



# **Policy for:**

## **ICT Acceptable use Agreement**

**Date Written: March 2016**

**Date Reviewed: July 2025**

**Next Review Date: June 2027**

**Signed By: Mrs A.J.Williams**

**Governor Responsible for: Mrs G Gower**

**Headteacher: Mrs P Derries**

## The Grove School

### ICT Acceptable Use Agreement- Policy and Guidance on School Staff use of ICT and Communications Systems

<b>Date of Ratification:</b>	<b>July 2016</b>	<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Mrs Penny Derries (HEAD TEACHER)</b>  <b>Mr Robert Curry (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)</b>
<b>Review date:</b>	<b>May 2017</b> <b>May 2018</b>	<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Mrs Penny Derries (HEAD TEACHER)</b>  <b>Mr Robert Curry (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)</b>
<b>Review date:</b>	<b>May 2019</b>	<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Mrs Penny Derries (HEAD TEACHER)</b>  <b>Mr Robert Curry (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)</b>
<b>Review date:</b>	<b>June 2020</b>  <b>May 2022</b>  <b>May 2023</b>	<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Mrs Penny Derries (HEAD TEACHER)</b>  <b>Mr Robert Curry (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)</b>
<b>Review date :</b>	<b>June 2024</b>  <b>June 2025</b>	<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Mrs Penny Derries (HEAD TEACHER)</b>

#### **Safeguarding Statement**

At The Grove School we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at The Grove School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Governing Body at The Grove School recognises the use of its ICT and communications facilities as an important resource for teaching, learning and personal development and as an essential aid to business efficiency. It actively encourages staff to take full advantage of the potential for ICT and communications systems to enhance development in all areas of the curriculum and school administration. It is also recognised by the Governing Body that along with these benefits there are also responsibilities, especially for ensuring that children are protected from contact with inappropriate material.

In addition to their normal access to the school's ICT and communications systems for work-related purposes, the Governing Body permits staff limited reasonable personal use of ICT equipment and e-mail and internet facilities during their own time subject to such use:

1. not depriving pupils of the use of the equipment and/or
2. not interfering with the proper performance of the staff member's duties

Whilst the school's ICT systems may be used for both work-related and for sole personal use, the Governing Body expects use of this equipment for any purpose to be appropriate, courteous and consistent with the expectations of the Governing Body at all times.

This policy document is issued to all staff before they are provided with laptops, tablets, cameras, USB / portable hard drive devices, mobile phones and passwords giving access to the ICT network.

### **Policy coverage**

This policy covers the use by staff of all school-owned ICT and communications equipment, examples of which include:

- Laptops, tablets and personal computers;
- ICT network facilities;
- Personal digital organisers and handheld devices;
- Mobile phones and phone/computing hybrid devices;
- USB keys and other physical and on-line storage devices;
- Image data capture and storage devices including cameras, camera phones and video equipment.

This list is not exhaustive.

The policy covers the use of all ICT and communications equipment provided for work purposes and equipment which is on loan to staff by the school for their sole personal use.

## The use of The Grove School ICT and Communications Facilities

### Use of School ICT Equipment

Staff who use the school's ICT and communications systems:

- Must use it responsibly;
- Must keep it safe;
- Must not share and treat as confidential any passwords provided to allow access to ICT equipment and/or beyond firewall protection boundaries;
- Must report any known breach of password confidentiality to Mrs Penny Derries (Head Teacher) or nominated ICT Co-ordinator as soon as possible;
- Must report known breaches of this policy, including any inappropriate images or other material which may be discovered on the school's ICT systems;
- Must report to the Mrs Penny Derries (Head Teacher). any vulnerabilities affecting child protection/ safeguarding in the school's ICT and communications systems;
- Must not install software on the school's equipment, including freeware and shareware, unless authorised to do so by the school's ICT Co-ordinator;
- Must comply with any ICT security procedures governing the use of systems in the school, including anti-virus measures;
- Must ensure that it is used in compliance with this policy.

Any equipment provided to a member of staff is provided for their sole personal use. Use of the equipment by family or friends is **not** permitted and any misuse of the equipment by unauthorised users will be the responsibility of the staff member.

Whilst it is not possible to cover all eventualities, the following information is published to guide staff on the expectations of the Governing Body. Any breaches of this policy or operation of the school's equipment outside statutory legal compliance may be grounds for disciplinary action being taken.

## **E-mail and Internet and Communications systems usage**

The following use of the school's ICT system is strictly prohibited and may amount to gross misconduct. (This could result in dismissal):

1. To make, to gain access to, or for the publication and distribution of inappropriate sexual material, including text and/or images, or other material that would tend to deprave or corrupt those likely to read or see it;
2. To make, to gain access to, and/or for the publication and distribution of material promoting homophobia or racial or religious hatred;
3. For the purpose of bullying or harassment, or in connection with discrimination or denigration on the grounds of gender, race, religious, disability, age or sexual orientation;
4. For the publication and/or distribution of libellous statements or material which defames or degrades others;
5. For the publication of material that defames, denigrates or brings into disrepute the school and/or its staff and pupils;
6. For the publication and distribution of personal data without authorisation, consent or justification;
7. Where the content of the e-mail correspondence is unlawful or in pursuance of an unlawful activity, including unlawful discrimination;
8. To participate in on-line gambling;
9. Where the use infringes copyright law;
10. To gain unauthorised access to internal or external computer systems (commonly known as hacking);
11. To create or deliberately distribute ICT or communications systems "malware", including viruses, worms, etc;
12. To record or monitor telephone or e-mail communications without the express approval of the Governing Body (or the Chair of Governors). In no case will such recording or monitoring be permitted unless it has been established for that such action is in full compliance with all relevant legislation and regulations. (*Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000- "Ancillary to their provision of ICT facilities the Governing Body asserts the employer's right to monitor and inspect the use by staff of any computer (including e-mails) or telephonic communications systems and will do so where there are grounds for suspecting that such facilities are being, or may have been, misused."*)
13. To enable or assist others to breach the governors' expectations as set out in this policy.

Additionally, the following uses of school ICT facilities are not permitted and could lead to

disciplinary action being taken:

1. For participation in “chain” e-mail correspondence (including forwarding hoax virus warnings);
2. In pursuance of personal business or financial interests, or political activities (excluding the legitimate activities of recognised trade unions);
3. To access ICT facilities by using another person’s password, or to post anonymous messages or forge e-mail messages using another person's identity.

**Note:** The above restrictions apply to the use of phones, e-mails, text messaging, internet chat rooms, blogs, and personal websites (including personal entries on social networks e.g. MySpace, Facebook, Instagram and X

### **Pupils**

I understand that the The Grove School Acceptable Use Policy will help keep me safe and happy online at home and at School

#### **Safe**

- I will behave online the same way as I behave in the classroom.
- I only send messages which are polite and friendly.
- I will only post pictures or videos on the internet if they are safe and appropriate, and if I have permission.
- I only talk with and open messages from people I know.
- I will only click on links if I know they are safe.
- I know that people I meet online may not always be who they say they are. If someone online suggests meeting up, I will immediately talk to an adult.

#### **Learning**

- I ask my teacher before using my own personal devices at School
- I always ask permission from an adult before using the internet.
- I only use websites and search engines that my teacher has chosen.
- I use school devices for school work unless I have permission otherwise.

#### **Trust**

- I know that not everything or everyone online is honest or truthful.
- I will check content on other sources like other websites, books or with a trusted adult.
- I always credit the person or source that created any work, images, or text I use.

### **Responsible**

- I keep my personal information safe and private online.
- I will keep my passwords safe and will not share them.
- I will not access or change other people's files or information.
- I will only change the settings on a device if a member of staff has allowed me to.

### **Understand**

- I understand that the school internet filter is there to protect me, and I will not try to bypass it.
- I know that all school devices and systems are monitored to help keep me safe, including when I use them at home.
- I have read and talked about these rules with my parents/carers.
- I can visit [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) and [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) to learn more about being safe online.

I know that if I do not follow the school rules then I will not be permitted to use the technology in school.