

# **ICT Student Acceptable Use Agreement**

**Policy Number: HBS012**

**Trustee Committee: H, S & P**

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**Review Date: 19/03/2026**

## Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Board of Trustees every two years.

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees on 19/03/2024.  
It is due for review in 24 months from the above date.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Head Teacher**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Chair of Board of Trustees**

## **Hitchin Boys' School policy**

Digital technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people, both within schools and outside school. These technologies are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. These technologies can stimulate discussion, promote creativity and stimulate awareness of context to promote effective learning. Young people should have an entitlement to safe access to these digital technologies.

### **This acceptable use agreement 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.
- that school systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could compromise the security of the systems and will have good access to digital technologies to enhance their learning and will, in return, expect the *students/pupils* to agree to be responsible users.

### **1. Acceptable Use Agreement**

- I understand that I must use school systems in a responsible way, to ensure that there is no risk to my safety or to the safety and security of the systems and other users.

### **2. For my own personal safety:**

- I understand that the *School* will monitor my use of the systems, devices and digital communications.
- I will keep my username and password safe and secure – I will not share it, nor will I try to use any other person's username and password. I understand that I should not write down or store a password where it is possible that someone may steal it.
- I will be aware of "stranger danger", when I am communicating on-line.
- I will not disclose or share personal information about myself or others when on-line (this could include names, addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers, age, gender, educational details, financial details etc.)
- If I arrange to meet people off-line that I have communicated with on-line, I will do so in a public place and take an adult with me.
- I will immediately report any unpleasant or inappropriate material or messages or anything that makes me feel uncomfortable when I see it on-line.

### **3. I understand that everyone has equal rights to use technology as a resource and:**

- I understand that the *School* systems and devices are primarily intended for educational use and that I will not use them for personal or recreational use unless I have permission.
- I will not try (unless I have permission) to make large downloads or uploads that might take up internet capacity and prevent other users from being able to carry out their work.
- I will not use the *School* systems or devices for on-line gaming, on-line gambling, internet shopping, file sharing, or video broadcasting (e.g. YouTube), unless I have permission of a member of staff to do so.

**4. I will act as I expect others to act toward me:**

- 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.
- 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.
- I will not take or distribute images of anyone without their permission.

**5. I recognise that the school has a responsibility to maintain the security and integrity of the technology it offers me and to ensure the smooth running of the School:**

- Whilst at school I will only login using my school email address.
- I will only use my own personal devices (mobile phones/USB devices etc.) in school if I have permission. I understand that, if I do use my own devices in the *School*, I will follow the rules set out in this agreement, in the same way as if I was using school equipment.
- I understand the risks and will not try to upload, download or access any materials which are illegal or inappropriate or may cause harm or distress to others, nor will I try to use any programmes or software that might allow me to bypass the filtering/security systems in place to prevent access to such materials.
- I will immediately report any damage or faults involving equipment or software, however this may have happened.
- I will not open any hyperlinks in emails or any attachments to emails, unless I know and trust the person/organisation who sent the email, or if I have any concerns about the validity of the email (due to the risk of the attachment containing viruses or other harmful programmes)
- I will not install or attempt to install or store programmes of any type on any school device, nor will I try to alter computer settings.
- I will not use social media sites whilst at school.

**6. When using the internet for research or recreation, I recognise that:**

- I should ensure that I have permission to use the original work of others in my own work
- Where work is protected by copyright, I will not try to download copies (including music and videos)
- When I am using the internet to find information, I should take care to check that the information that I access is accurate, as I understand that the work of others may not be truthful and may be a deliberate attempt to mislead me.

**7. I understand that I am responsible for my actions, both in and out of school:**

- I understand that the *School* also has the right to take action against me if I am involved in incidents of inappropriate behaviour, that are covered in this agreement, when I am out of school and where they involve my membership of the school community (examples would be online-bullying, use of images or personal information).
- I understand that if I fail to comply with this acceptable use agreement, I may be subject to disciplinary action. This could include loss of access to the school network/internet, my device being locked so that it can only be accessed with my school email address both at school and at home, detentions, suspensions, contact with parents and in the event of illegal activities involvement of the police.

**8. Student Acceptable Use Agreement Form**

This form relates to the student acceptable use agreement; to which it is attached.

I have read and understand the above and agree to follow these guidelines when:

- I use the School systems and devices (both in and out of school)
- I use my own devices in the School
- I use my own equipment out of the School in a way that is related to me being a member of this School e.g. communicating with other members of the school, accessing school email etc.

Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Parent/Carer Countersignature (optional)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_