



Adopted:	July 2025
Next review:	July 2026
Approved by:	NSAT Trust Board
Responsibility of:	NSAT IT Manager

Northern Star Academies Trust

Acceptable Use of IT Policy - Pupils

Contents

1.	Statement of Intent.....	2
2.	Scope.....	2
3.	E-Safety Measures.....	3
4.	Complaints	3
	Appendix 1 - Pupil Acceptable Use Policy Agreement	4

1. Statement of Intent

This policy is intended to ensure pupils across Northern Star Academies Trust are protected while using digital technologies for educational, personal and recreational use.

The Trust is committed to including digital technologies across the curriculum provision. In doing so, we recognise the inherent risks posed by these technologies. Full compliance with this policy will mitigate these risks and help to ensure individuals are safe online and the privacy rights of individuals are protected.

These facilities come with responsibilities and this policy provides information relating to the acceptable use of digital technologies. The Trust's intent is to ensure that all school systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk.

2. Scope

- 2.1. While digital technology and the internet provide an exciting opportunity for pupils to learn and interact with various subjects, they also pose a risk, with the potential for exposure to inappropriate content and inappropriate contact from other children and adults. Digital technology also provides an opportunity for pupils to engage in unacceptable behaviour, both online and offline.
- 2.2. In order to keep pupils safe online, and for them to learn how to keep themselves safe online, all pupils and teachers should be aware of relevant skills and strategies needed to ensure internet safety. This ranges from knowing to only use the internet with adult supervision for younger pupils, to strategies for identifying appropriate links for older children.
- 2.3. Mitigating the risk to pupils created by digital technology and the internet will be ensured through specific safety lessons and will also be embedded within the general curriculum.
- 2.4. E-safety will depend on policies being properly implemented at all levels of the school community: from published policies, to a secure school network design, the effective management of school broadband and filtering systems, parental awareness of the dangers of online use and effective teaching about digital-technology use.
- 2.5. This policy is to work in conjunction with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Data Protection Policy and Information Security Policy.
- 2.6. This policy applies to information in all forms including, but not limited to:
 - Information or data stored electronically, including scanned images,
 - Information or data stored on or transferred to removable media such as tape, CD, DVD, USB storage device or memory card,
 - Information stored on portable computing devices including mobile phones, tablets, cameras and laptops,
 - Speech, voice recordings and verbal communications, including voicemail, video / online recordings
 - Published web content, for example intranet and internet,
 - Photographs and other digital images.
- 2.7. Secondary aged pupils will confirm that they have understood and will adhere the policy via the Policy Agreement in Appendix 1. A record of this information will be kept at each school. Parents will also be informed of this policy.

- 2.8. Primary aged pupils will be educated on the safe use of the internet, educational and digital technologies in line with the main themes of this policy which is appropriate for their age. Each primary school in the Trust will be responsible for delivering content as part of their curriculum. Communication will also be sent to parents on an annual basis which will inform them of the expectations of this policy.
- 2.9. This policy also is relevant to Safeguarding, Data Protection, and Information Security policies.

3. E-Safety Measures

- 3.1. The school's internet system, and access to it, is specifically designed for staff and pupil use and, as such, includes filtering appropriate to the age of the child.
- 3.2. Pupils will have clear objectives about why they are using the internet whenever the internet is incorporated into lessons
- 3.3. Lessons using the internet will be carefully planned and the 'access levels' classes and pupils are afforded will be fully considered, taking into account pupil age and curriculum requirements.
- 3.4. Pupils will be taught what internet use is acceptable and unacceptable, and teachers should be vigilant during internet-based lessons. Particular vigilance is necessary if and when pupils are undertaking internet searching. Teachers should use their professional judgement regarding whether this internet function is appropriate for the relevant class.
- 3.5. Internet use will be monitored for the purposes of safeguarding.

4. Complaints

- 4.1. Complaints regarding pupil misuse of the school's internet/digital devices will be dealt with by the Senior ICT Staff and an appropriate, senior member of staff. Sanctions for misuse may include:
 - Revocation of internet use privileges
 - Communication with the pupil's parents/carers
 - Pupil discipline procedures
- 4.2. Any issues or complaints of a child protection nature will be dealt with according to the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy procedure.
- 4.3. The complaints procedure is published on the school's website.

Appendix 1 - Pupil Acceptable Use Policy Agreement

Using digital technologies for educational, personal and recreational use comes with responsibilities. This document summarises the standard of acceptable use that is expected from all pupils using ICT facilities in and out of school. This policy is intended to ensure that young people will be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other digital technologies for educational, personal and recreational use. Northern Star Academies Trust will also endeavour to ensure that school systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk.

This acceptable use policy agreement applies to information in all forms including, but not limited to:

- Information or data stored electronically, including scanned images,
- Information or data stored on or transferred to removable media such as tape, CD, DVD, USB storage device or memory card,
- Information stored on portable computing devices including mobile phones, tablets, cameras and laptops,
- Speech, voice recordings and verbal communications, including voicemail, video / online recordings
- Published web content, for example intranet and internet,
- Photographs and other digital images.

Equipment and Conduct

- I will only use ICT systems in school for the purposes of learning as directed by teachers and associate staff (including digital video, mobile devices, cameras, sound recording devices etc.)
- I will not attempt to repair any hardware myself but will report faults/damage to the ICT Support Team as soon as possible.
- I will not attempt to change the hardware or its software settings (keyboard, mouse, monitor, processing unit, tablet) in anyway. Where my requirement for such changes is attributable to accessibility issues, I will work with the ICT team to achieve any changes that support my reasonable needs.
- I understand that I must not install any software that I do not have a licence for.
- I will not use a personal device in school or attempt to connect to the school internet with an unauthorised personal device unless authorised to do so by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher,

Security, Privacy and Monitoring

- I will never share my passwords with anyone except for a member of the ICT support staff when requested.
- I will follow the school's recommendations regarding password complexity.
- I will never reveal any personal details about myself when in an online environment to individuals I don't know. This includes full name, address, mobile or telephone number, school name, instant messenger address, e-mail addresses etc.
- I will never share or disclose personal details of any other individual on social media, internet, instant messaging or any other app which may be interpreted as insulting, disruptive, or offensive by any other individual or entity or affects their privacy rights. This could include names, addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers, age, gender, educational details, photographs etc).
- I understand that the use of the school internet, email and network is monitored to ensure that the use of ICT I make in school is for school purposes only.
- I will not attempt to login into someone else's account or conduct any other activity in breach of the Computer Misuse Act 1990, Data Protection Act 2018, GDPR or the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1998.
- I understand that all of my internet activity within school is monitored and that my browsing history can be accessed by ICT support staff at any time should this be deemed necessary.
- If I come across any information which I should not have access to or any material which might upset, distress or harm me or others I will let a member of the ICT know immediately.

Email

- When in school I will only use the approved school email account and only for school purposes. Pupils must not access personal email accounts.
- I will follow the basic principles of email etiquette when communicating with school email and never reveal any personal details about myself.
- I will not forward chain emails/or messages on social media/multi-media messaging app/s which I understand is not allowed or will breach other individual's privacy rights.
- I will only use my school email within lessons when instructed to do so by my class teacher.
- I will not reveal my email login details to anyone else or allow anyone access to my email account.
- I will not use my email account for malicious purposes i.e. to send malicious emails or "spam" to other email accounts within or out of school.
- I understand that my email activity is monitored, and my email account can be accessed by ICT support staff if deemed necessary.
- I will not click on links in emails from untrusted or unverified sources.
- I will notify a teacher or member of the ICT team if I receive an offensive email or an email, I suspect may be a spam or Phishing email.

Internet

- I will not attempt to bypass the school's internet filtering system.
- I will only access the internet for school activities.
- I will respect the ownership and copyright rules of material that I use on the internet.
- I will report immediately any inappropriate material that I encounter when using the internet.
- I will use the VLE only for educational purposes and will not use the messaging feature during lesson times unless instructed to do so by my teacher or to send inappropriate or malicious messages.
- I will not use the internet in a way that may be interpreted as insulting, disruptive, or offensive by any other individual or entity.

Social Media

- I understand that Social Media sites are blocked by the internet filter in school, and access and use may only be allowed to support school work under strict guidance from teaching staff.
- I will not use social media or Multimedia sites (such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat etc.) to do anything which might bring the school into disrepute or cause distress to other individuals which may affect their privacy rights.
- I will not attempt to create a friendship with any members of staff (or ex-members of staff) through social media / Multimedia sites.
- I will not share any inappropriate comments or activity by any individual via social media.
- I understand that any inappropriate comments or posts are not acceptable and the appropriate conduct policy will apply.

Video-conferencing / lessons / calls

- I will only use my school approved Microsoft Teams account for online calls, meetings or lessons.
- I will not record, download or share any lessons which have been delivered online. I understand that this will be an infringement of other individuals' privacy rights.
- I understand that if lessons are recorded then I will be informed at the beginning of the lesson. Recordings of lessons will only be available via Microsoft Stream and will only be available to relevant individuals.
- I will ensure that I am in an appropriate space, dressed appropriately and use a meeting background where relevant to protect the rights of other individuals in my household.

Communication

- I will be polite and responsible when I communicate with others, I will not use strong, aggressive or inappropriate language and I appreciate that others may have different opinions and on-line communications require the same respect for others as face-to-face interactions.
- I will respect others' work and property and will not access, copy, remove or otherwise alter any other user's files, without the owner's knowledge and permission.

Laptop or Device Scheme (where offered)

- I will adhere to the rules set out in the laptop agreement I have signed, principally to keep the laptop in the appropriate protective case provided, not to leave unattended and to bring to school with the battery fully charged.
- I will provide my laptop/school provided device to the ICT Support Team at any time requested for health check.

Please note that this policy document with any updated content will be available on the school website and held on the VLE for access by all pupils and parents/carers.

Pupil Agreement

I understand these rules are designed to keep me safe and I will abide by the provisions of this agreement. I understand that any violations of the above provisions may result in disciplinary action and removal of ICT privileges. This applies to using school equipment both in and out of school.

Pupil Name	
Pupil Signature	
Year Group	
Registration Group	
Date	

Parent/Carer Agreement

Pupils must also have the signature of a parent or carer who has read this agreement.

As the parent or carer, I have read this agreement. I will also ensure that my child understands the content of this agreement and will support the school in enforcing these rules. I understand that the school provides a filtered service, but I agree to report any misuse of the system/s to the school.

Parent / Carer Name	
Relationship to Pupil	
Parent / Carer Signature	
Date	