.
- To prevent the unnecessary criminalisation of pupils.

School Policies

The following School policies, procedures and resource materials are relevant to this policy:

- Behaviour Policy.
- Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Online Safety Policy.
- Safeguarding Policy.

The School will take a wide and purposive approach to considering what falls within the meaning of technology. This policy relates to all technology, computing and communications devices, network hardware and software, and services and applications associated with them including:

- The internet
- Email
- Mobile phones and smartphones
- Desktops, laptops, netbooks, tablets
- Personal music players
- Devices with the capability for recording and / or storing still or moving images
- Social networking, micro blogging and other interactive websites
- Instant messaging (including image and video messaging via apps such as Snapchat and WhatsApp), chat rooms, blogs and message boards

- Webcams, video hosting sites (such as YouTube)
- Gaming sites
- Virtual learning environments
- Interactive Screens
- Other photographic or electronic equipment e.g. GoPro devices.

Safe use of technology

We want pupils to enjoy using technology and to become skilled users of online resources and media. We recognise that this is crucial for further education and careers.

The School will support pupils to develop their skills and make internet access as unrestricted as possible whilst balancing the safety and welfare of pupils and the security of our systems. The safe use of technology is integral to the School 's curriculum. Pupils are educated about the importance of safe and responsible use of technology to help them to protect themselves and others online.

Pupils may find the following resources helpful in keeping themselves safe online:

- <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- <http://www.childnet.com/young-people>
- <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people>
- <https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/>
- <http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/>
- <http://www.childline.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Please see the School's Online Safety Policy for further information about the School's online safety strategy.

Internet and email

All pupils will receive guidance on the use of the School's internet and, where accessible, email systems. If a pupil is unsure about whether they are doing the right thing, they must seek assistance from a member of staff.

For the protection of all pupils, their use of email and of the internet will be monitored by the School. Pupils should remember that even when an email or something that has been downloaded has been deleted, it can still be traced on the system. Pupils should not assume that files stored on servers or storage media are always private.

School Rules

Pupils **must** comply with the following rules and principles:

- Access and security (Appendix 1)
- Use of internet, email and other online communication (Appendix 2)
- Use of mobile electronic devices (Appendix 3)
- Photographs and images (including "sexting") (Appendix 4)

The purpose of these rules is to set out the principles which pupils must bear in mind at all times and also the rules which pupils must follow to use technology safely and securely.

These principles and rules apply to all use of technology.

Procedures

Pupils are always responsible for their actions, conduct and behaviour when using technology. Use of technology should be safe, responsible and respectful to others and the law. If a pupil is aware of misuse by other pupils, they should talk to a teacher about it as soon as possible.

Any misuse of technology by pupils will be dealt with under the School's Behaviour Policy. Incidents involving the misuse of technology which are of a safeguarding nature will be dealt with in accordance with the School's Safeguarding Policy in conjunction with the School's Behaviour Policy. If a pupil is worried about something that they have seen on the internet, or on any electronic device, including on another person's electronic device, they must tell a teacher about it as soon as possible.

Pupils must not use their own or the School's technology to bully others. Bullying incidents involving the use of technology will be dealt with under the School's Anti-Bullying Policy. If a pupil thinks that they might have been bullied or that another person is being bullied, they should talk to a teacher about it as soon as possible. See the School's Anti-Bullying Policy for further information about cyberbullying and e-safety, including useful resources.

In a case where the pupil is potentially vulnerable to radicalisation, they may be referred to the Channel programme in accordance with the School's Safeguarding Policy. Channel is a programme which focuses on support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into extremism (including terrorism).

Sanctions

Where a pupil breaches any of the School's rules, practices or procedures set out in this policy or the appendices, the respective Head will apply any sanction which is appropriate and proportionate to the breach in accordance with the School's Behaviour Policy including, in the most serious cases, permanent exclusion.

Unacceptable use of technology could lead to the confiscation of a device or deletion of the material in accordance with the procedures in this policy.

If there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the confiscated device contains evidence in relation to an offence e.g. upskirting, or that it contains a pornographic image of a child or an extreme pornographic image, the device will be given to the police. See Appendix 4 for more information on photographs and images.

The School reserves the right to charge a pupil or their parents for any costs incurred to the School because of a breach of this policy.

Record keeping

All records created in accordance with this policy are managed in accordance with the law and the School's policies that apply to the retention and destruction of records.

The records created in accordance with this policy may contain personal data. The School has Privacy Notices which explain how the School will use personal data about pupils and parents. The Privacy Notices are published on the School's website. In addition, staff must ensure that they follow the School's Data Protection Policy when handling personal data created in connection with this policy. Information Security and Sharing Data guidance is also contained in the Data Protection Policy.

The computer system is owned by The Aldenham Foundation and the Foundation reserves the right to examine or delete any files, including email, that may be held on its computer system or to monitor any Internet sites visited. Aldenham School reserves the right to vary the terms of this agreement/policy at any time and without prior notice. Aldenham Foundation has the right to withdraw access to the Network, suspend Internet access or email access. Network access will be suspended until any policy discrepancy has been finalised. The decision of Aldenham Foundation is final. The latest Agreement is always available for download from the home page of My School Portal or by contacting the School. It is important that you review the Agreement regularly to ensure you are aware of any changes.

Appendix I

Access and Security

1. Access to the internet from the School's computers and network must be for educational purposes only.
2. You must not knowingly obtain (or attempt to obtain) unauthorised access to any part of the School's or any other computer system, or any information contained on such a system.
3. Use of any pupil laptop or other mobile electronic device connected to the School's Wi-Fi is also covered by this policy regarding acceptable behaviour.
4. Pupils accessing the internet outside the School's network whilst on School premises or otherwise in the care of the School do so at their own risk and must comply with all the provisions of this policy regarding acceptable behaviour. If a pupil's device can access the internet outside of the school Wi-Fi network, then parents must ensure that appropriate security and filtering is enabled on their child's device.
5. Passwords protect the School's network and computer system. You must not let anyone else know your password. If you believe that someone knows your password, you must change it immediately.
6. You must not attempt to gain unauthorised access to anyone else's computer or to confidential information to which you are not authorised to access. If there is a problem with your passwords, you should speak to your class teacher or contact the Head of Technology.
7. You must not attempt to access or share information about others without the permission of the Head of Technology. To do so may breach data protection legislation and laws relating to confidentiality.
8. The School has a firewall in place to ensure the safety and security of the School's networks. You must not attempt to disable, defeat or circumvent any of the School's security facilities. Any problems with the firewall must be reported to the class teacher or the Head of Technology.
9. The School has filtering systems in place to block access to unsuitable material, wherever possible, to protect the welfare and safety of pupils. You must not try to bypass this filter.
10. Viruses can cause serious harm to the security of the School's network and that of others. Viruses are often spread through internet downloads or circulated as attachments to emails. If you think or suspect that an attachment, or other downloadable material, might contain a virus, you must speak to a member of the IT team before opening the attachment or downloading the material.
11. You must not disable or uninstall any anti-virus software on the School's computers.
12. The use of location services represents a risk to the personal safety of pupils and to School security. The use of any website or application, whether on a School or personal device, with the capability of identifying the user's location while you are on School premises or otherwise in the care of the School is discouraged.

Appendix 2

Use of the Internet and Email

1. The School does not undertake to provide continuous internet access. Email and website addresses at the School may change from time to time.

Use of the Internet

2. You must take care to protect personal and confidential information about yourself and others when using the internet, even if information is obtained inadvertently. You should not put personal information about yourself, for example your full name, address, date of birth or mobile number, online.
3. You should assume that all material on the internet is protected by copyright and such material must be treated appropriately and in accordance with the owner's rights - you must not copy (plagiarise) another's work.
4. You must not view, retrieve, download, or share any offensive material. Offensive material includes, but is not limited to, content that is abusive, racist, considered to be of an extreme or terrorist related nature, sexist, homophobic, any form of bullying, pornographic, defamatory, or criminal activity. Use of technology in this way is a serious breach of discipline and may constitute a serious criminal offence. You must tell a member of staff immediately if you have accidentally read, downloaded or have been sent any offensive material or material that is inappropriate, including personal information about someone else.
5. You must not communicate with staff using social networking sites or other internet or web-based communication channels.
6. You must not bring the School into disrepute through your use of the internet.

Use of Email

7. You must use your School email accounts for any email communication with staff. Communication either from a personal email account or to a member of staff's personal email account is not permitted.
8. Email should be treated in the same way as any other form of written communication. You should not include or ask to receive anything in an email which is not appropriate to be published generally or which you believe the School and / or your parents would consider to be inappropriate. Remember that emails could be forwarded to or seen by someone you did not intend.
9. You must not send or search for any email message which contains offensive material. Offensive material includes, but is not limited to, content that is abusive, racist, considered to be of an extreme or terrorist related nature, sexist, homophobic, any form of bullying, pornographic, defamatory, or criminal activity. If you are unsure about the content of a message, you must speak to a member of staff. If you come across such material, you must inform a member of staff as soon as possible. Use of the email system in this way is a serious breach of discipline and may constitute a criminal offence.
10. Trivial messages and jokes should not be sent or forwarded through the School's email system. Not only could these cause distress to recipients (if considered to be inappropriate) but could also cause the School's network to suffer delays and / or damage.
11. All correspondence from your School email account must contain the School's disclaimer.
12. You must not read anyone else's emails without their consent.

Other Online Communication (including social media)

13. Anything you post online whether through messaging, social media or by other means needs to be considered carefully. Remember that there is a 'disinhibition effect' making you more likely to post things you might regret. The School may become involved in anything between members of the school community or that may bring the school into disrepute. Private conversations are rarely private and should not be considered so.
14. Only post messages or images you would be happy for a teacher, parent, or guardian to see. Avoid making strongly opinionated comments which could be deemed offensive. Avoid making comments related to protected characteristics.
15. Anonymous posting is unwise. If pupils set up accounts to post anonymously (or that the presence of a group allows anonymity) all members of the group will be deemed individually responsible for material posted unless an individual admits responsibility. Nevertheless, other members of the group will be deemed partially responsible unless they have reported inappropriate posts or actively attempted to dissuade the perpetrator.
16. Do not make comments about individuals or the school online. They may be your views, but they could cause offence and the internet is not the place for such comments.
17. Never pose as anyone else or any institution.
18. Do not harass others or post things intended to upset them. Do not troll.
19. Some messages and images may seem to be temporary and permanently deleted – this may not be the case if screenshots or photos are taken. Treat all posts as permanent.
20. Be cautious of meeting someone you meet online in real life. Always take an adult with you and tell people where you are going and who you are meeting.
21. Remember: once you share something it can be freely and easily copied, shared, or manipulated. Once you have shared it – you have lost control of it.
22. Do not use ICT in your bedroom as it affects sleep and can make it more likely that you will post something you will regret. It is also best to avoid using ICT when tired. Switch off an hour before bedtime and leave devices out of the bedroom.
23. Consider how much ICT you use in a day. Use of the internet and gaming can both be addictive. It is difficult to self-regulate use.
24. Be careful not to believe all you read online. Some sites publish dangerously inaccurate material. Be especially careful when investigating health concerns, sexuality and identity and searching for supportive communities.

Appendix 3

Mobile Phone and Code of Use

1. Mobile electronic device includes but is not limited to mobile phones, smartphones, tablets and laptops.
2. Pupils wishing to bring mobile phones to school must abide by this Code of Use. Pupils bringing mobile phones into school must provide their phone number which will be recorded on the school database for safety and effective emergency communication purposes.
3. It is always the responsibility of those bringing mobile phones to school to keep them in a safe place, either on the person or locked away. **The School does not accept any responsibility for the theft, loss of, or damage to, mobile electronic devices brought onto School premises, including devices that have been confiscated of which have been handed in to staff.**
4. For Martineau's pupils the use of mobile phones in school is restricted to their supervised use in classrooms, as educational tools **as directed by the teacher** and for emergencies only. Martineau's pupils are not allowed to use their mobile phones in House during break or lunchtime. They can access internet or emails during the school day via their school accounts using desktop computers in Martineau's or the library.
5. Senior pupils may use mobile phones in a constructive context in classrooms as educational tools, **providing the express permission of the individual member of staff has been obtained beforehand.** As a general rule, mobile phones should be out of sight unless directed by the teacher. Senior pupils may use their phones in Houses during break and lunchtime.
6. Pupils may download the 'Show my Homework' App on their phones but accessing this is not an excuse for using a mobile phone in contravention of School rules.
7. Pupils should not use mobile phones in the Yard, Dining Hall or when moving between classrooms. **The use of mobile phones in changing rooms is banned.**
8. It is important that phones are available on School Trips but arrangements for their use will be determined by the member of staff leading the trip.
9. Mobile Phone users are advised that taking photographs or video of staff without their permission is against school rules and likely to result in significant sanctions. The school recognises that mobile phone features are so commonplace to teenagers that they are likely to use mobile phones to photograph or video their peers without considering the need for consent – ideally consent would be sought beforehand but of greater importance is what use is made of photos and videos. Inappropriate use, e.g. posting on social media without consent, bringing the school into disrepute or defamation of character, is likely to lead to sanctions especially if the actions could be considered as harassment or bullying. **The sending of, or recording of unwanted, offensive, or threatening messages or images is illegal and such information may be forwarded to the police.**
10. **An exception to the above rule would be in the case of a pupil using a mobile phone to record illegal activity or behaviour in contravention of school rules which could form part of a subsequent investigation.**
11. Mobile phones are banned from any examination room even if switched off. **Contravention of this ban is likely to result in disqualification from the examination.**
12. Mobile phones must not be bought, sold or lent at any time during the school day or on school premises.
13. Mobile phones brought to school must be marked clearly with the owner's name.
14. Failure to adhere to these regulations may result in confiscation, a ban and/or a punishment. Confiscated phones will be returned at the end of the school day for the first offence but may be kept for 24 hours or longer for subsequent offences at the discretion of Housemasters or a member of the Senior Management

Team.

15. For information concerning confiscation/liability please refer to:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching_screening_and_confiscation.pdf

Appendix 4

Photographs and Images

1. Using photographic material of any kind to bully, harass or intimidate others will not be tolerated and will constitute a serious breach of discipline.
2. You may only use cameras or any mobile electronic device to take a still or moving image with the express permission of the member of staff in charge and with the permission of those appearing in the image.
3. You must allow staff access to images stored on mobile phones and / or cameras and must delete images if requested to do so. If the material found is a pornographic image of a child or an extreme pornographic image this will not be deleted and the device will be delivered to the police.
4. If material found on a device is a still or moving image that has been obtained by 'upskirting' this will not be deleted and the device will be delivered to the police.
5. The posting of images which in the reasonable opinion of the School are considered to be offensive or which brings the School into disrepute on any form of social media or websites, such as YouTube, is a serious breach of discipline and will be subject to disciplinary procedures whatever the source of the material, irrespective of whether the image was posted using School or personal facilities.

Sexting

1. Sexting means the taking and sending or posting of images or videos of a sexual or indecent nature of you or another pupil, usually through mobile picture messages or webcams over the internet.
2. Sexting is strictly prohibited, whether you are in the care of the School at the time the image is recorded and / or shared, or not.
3. Sexting may be a criminal offence, even if the picture is taken and shared with the permission of the person in the image. Even if you are not prosecuted, this may result in information being stored on your police record, which may prevent you from obtaining certain jobs in the future and may impact your freedom of travel.
4. The police may seize any devices which they believe may have been used for sexting. If the police find that a device contains inappropriate images, they are unlikely to return it to you.
5. Remember that once a photo or message is sent, you have no control about how it is passed on. You may delete the image, but it could have been saved or copied, and may be shared by others.
6. Images shared online become public and may never be completely removed. They could be found in the future by anyone, even by universities and future employers.
7. Even if you do not share images yourself, there is a risk that you may lose your device, it may be "hacked", or its data may still be accessible to a future owner.
8. The School will treat incidences of sexting (both sending and receiving) as a breach of discipline and as a safeguarding matter under the School's child protection procedures (see the School's Safeguarding Policy). If you are concerned about any image you have received, sent, forwarded, or otherwise seen, speak to any member of staff for advice.
9. If sexual images or videos have been made and circulated online, you can be supported to get the images removed through the Internet Watch Foundation.

Upskirting

10. Upskirting typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing parts of their body or clothing, not otherwise visible, to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm.
11. Upskirting is strictly prohibited, whether you are in the care of the School at the time the image is recorded, or not.
12. Upskirting is a criminal offence. Attempting to commit an act of upskirting may also be a criminal offence e.g. if actions are taken to do something that is more than merely preparatory to committing the offence such as attempting to take a photograph on a telephone or camera but failing to do so because of lack of storage space or battery.
13. The School will treat incidences of upskirting as a breach of discipline and as a safeguarding matter under the School's child protection procedures (see the School's Safeguarding Policy).
14. If you are concerned that you have been a victim of upskirting, speak to any member of staff for advice.

ICT Acceptable Use Agreement for Pupils

I understand that use of the ICT resources at Aldenham School must be in support of educational research or learning and must not in any way bring the School's name into disrepute. I agree to the following:

- I will keep my password secure and will only use a network computer whilst logged on with my correct username and password.
- I will not share my username and password with anyone. I will always log off when leaving a workstation even for a short period.
- I will notify a member of staff immediately if I identify a security problem including SPAM or viruses.
- I will refrain from accessing any newsgroups, links, list-servers, Web Pages or other areas of cyberspace that would be considered as offensive by the School or my parents/guardians, because of pornographic, racist, violent, illegal, illicit, immoral or other content. I am responsible for rejecting these links if any appear inadvertently during my research. If such a website appears, I will report it to a member of staff.
- I will not use valuable Internet time playing non-educational games or using 'Chat' programmes. I will not download materials that may be copyrighted. I will not violate copyright laws.
- I will not use, send or receive any material that could cause offence or harassment or is illegal.
- I will be courteous and use appropriate language in any e-mail I may send to other users. I understand that the laws of libel and copyright may apply to e-mail.
- I will not include any defamatory remarks about the School in any electronic communication including postings to any website, blogs, wiki's, msn, social utility sites (e.g. Facebook) and online streaming services (e.g. You Tube).
- I will not accept a friend request on Social Networking sites from anyone I do not know.
- "Plagiarism is unacceptable". I will use downloaded materials in an appropriate manner in assignments, listing them in a bibliography and clearly specifying directly quoted material. Failure to disclose sources may lead to exclusion from public exams.
- I will not reveal any personal information of any type about others or myself.
- I understand that the school web filter monitors all Internet activity.
- I will not store any executable data in my OneDrive, Teams or shared resource areas, without prior permission from a member of the ICT support staff.
- I will not store any files other than school related work; this includes all multimedia files i.e. videos and music.
- I will not attempt to physically connect any device directly to the School's network, this includes personal laptops, PlayStation, wireless access points, etc. (Webcams are also not permitted).
- I will not interfere with the set-up of software or hardware of any kind. If there is a problem with a system.
- I will not attempt to fix it myself but will inform the appropriate member of staff.
- I will not exploit the use of Teams or its services and understand it is a means of communication for pupils and their families only.
- I am aware of my social responsibilities with regard to using the internet and related technologies, including treating others with respect and reporting instances of online/cyber bullying.
- I understand that there may be occasions when I will access the internet without direct staff supervision e.g. when using computers out of hours or using the school's internet hotspots, but I agree to abide by the above.
- I must not use the school e-mail account for selling goods.

Please complete the Consent form attached to this link which will be stored on your child's record (this link is also on the front cover of this document):

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=d7pQfSXzba15v_x5OT9O-vjSM4mZftFtpbt8LcFdiUOUJBWTITl02Rk1LR0pKUIJESI NDWUNHVS4u