



# CHURCHER'S COLLEGE

## **ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR PUPILS**

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SENIOR SCHOOL

## **1 Scope**

- 1.1 This policy relates to all children at Churcher's College Senior School. Throughout this document, the terms "the School" and "Churcher's College" refer to Churcher's College Senior School.
- 1.2 This policy is addressed to all pupils at the School 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.
- 1.3 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
  - generative artificial intelligence technology / tools
  - mobile phones, smartwatches 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 and WhatsApp), chat rooms, blogs and message boards
  - webcams, video hosting sites (such as YouTube)
  - gaming sites
  - Virtual Learning Environments such as Firefly
  - Interactive boards
  - other photographic or electronic equipment e.g. GoPro devices.
- 1.4 This policy applies to the use of technology on School premises.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 The overriding principle governing pupils use of the School's computer system is that any such use should be for educational purposes only. Personal and social use of the School's computer system by pupils is permitted provided that any such use is in accordance with the School Rules including, but not limited to, this policy.
- 1.7 **Related policies**
- 1.7.1 Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions policy;

- 1.7.2 Anti-bullying policy;
- 1.7.3 Online safety policy;
- 1.7.4 Child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures; and
- 1.7.5 AI 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 technology**

- 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:

<https://ceopeducation.co.uk>

<http://www.childnet.com/young-people>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people>

<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 All 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);
  - 5.1.4 photographs and images (including "sexting") (Appendix 4); and
  - 5.1.5 **Lower Sixth** pupils must comply with the Acceptable Use Agreement for Bring Your Own Device in the Lower Sixth (Appendix 5).
- 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, Rewards and Sanctions 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 the School's Anti-bullying policy for further information about cyberbullying and e-safety, including useful resources.

- 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 Deputy Head (Pastoral), the Deputy Head (Academic) and/or the Director of Digital Systems who will record the matter centrally in the Technology Incidents Log.

## **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 Headmaster to apply any sanction which is appropriate and proportionate to the breach in accordance with the School's Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions policy including, in the most serious cases, exclusion. Other sanctions might include: increased monitoring procedures, withdrawal of the right to access the School's internet and email facilities and/or 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 Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions policy (see the Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions policy for the School's policy on the searching and confiscation of electronic devices).
- 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 incidents involving the use of technology will be logged centrally in the Technology Incident Log by the Deputy Head (Pastoral), the Deputy Head (Academic) and/or the Director of Digital Systems.
- 8.2 The Director of Digital Systems and the Deputy Head (Pastoral) have responsibility for the implementation and review of this policy:
- 8.2.1 the Director of Digital Systems is responsible for the effective operation of the School's network. He 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 Deputy Head (Pastoral) 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 efficiency 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.

**Authorised by**

Deputy Head (Pastoral)

**Date**

September 2024

## **Appendix 1 Access and security**

- 1 Access to the internet from the School's computers and network must be in accordance with the School Rules.
- 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 No laptop or other mobile electronic device (other than those owned by the School) may be physically connected to the School network.
- 4 The use of cellular data (e.g. GPRS, 3G, 4G, etc) to access the internet while you are on School premises or otherwise in the care of the School is discouraged. Any such use must be in accordance with the School Rules. 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.
- 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 a member of staff or the IT Helpdesk.
- 7 You must not attempt to access or share information about others without the permission of a member of staff. 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 a member of staff or the IT Helpdesk.
- 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. You may submit a request to the IT Helpdesk for temporary access to a website that has been blocked by the School's filtering system. Any such request must include an explanation as to why you require access and the area of the curriculum to which it relates (including details of the relevant member of staff). It will be entirely at the School's discretion whether to grant the request. The IT Helpdesk, following consultation with the relevant member of staff, will notify you of the School's decision. Any unblocking will be for a duration specified by the IT Helpdesk and you must comply with all the provisions of this policy when accessing the unblocked material.
- 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 the IT Helpdesk before opening the attachment or downloading the material. You must not disable or uninstall any anti-virus software on the School's computers.
- 11 You must not download/run executable files from the internet or from external devices on school computers.

- 12 You must not create/run executable files designed to do any harm to the computers, such as bypass security settings, connect to other machines or access/modify any files outside of your user area.
- 13 For the protection of all pupils and to maintain security, all use of School computer systems is monitored by the School, including but not limited to running executable files, accessing, modifying, deleting or sharing files, accessing computer systems and online services, connecting devices to the School network, and disabling, uninstalling or circumventing anti-virus or security systems.
- 14 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.
- 15 You must report any problems with School provided equipment to the IT Helpdesk immediately.



## 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 Any usage by pupils of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) on school devices, is only permitted under the supervision and direction of a teacher. Further details on the use of generative AI by pupils, and conditions imposed on its use by pupils, are set out in the [AI Policy](#).
- 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. In particular, personal or confidential information should not be entered into generative AI tools. This technology stores and learns from data inputted and you should consider that any information entered into such tools is released to the internet.
- 4 You must not load programs downloaded from the internet or brought in from outside School on an external storage device onto the School's systems, unless this has been specifically authorised by the Director of Digital Systems.
- 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 You must not use any personal web-based email accounts through the School's network outside the permitted times specified by the School (which are set out in the School Rules) without the express, prior consent of a member of staff. This is unlikely to be necessary as you are provided with your own personal email account for School purposes.
- 10 Your School email account can be accessed from home. You must use your School email account 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 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.
- 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 and MP3 players.
- 2     Mobile phones and other mobile electronic devices may be brought into school but must be switched off (and not just on silent mode) and, for 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> year pupils, kept in pouches, between 8.30am and 4.00pm. Sixth Form students can use their mobile devices in the social areas of the Ramshill Sixth Form Centre, which is supervised by teaching staff during the hours of the school day.
- 3     The use of cellular data (e.g. GPRS, 3G, 4G, etc) to access the internet while you are on School premises or otherwise in the care of the School is discouraged. Any such use must be in accordance with the School Rules. 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.
- 4     The use of mobile phones during the School day will not be necessary. In emergencies, you may request to use the School telephone. Should your parents wish to contact you in an emergency, they will telephone the School Office and a message will be relayed promptly.
- 5     You must not bring any mobile electronic devices (including smartphones and tablets), earphones or watches (including smartwatches) into examination rooms under any circumstances.
- 6     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.
- 7     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, Rewards and Sanctions policy) and the School's safeguarding procedures will be followed in appropriate circumstances (see the School's Child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures).
- 8     Mobile electronic devices may be confiscated and searched in appropriate circumstances. Please see the School's Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions policy for the School's 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 Deputy Head (Pastoral).
- 9     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 Deputy Head (Pastoral) 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      Even if someone has given you express permission to record their image, this is not the same as permission to distribute that image. You should always be mindful of others' reasonable expectations of privacy and remember that people have different views about the sharing of images. Remember, even if you consider an image to be appropriate for distribution, the subject of that image may not want it to be shared.
- 6      **Sexting**
  - 6.1      "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.
  - 6.2      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.
  - 6.3      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 doing certain jobs in the future.
  - 6.4      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.
  - 6.5      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.
  - 6.6      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.
  - 6.7      Even if you don't 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.
  - 6.8      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).

- 6.9 If you are concerned about any image you have received, sent or forwarded or otherwise seen, speak to any member of staff for advice.

## **Appendix 5    Acceptable Use Agreement for Bring Your Own Device in the Lower Sixth**

In the L6 at Churcher's College you are asked to bring your own personal device into school for use in your lessons, study periods and/or personal non-timetable time. This agreement is an appendix to the Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement. The following devices will be allowed to access the school's wireless network at the discretion of your teachers and only upon signing this statement to say that you agree to the terms and conditions listed below:

- Tablet devices and laptops

The conditions are:

- You may only use the "ChurchersBYOD" WIFI access when connecting to the network from your own device.
- Your activity on the network when accessed via the "ChurchersBYOD" route will be monitored in the same way as any other access to the School network.
- You will wait for your teacher's instruction before using your device in class and must close the lid of the laptop when instructed to do so or when your teacher is talking to the class. If using your device in class, you must only use it in connection with the specific task(s) set by your teacher. Games and other distractions are not permitted.
- You are responsible for charging your device at home overnight because there are limited power sockets around school that can be used for charging during the school day.
- You will take sole responsibility for any of your own devices when in school.
- You understand that in the event of any of your devices, or data held on those devices, being lost, stolen or damaged whilst on school premises the school will not accept any responsibility.
- The School has put in place the **Easy4U BYOD scheme**, which allows the rent or purchase of approved specification laptops including maintenance and insurance. Where you choose to bring your own device as an alternative to the School Easy4U BYOD scheme, this will not be covered by School insurance and it is your responsibility to ensure adequate insurance is in place to meet the cost of repair/replacement of your personal device in the event of loss or damage.
- You are advised to bring your device to school in an appropriately robust case, reducing the chances of it becoming damaged when not in use.
- You know and understand that if any of your devices malfunction it is not the responsibility of any member of staff to fix it.