Staff ICT Acceptable Use Policy

As a professional organisation with responsibility for children's safeguarding it is important that all staff take all possible and necessary measures to protect data and information systems from infection, unauthorised access, damage, loss, abuse and theft.

All members of staff have a responsibility to use the school's computer system in a professional, lawful, and ethical manner. To ensure that members of staff are fully aware of their professional responsibilities when using Information Communication Technology and the school systems, they are asked to read and sign this Acceptable Use Policy.

This is not an exhaustive list and all members of staff are reminded that ICT use should be consistent with the school ethos, other appropriate school policies, relevant national and local guidance and expectations, and the Law.

1. I understand that Information Systems and ICT include networks, data and data storage, online and offline communication technologies and access devices. Examples include laptops, mobile phones, tablets, digital cameras, email and social media sites**.**

2. School and LA owned information systems must be used appropriately. I understand that the Computer Misuse Act 1990 makes the following criminal offences: to gain unauthorised access to computer material; to gain unauthorised access to computer material with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences or to modify computer material without authorisation.

3. I understand that any hardware and software provided by the school for staff use can only be used by members of staff and only for educational use. To prevent unauthorised access to systems or personal data, I will not leave any information system unattended without first logging out or locking my login as appropriate.

4. I will respect system security and I will not disclose any password or security information. I will use a 'strong' password (A strong password has numbers, letters and symbols, with 8 or more characters, does not contain a dictionary word and is only used on one system and is changed regularly)

5. I will not attempt to install any purchased or downloaded software, including browser toolbars, or hardware without permission from the Headteacher.

6. I will ensure that any personal data of pupils, staff or parents/carers is kept in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. This means that all personal data will be obtained and processed fairly and lawfully, only kept for specific purposes, held no longer than necessary and will be kept private and secure with appropriate security measures in place, whether used in the school, hosted online (only within countries or sites with suitable data protection controls that meet the EU and UK regulations) or accessed remotely (e.g. via VPN). Any data which is being removed from the school site (such as via email or on memory sticks) will be encrypted by a method approved by the school. Any images or videos of pupils will always take into account parental consent.

7. I will not keep or access professional documents which contain school related sensitive or personal information (including images, files, videos, emails etc.) on any personal devices (such as laptops, digital cameras, mobile phones), unless they are suitably secured and encrypted. I will protect the devices in my care from unapproved access or theft.

8. I will not store any personal information on the school computer system including any school laptop or similar device issued to members of staff that is unrelated to school activities, such as personal photographs, files or financial information.

9. I will respect copyright and intellectual property rights.

10. I have read and understood the school online safety (e-Safety) policy which covers the requirements for safe ICT use, including using appropriate devices, safe use of social media websites and the supervision of pupils within the classroom and other working spaces.

11. I will report all incidents of concern regarding children's online safety to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Grainger as soon as possible. I will report any accidental access, receipt of inappropriate materials, filtering breaches or unsuitable websites to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.

12. I will not attempt to bypass any filtering and/or security systems put in place by the school. If I suspect a computer or system has been damaged or affected by a virus or other malware, or if I have lost any school related documents or files, then I will report this to the Headteacher and Data Swift, our ICT Support Provider, as soon as possible.

13. My electronic communications with pupils, parents/carers and other professionals will only take place within clear and explicit professional boundaries and will be transparent and open to scrutiny at all times. All communication will take place via school approved communication channels e.g. via a school provided email address, Class Dojo or telephone number and not via personal devices or communication channels e.g. personal email, social networking or mobile phones. Any pre-existing relationships or situations that may compromise this will be discussed with the Senior Leadership team and/or Headteacher.

14. I will ensure that my online reputation and use of ICT and information systems are compatible with my professional role, whether using school or personal systems. This includes the use of email, text, social media/networking, gaming and any other devices or websites. I will take appropriate steps to protect myself online and will ensure that my use of ICT and internet will not undermine my professional role, interfere with my work duties and will be in accordance with the school Acceptable Use Policy and the Law.

15. I will not create, transmit, display, publish or forward any material that is likely to harass, cause offence, inconvenience or needless anxiety to any other person, or anything which could bring my professional role, the school, or the LA into disrepute.

16. I will promote online safety with the pupils in my care and will help them to develop a responsible attitude to safety online, system use and to the content they access or create.

17. If I have any queries or questions regarding safe and professional practise online either in school or off site, then I will raise them with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

18. I understand that my use of the information systems, Internet and email may be monitored and recorded to ensure policy compliance.

The school may exercise its right to monitor the use of information systems, including Internet access and the interception of e-mails in order to monitor compliance with this Acceptable Use Policy and the school's Data Security Policy. Where it believes unauthorised and/or inappropriate use of the service's information system or unacceptable or inappropriate behaviour may be taking place, the school will invoke its disciplinary procedure. If the school suspects that the system may be being used for criminal purposes or for storing unlawful text, imagery or sound, the matter will be brought to the attention of the relevant law enforcement organisation.

I have read and understood and agree to comply with the Staff Acceptable Use Policy.

Signed: ……....

Print Name: …… Date: ……

Accepted by: …….

Print Name: Date…

Dear Colleagues/Members of staff across the Federation of Shalfleet and Yarmouth schools.

Social media can blur the definitions of personal and working lives, so it is important that all members of staff take precautions in order to protect themselves both professionally and personally online.

Be very conscious of both your professional reputation and that of the school when you are online. All members of staff are strongly advised, in their own interests, to take steps to ensure that their personal information and content is not accessible to anybody who does not or should not have permission to access it. All staff must also be mindful that any content shared online cannot be guaranteed to be “private” and could potentially be seen by unintended audiences which may have consequences including civil, legal and disciplinary action being taken. Ensure that your privacy settings are set appropriately (many sites have a variety of options to choose from which change regularly and may be different on different devices) as it could lead to your content accidentally being shared with others.

Be very careful when publishing any information, personal contact details, video or images etc. online; ask yourself if you would feel comfortable about a current or prospective employer, colleague, child in your care or parent/carer, viewing or sharing your content. If the answer is no, then consider if it should be posted online at all. It is very important to be aware that sometimes content shared online, even in jest, can be misread, misinterpreted or taken out of context, which can lead to complaints or allegations being made. Don’t be afraid to be yourself online but do so respectfully. All staff must be aware that as professionals, we must be cautious to ensure that the content we post online does not bring the school or our professional role into disrepute.

If you have a social networking account, it is advised that you do not to accept pupils (past or present) or their parents/carers as “friends” on a personal account. You may be giving them access to your personal information and allowing them to contact you inappropriately through unregulated channels. They may also be giving you access to their personal information and activities which could cause safeguarding concerns. Please use your work provided email address or phone number to contact parents – this is essential in order to protect yourself as well as the wider community. If you have a pre-existing relationship with a child or parent/carer that may compromise this or have any queries or concerns about this, then please speak me.

The principles and guidelines below set out the standards of behaviour expected of you as an employee of the school. If you are participating in online activity as part of your capacity as an employee of the school, then we request that you:

- Be professional and remember that you are an ambassador for the school. Disclose your position but always make it clear that you do not necessarily speak on behalf of the school.
- Be responsible and honest at all times and consider how the information you are publishing could be perceived
- Be credible, accurate, fair and thorough.
- Always act within the legal frameworks you would adhere to within school, including libel, defamation, confidentiality, copyright, data protection as well as equalities laws.
- Be accountable and do not disclose information, make commitments or engage in activities on behalf of the school unless you are authorised to do so.

•Always inform your line manager, the designated safeguarding lead and/or the Headteacher of any concerns such as criticism or inappropriate content posted online.

Documents called “Cyberbullying: Supporting School Staff”, “Cyberbullying: advice for headteachers and school staff” and “Safer practise with Technology” are available to download from www.childnet.com and www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying. Copies can have printed upon request. Staff can also visit or contact the Professional Online safety Helpline www.saferinternet.org.uk/about/helpline for more advice and information on online professional safety.

I would like to remind all staff of our Acceptable Use Policy and the importance of maintaining professional boundaries online. Failure to follow this guidance and the school policy could lead to disciplinary action, so it is crucial that all staff understand how to protect themselves online. Please speak to your line manager, or myself if you have any queries or concerns regarding this.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Elizabeth Grainger
Headteacher

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and
expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.