CHULMLEIGH ACADEMY TRUST

ICT POLICY

Approved by SLT: Summer 2021

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1. Introduction and aims

ICT is an integral part of the way our schools work, and is a critical resource for pupils, staff, directors, volunteers and visitors. It supports teaching and learning, pupil support and administrative functions of the school.

However, the ICT resources and facilities our schools use pose risks to data protection, online safety and safeguarding.

This policy aims to:

- Set guidelines and rules on the use of school ICT resources for staff, pupils, parents and directors
- Establish clear expectations for the way all members of the school community engage with each other online
- Support the school's policy on GDPR, online safety and safeguarding
- Prevent disruption to the school through the misuse, or attempted misuse, of ICT systems
- Support the school in teaching pupils safe and effective internet and ICT use

This policy covers all users of our school's ICT facilities, including directors, staff, pupils, volunteers, contractors and visitors.

2. Relevant legislation and guidance

This policy refers to, and complies with, the following legislation and guidance:

- Data Protection Act 2018
- The General Data Protection Regulation
- Computer Misuse Act 1990
- Human Rights Act 1998
- The Telecommunications (Lawful Business Practice) (Interception of Communications) Regulations 2000
- Education Act 2011
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020
- Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools

3. Definitions

- **“ICT facilities”:** includes all facilities, systems and services including but not limited to network infrastructure, desktop computers, laptops, tablets, phones, music players or hardware, software, websites, web applications or services, and any device system or service which may become available in the future which is provided as part of the ICT service
- **“Users”:** anyone authorised by the school to use the ICT facilities, including directors, staff, pupils, volunteers, contractors and visitors
- **“Personal use”:** any use or activity not directly related to the users’ employment, study or purpose
- **“Authorised personnel”:** employees authorised by the school to perform systems administration and/or monitoring of the ICT facilities
- **“Materials”:** files and data created using the ICT facilities including but not limited to documents, photos, audio, video, printed output, web pages, social networking sites, and blogs

4. Unacceptable use

The following is considered unacceptable use of the school’s ICT facilities by any member of the school community.

Unacceptable use of the school’s ICT facilities includes:

- Using the school’s ICT facilities to breach intellectual property rights or copyright
- Using the school’s ICT facilities to bully or harass someone else, or to promote unlawful discrimination
- Breaching the school’s policies or procedures
- Any illegal conduct, or statements which are deemed to be advocating illegal activity
- Accessing, creating, storing, linking to or sending material that is pornographic, offensive, obscene or otherwise inappropriate
- Activity which defames or disparages the school, or risks bringing the school into disrepute
- Sharing confidential information about the school, its pupils, or other members of the school community
- Connecting any device to the school’s ICT network without approval from authorised personnel
- Setting up any software, applications or web services on the school’s network without approval by authorised personnel, or creating or using any program, tool or item of software designed to interfere with the functioning of the ICT facilities, accounts or data
- Gaining, or attempting to gain, access to restricted areas of the network, or to any password-protected information, without approval from authorised personnel
- Allowing, encouraging, or enabling others to gain (or attempt to gain) unauthorised access to the school’s ICT facilities
- Causing intentional damage to ICT facilities
- Removing, deleting or disposing of ICT equipment, systems, programs or information without permission by authorised personnel
- Causing a data breach by accessing, modifying, or sharing data (including personal data) to which a user is not supposed to have access, or without authorisation
- Using inappropriate or offensive language
- Promoting a private business, unless that business is directly related to the school
- Using websites or mechanisms to bypass the school’s filtering mechanisms

This is not an exhaustive list. The school reserves the right to amend this list at any time. The Headteacher or a senior leader with delegated responsibility will use professional judgement to determine whether any act or behaviour not on the list above is considered unacceptable use of the school's ICT facilities.

4.1 Exceptions from unacceptable use

Where the use of school ICT facilities is required for a purpose that would otherwise be considered an unacceptable use, exemptions to the policy may be granted at the headteacher's discretion.

Any such requests should be made in advance to the Headteacher in writing with a clear explanation for the request and its expected outcome.

5. Staff (including directors, volunteers, and contractors)

5.1 Access to school ICT facilities and materials

The school's IT Technicians and support company IT Champion, manages access to the school's ICT facilities and materials for school staff. That includes, but is not limited to:

- Computers, tablets and other devices
- Access permissions for certain programmes or files

Staff will be provided with unique log-in/account information and passwords that they must use when accessing the school's ICT facilities.

Staff who have access to files they are not authorised to view or edit, or who need their access permissions updated or changed, should contact their Line Manager and with agreement a request can be made to the senior leader(s) with oversight of IT. Each request is considered on its own merit, examining who needs changes to their permissions and why. This will be discussed by the senior leader with responsibility for IT across the Trust alongside the Headteacher/Head of School.

5.1.1 Use of phones and email

The school provides each member of staff with an email address.

This email account should be used for work purposes only.

All work-related business should be conducted using the email address the school has provided.

Staff must not share their personal email addresses with parents and pupils, and must not send any work-related materials using their personal email account.

Staff must take extra care when sending sensitive or confidential information by email. Any attachments containing sensitive or confidential information should be encrypted so that the information is only accessible by the intended recipient.

If staff send an email in error, which contains the personal information of another person, they must inform the Headteacher and GDPR Officer immediately and follow our data breach procedure.

Staff must not give their personal phone numbers to parents or pupils. Staff must use phones provided by the school to conduct all work-related business.

5.2 Personal use

Staff are permitted to occasionally use school ICT facilities for personal use subject to certain conditions set out below. Personal use of ICT facilities must not be overused or abused. The Headteacher may withdraw permission for it at any time or restrict access at their discretion.

Personal use is permitted provided that such use:

- Does not take place during contact time/teaching hours/non-break time.
- Does not constitute 'unacceptable use', as defined in section 4

- Takes place when no pupils are present
- Does not interfere with their jobs, or prevent other staff or pupils from using the facilities for work or educational purposes

5.3 Remote access

We allow staff to access the school's ICT facilities and materials remotely. This is managed and supported by our support company IT Champions and the IT Technicians.

Staff accessing the school's ICT facilities and materials remotely must abide by the same rules as those accessing the facilities and materials on-site. Staff must be particularly vigilant if they use the school's ICT facilities outside the school and take such precautions as IT Champion and IT Technicians may require from time to time against importing viruses or compromising system security.

5.4 School social media accounts

The school has an official Facebook and Twitter page, managed by the Marketing Officer/Headteacher/Head of School/delegated Senior Leaders. Staff members, who have not been authorised to manage, or post to, the account, must not access, or attempt to access the account.

The school has guidelines for what can and cannot be posted on its social media accounts. Those who are authorised to manage the account must ensure they abide by these guidelines at all times.

5.5 Monitoring of school network and use of ICT facilities

The school reserves the right to monitor the use of its ICT facilities and network. This includes, but is not limited to, monitoring of:

- Internet sites visited
- Bandwidth usage
- Email accounts
- Telephone calls
- User activity/access logs
- Any other electronic communications

Only authorised ICT staff may inspect, monitor, intercept, assess, record and disclose the above, to the extent permitted by law.

The school monitors ICT use in order to:

- Obtain information related to school business
- Investigate compliance with school policies, procedures and standards
- Ensure effective school and ICT operation
- Prevent or detect crime
- Comply with a subject access request, Freedom of Information Act request, or any other legal obligation

6. Pupils

6.1 Access to ICT facilities

Pupils may access the schools ICT facilities under the following circumstances.

- “Computers and equipment in the school’s ICT suites/classrooms are available to pupils only under the supervision of staff”
- “Specialist ICT equipment, such as that used for art/music or design and technology must only be used under the supervision of staff”
- “Pupils will be provided with an account linked to the school’s network, which they can access from any device by using the following URL https://www.cat-drives.net/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f

6.2 Search and deletion

Under the Education Act 2011, and in line with the Department for Education’s guidance on searching, screening and confiscation, the school has the right to search pupils’ phones, computers or other devices for pornographic images or any other data or items banned under school rules or legislation.

The school can, and will, delete files and data found on searched devices if we believe the data or file has been, or could be, used to disrupt teaching or break the school’s rules.

6.3 Unacceptable use of ICT and the internet outside of school

The school will sanction pupils, if a pupil engages in any of the following:

- Using ICT or the internet to breach intellectual property rights or copyright
- Using ICT or the internet to bully or harass someone else, or to promote unlawful discrimination
- Breaching the school’s policies or procedures
- Any illegal conduct, or statements which are deemed to be advocating illegal activity
- Accessing, creating, storing, linking to or sending material that is pornographic, offensive, obscene or otherwise inappropriate
- Activity which defames or disparages the school, or risks bringing the school into disrepute
- Sharing confidential information about the school, other pupils, or other members of the school community
- Gaining or attempting to gain access to restricted areas of the network, or to any password protected information, without approval from authorised personnel
- Allowing, encouraging, or enabling others to gain (or attempt to gain) unauthorised access to the school’s ICT facilities
- Causing intentional damage to ICT facilities or materials
- Causing a data breach by accessing, modifying, or sharing data (including personal data) to which a user is not supposed to have access, or without authorisation
- Using inappropriate or offensive language

7. Parents

7.1 Access to ICT facilities and materials

Parents do not have access to the school’s ICT facilities as a matter of course.

7.2 Communicating with or about the school online

We believe it is important to model for pupils, and help them learn, how to communicate respectfully with, and about, others online.

Parents play a vital role in helping model this behaviour for their children, especially when communicating with the school through our website and social media channels.

8. Data security

The school takes steps to protect the security of its computing resources, data and user accounts. However, the school cannot guarantee security. Staff, pupils, parents and others who use the school's ICT facilities should use safe computing practices at all times.

8.1 Passwords

All users of the school's ICT facilities should set strong passwords for their accounts and keep these passwords secure.

Users are responsible for the security of their passwords and accounts, and for setting permissions for accounts and files, they control.

Members of staff or pupils who disclose account or password information may face disciplinary action. Parents or volunteers who disclose account or password information may have their access rights revoked.

8.2 Software updates, firewalls, and anti-virus software

All of the school's ICT devices that support software updates, security updates, and anti-virus products will be configured to perform such updates regularly or automatically.

Users must not circumvent or make any attempt to circumvent the administrative, physical and technical safeguards we implement and maintain to protect personal data and the school's ICT facilities.

Any personal devices using the school's network must all be configured in this way.

8.3 Data protection

All personal data must be processed and stored in line with data protection regulations and the school's data protection policy.

8.4 Access to facilities and materials

All users of the school's ICT facilities will have clearly defined access rights to school systems, files and devices.

These access rights are managed by IT Champion/IT Technicians in consultation with the senior leader(s) with oversight of IT.

Users should not access, or attempt to access, systems, files or devices to which they have not been granted access. If access is provided in error, or if something a user should not have access to is shared with them, they should alert IT Technicians/Line Manager immediately.

Users should always log out of systems and lock their equipment when they are not in use to avoid any unauthorised access. Equipment and systems should always be logged out of and closed down completely at the end of each working day.

8.5 Encryption

The school ensures that its devices and systems have an appropriate level of encryption.

School staff may only use personal devices (including computers) to access school data, work remotely, or take personal data (such as pupil information) out of school if they have been specifically authorised to do so by the headteacher.

Use of such personal devices will only be authorised if the devices have appropriate levels of security and encryption, as defined by the IT Champion/IT Technicians/Senior Leader(s) with oversight of IT.

9. Monitoring and review

The Headteacher and senior leaders with oversight for IT monitor the implementation of this policy, including ensuring that it is updated to reflect the needs and circumstances of the school.

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

The directors are responsible for approving this policy.

10. Related policies

This policy should be read alongside the school's policies on:

- Online safety
- Safeguarding
- Behaviour
- Staff discipline
- Data protection (GDPR)
- Remote Education