

IT Acceptable Use Policy for Pupils

Queen's College, Taunton

August 2019 V3

1 **Scope**

1.1 This policy is addressed to all pupils and parents are encouraged to read it with their child. A copy of the policy is available to parents on request and the School actively promotes the participation of parents to help the School safeguard the welfare of pupils and promote the safe use of technology.

1.2 The School will take a wide and purposeful 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 / phablets
- personal music players
- devices with the capability for recording and / or storing still or moving images
- social networking, micro blogging and other interactive web sites
- instant messaging (including image and video messaging via apps such as Snapchat , Messenger and WhatsApp), chat rooms, blogs and message boards
- webcams, video hosting sites (such as YouTube)
- gaming sites
- Virtual Learning Environments
- SMART boards
- other photographic or electronic equipment e.g. GoPro devices.

1.3 This policy applies to the use of technology on School premises.

1.4 This policy also applies to the use of technology off school premises if the use involves pupils or any member of the School community or where the culture or reputation of the School are put at risk. Additional rules on the use of technology in boarding houses is provided in the Boarders' Handbook.

1.5 **Related policies**

1.5.1 Behaviour and Discipline Policy

1.5.2 Anti-bullying Policy

1.5.3 Online Safety Policy

1.5.4 Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

1.5.5 Peer on Peer Abuse Policy

2 **Aims**

2.1 The aims of this policy are:

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

3 **Safe use of ICT**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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. Pupils are educated about the importance of safe and responsible use of technology to help them to protect themselves and others online.
- 3.3 Pupils may find the following resources helpful in keeping themselves safe online:
 - <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
 - <http://www.childnet.com/>
 - <http://www.childline.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>
- 3.4 Please see the School's [Online Safety Policy] for further information about the School's online safety strategy.

4 **Internet and email**

- 4.1 The School provides internet access and an email system to pupils to support their academic progress and development.
- 4.2 Pupils may only access the School's network when given specific permission to do so. All pupils will receive guidance on the use of the School's internet and email systems. If a pupil

is unsure about whether he / she is doing the right thing, he / she must seek assistance from a member of staff.

- 4.3 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.

5 **School rules**

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

- 5.1.1 access and security (Appendix 1);
- 5.1.2 use of internet and email (Appendix 2);
- 5.1.3 use of mobile electronic device (Appendix 3); and
- 5.1.4 photographs and images (including "sexting") (Appendix 4).

- 5.2 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.

- 5.3 These principles and rules apply to all use of technology.

6 **Procedures**

- 6.1 Pupils are responsible for their actions, conduct and behaviour when using technology at all times. Use of technology should be safe, responsible, respectful to others and legal. If a pupil is aware of misuse by other pupils he / she should talk to a teacher about it as soon as possible.

- 6.2 Any misuse of technology by pupils will be dealt with under the School's Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

- 6.3 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 he / she might have been bullied or that another person is being bullied, he / she should talk to a teacher about it as soon as possible. See also the School's Anti-bullying Policy.

- 6.4 In any cases giving rise to safeguarding concerns, the matter will be dealt with under the School's child protection procedures (see the School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. If a pupil is worried about something that he / she has seen on the internet, or on any electronic device, including on another person's electronic device, he / she must tell a teacher about it as soon as possible.

- 6.5 In a case where the pupil is considered to be vulnerable to radicalisation they may be referred to the Channel programme. Channel is a programme which focuses on support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

- 6.6 In addition to following the procedures in the relevant policies as set out above, all serious incidents involving technology must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the IT Manager / E-Safety Co-ordinator who will record the matter centrally in the pastoral management system.

7 Sanctions

- 7.1 Where a pupil breaches any of the School rules, practices or procedures set out in this policy or the appendices, the Governors have authorised the Head to apply any sanction which is appropriate and proportionate to the breach in accordance with the School's Behaviour and Discipline Policy including, in the most serious cases, expulsion. Other sanctions might include: increased monitoring procedures, withdrawal of the right to access the School's internet and email facilities, detention. Any action taken will depend on the seriousness of the offence.
- 7.2 Unacceptable use of electronic devices or the discovery of inappropriate data or files could lead to confiscation of the device or deletion of the material in accordance with the practices and procedures in this policy and the School's Searching and Confiscation Policy.
- 7.3 The School reserves the right to charge a pupil or his / her parents for any costs incurred to the School as a result of a breach of this policy.

8 Monitoring and review

- 8.1 All serious technology safety incidents will be logged centrally in the pastoral management system by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the IT Manager / E-Safety Co-ordinator.
- 8.2 The IT Manager and the Designated Safeguarding Lead have responsibility for the implementation and review of this policy:
- 8.2.1 The IT Manager is responsible for the effective operation of the School's network. The E-Safety Co-ordinator, in conjunction with the IT Manager, monitors the use of technology as set out in this policy and maintains the appropriate logs and will review the policy on a regular basis to ensure that it remains up to date with technological changes.
- 8.2.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will consider the record of technology safety incidents and the logs of internet activity (including sites visited) as part of the ongoing monitoring of safeguarding procedures, to consider whether existing security and safety practices within the School are adequate.
- 8.3 Consideration of the efficacy of the School's e-safety procedures and the education of pupils about keeping safe online will be included in the Governors' annual review of safeguarding.

Effective date of the policy	30 August 2019
SLG Responsible Member	Andrew Free, Deputy Head

Authorised by	Board of Governors
Signed	Mark Edwards, Chair of Governors
Date	30 August 2019

Appendix 1 Access and security

- 1 You may use the School's facilities or network for personal, social or non-educational use at the permitted times specified by the School.
- 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 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 by sending an e-mail to password@queenscollege.org.uk.
- 4 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 Tutor or contact the IT Department.
- 5 You must not attempt to access or share information about others without permission. To do so may breach data protection legislation and laws relating to confidentiality.
- 6 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 IT Department.
- 7 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. This includes the use of Virtual Private Networks (VPN's).
- 8 Viruses and malware can cause serious harm to the security of the School's network and that of others. Viruses and malware are often spread through internet downloads or circulated via attachments to emails. If you think or suspect that an attachment, or other downloadable material, might contain a virus or malware, you must speak to the IT Department before opening the attachment or downloading the material.
- 9 You must not disable or uninstall any anti-virus or protection software on the School's computers.

Appendix 2 Use of 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 may use the School's facilities or network to access interactive or networking web sites at the permitted times specified by the School.
- 3 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.
- 4 You must not load material from any external storage device brought in from outside the School onto the School's systems, unless this has been authorised by the IT Department.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 You must not communicate with staff using social networking sites or other internet or web-based communication channels unless this is expressly permitted for educational reasons.
- 8 You must not bring the School into disrepute through your use of the internet.

Use of email

- 9 Your School email accounts can be accessed from home via mail.google.com and using your full school email address and password.
- 10 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.
- 11 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 Head and / or your parents would consider being inappropriate. Remember that emails could be forwarded to or seen by someone you did not intend.
- 12 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.

- 13 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.
- 14 All correspondence from your School email account must contain the School's disclaimer.
- 15 You must not read anyone else's emails without their consent.

Appendix 3 Use of mobile electronic devices

- 1 "Mobile electronic device" includes but is not limited to; mobile phones, smartphones, tablets, laptops, hand-held consoles and MP3 players.
- 2 For years 7-10, mobile phones will be collected on arrival at school and can be collected at the end of the school day. You are not permitted to have them on you during school hours, including break times and between lessons, unless expressly permitted by a member of staff.
- 3 For years 11 – 13, mobile phones and other mobile electronic devices must be switched off (and not just on silent mode) and kept in bags during School hours, including at break times and between lessons. Use of such devices is only permitted during School hours with the express permission of a member of staff.
- 4 You must not bring mobile electronic devices into examination rooms under any circumstances, except where special arrangements for the use of a tablet or laptop have been agreed with the Exams Officer in writing.
- 5 You must not communicate with staff using a mobile phone (or other mobile electronic device) except when this is expressly permitted by a member of staff, for example when necessary during an educational visit. Any such permitted communications should be brief and courteous.
- 6 Use of electronic devices of any kind to bully, harass, intimidate or attempt to radicalise others will not be tolerated and will constitute a serious breach of discipline, whether or not you are in the care of the School at the time of such use. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken where the School becomes aware of such use (see the School's Anti-bullying Policy and Behaviour and Discipline Policy) and the School's safeguarding procedures will be followed in appropriate circumstances (see the School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures).
- 7 Mobile electronic devices may be confiscated and searched in appropriate circumstances. Please see the School's Searching and Confiscation Policy on the searching of electronic devices. You may also be prevented from bringing a mobile electronic device into the School temporarily or permanently and at the sole discretion of the Head.
- 8 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 or which have been handed in to staff.

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.
- 4 The posting of images which in the reasonable opinion of the Head is considered to be offensive or which brings the school into disrepute on any form of social media or websites such as YouTube etc 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.
- 5 **Sexting**
 - 5.1 'Sexting' means the taking and sending or posting of images or videos of a sexual or indecent nature, usually through mobile devices or webcams over the internet.
 - 5.2 Sexting is strictly prohibited, whether or not you are in the care of the School at the time the image is recorded and / or shared.
 - 5.3 Sexting may also be a criminal offence, even if the picture is taken and shared with the permission of the person in the image.
 - 5.4 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.
 - 5.5 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.
 - 5.6 The School will treat incidences of sexting (both sending and receiving) as a breach of discipline and also as a safeguarding matter under the School's child protection procedures (see the School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures).
 - 5.7 If you are concerned about any image you have received, sent or forwarded or otherwise seen, speak to any member of staff for advice.