

The Federation of Boskenwyn & Germoe Schools and Nysgerrig Kindergarten



Acceptable Use and Online Safety policy

Approved by:	Governors
Last reviewed on:	November 2025
Next review due by:	November 2026

Contents

1. Introduction and aims

Information and communications technology (ICT) is an integral part of the way our school works, and is a critical resource for pupils, staff (including senior leadership teams), governors, volunteers and visitors.

Our school aims to:

- Deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology, including mobile and smart technology
- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate an incident where appropriate

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

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DFE's) statutory safeguarding guidance, *Keeping Children Safe in Education*, and its advice for schools on:

- Teaching online safety in schools
- Preventing and tackling bullying and cyber-bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff
- Relationships and sex education
- Searching, screening and confiscation
- Protecting children from harmful online content

It also refers to the DFE's guidance on protecting children from radicalisation.

It reflects existing legislation, including but not limited to the Education Act 1996 (as amended), the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the Equality Act 2010.

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 governors, 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

See appendix 6 for a glossary of cyber security terminology.

4. Unacceptable use

The following is considered unacceptable use of the school's ICT facilities by any member of the school community. Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary or behaviour proceedings (see section 4.2 below).

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
- Online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams
- Accessing, creating, storing, linking to or sending material that is pornographic, offensive, obscene or otherwise inappropriate or harmful
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos and/or livestreams (also known as sexting or youth-produced sexual imagery)
- 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
- Engaging in content or conduct that is radicalised, extremist, racist, anti-Semitic or discriminatory in any other way

This is not an exhaustive list. The school reserves the right to amend this list at any time. The Headteacher or Chair of Governors 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 (on the school premises and/or remotely) 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. This would need Head Teacher approval.

4.2 Sanctions

Pupils and staff who engage in any of the unacceptable activity listed above may face disciplinary action in line with the school's policies.

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

5.1 Access to school ICT facilities and materials

ICT4 manages access to the school's ICT facilities and materials for school staff. That includes, but is not limited to:

- Computers, tablets, mobile phones, smart watches, interactive whiteboards 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 ICT4 or the Head Teacher.

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. Staff should enable multi-factor authentication on their email accounts.

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 care with the content of all email messages, as incorrect or improper statements can give rise to claims for discrimination, harassment, defamation, breach of confidentiality or breach of contract.

Email messages are required to be disclosed in legal proceedings or in response to requests from individuals under the Data Protection Act 2018 in the same way as paper documents. Deletion from a user's inbox does not mean that an email cannot be recovered for the purposes of disclosure. All email messages should be treated as potentially retrievable.

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 receive an email in error, the sender should be informed and the email deleted. If the email contains sensitive or confidential information, the user must not make use of that information or disclose that information.

If staff send an email in error that contains the personal information of another person, they must inform the Head Teacher immediately and follow our data breach procedure.

Staff must not give their personal phone numbers to parents or pupils unless this has been agreed. Staff must use phones provided by the school to conduct all work-related business where possible.

School phones must not be used for personal matters.

Staff who are provided with mobile phones as equipment for their role must abide by the same rules for ICT acceptable use as set out in section 4.

When using Zoom, recordings can be made. Always inform all parties when recording.

Set out your protocol for approving requests here. For instance, you may grant requests to record conversations when:

- Discussing a complaint raised by a parent/carer or member of the public
- Calling parents to discuss behaviour or sanctions

- Taking advice from relevant professionals regarding safeguarding, special educational needs (SEN) assessments, etc.
- Discussing requests for term-time holidays

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.

Personal use is permitted provided that such use:

- Does not take place during teaching hours
- 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

Staff may not use the school's ICT facilities to store personal non-work-related information or materials (such as music, videos or photos).

Staff should be aware that use of the school's ICT facilities for personal use may put personal communications within the scope of the school's ICT monitoring activities (see section 5.5). Where breaches of this policy are found, disciplinary action may be taken.

Staff are also permitted to use their personal devices (such as mobile phones or tablets) in line with the school's Conduct and Safeguarding Policies.

Staff should be aware that personal use of ICT (even when not using school ICT facilities) can impact on their employment by, for instance, putting personal details in the public domain, where pupils and parents could see them.

Staff should take care to follow the school's guidelines on social media (see appendix 1) and use of email (see section 5.1.1) to protect themselves online and avoid compromising their professional integrity.

5.2.1 Personal social media accounts

Members of staff should ensure their use of social media, either for work or personal purposes, is appropriate at all times.

The school has guidelines for staff on appropriate security settings for Facebook accounts (see appendix 1).

5.4 School social media accounts

The school has an official Facebook page, managed by Paula Blackburn and Twitter/Instagram managed by Katie Knight. Staff members who have not been authorised to manage, or post to, the account, must not access, or attempt to access the account unless this has been agreed by admin.

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 and filtering 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
- Conduct training or quality control exercises
- 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

- Computers and equipment in the school's ICT suite are available to pupils only under the supervision of staff
- Pupils will be provided with an account linked to the school's virtual learning environment Seesaw which they access from any device

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.

Staff members may also confiscate devices for evidence to hand to the police, if a pupil discloses that they are being abused and that this abuse contains an online element.

6.3 Unacceptable use of ICT and the internet outside of school

The school will sanction pupils if they engage in any of the following **at any time** (even if they are not on school premises):

- 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, such as self-harm, suicide and eating disorder content
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos and/or livestreams (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- 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

New laws under the Online Safety Act 2025 have come into force to protect under 18s from harmful content online, such as:

- Pornography
- Self-harm
- Suicide
- Eating disorder content

Use of Generative AI tools must be closely supervised by staff. How to use it safely must be demonstrated and modelled clearly.

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.

However, parents working for, or with the school in an official capacity (for instance, as a volunteer or as a member of the PTA) may be granted an appropriate level of access, or be permitted to use the school's facilities at the headteacher's discretion.

Where parents are granted access in this way, they must abide by this policy as it applies to staff.

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.

We ask parents to sign the agreement in appendix 2.

8. Data security

The school is responsible for making sure it has the appropriate level of security protection and procedures in place. It therefore 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.

Staff may keep children passwords in case they lose them.

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 ICT4

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 the Head Teacher 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 and USB drives) 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.

9. Protection from cyber attacks

Please see the glossary (appendix 6) to help you understand cyber security terminology.

The school will:

Work with governors and the IT department to make sure cyber security is given the time and resources it needs to make the school secure

Provide annual training for staff (and include this training in any induction for new starters, if they join outside of the school's annual training window) on the basics of cyber security, including how to:

- Check the sender address in an email
- Respond to a request for bank details, personal information or login details
- Verify requests for payments or changes to information

Make sure staff are aware of its procedures for reporting and responding to cyber security incidents

Investigate whether our IT software needs updating or replacing to be more secure

Not engage in ransom requests from ransomware attacks, as this would not guarantee recovery of data

Put controls in place that are:

- **'Proportionate'**: the school will verify this using a third-party audit, to objectively test that what it has in place is up to scratch
- **Multi-layered**: everyone will be clear on what to look out for to keep our systems safe
- **Up-to-date**: with a system in place to monitor when the school needs to update its software
- **Regularly reviewed and tested**: to make sure the systems are as up to scratch and secure as they can be

10. Internet access

The school wireless internet connection is secured and managed by ICT4

10.1 Pupils

To use internet safely according to guidelines agreed with class teachers.

10.2 Parents and visitors

Parents and visitors to the school will not be permitted to use the school's Wi-Fi unless specific authorisation is granted by the headteacher.

The headteacher will only grant authorisation if:

Parents are working with the school in an official capacity (e.g. as a volunteer or as a member of the PTA)

Visitors need to access the school's Wi-Fi in order to fulfil the purpose of their visit (for instance, to access materials stored on personal devices as part of a presentation or lesson plan)

Staff must not give the Wi-Fi password to anyone who is not authorised to have it. Doing so could result in disciplinary action.

10.3 Media Publications

Named images of pupils (e.g. photographs, videos, web broadcasting, TV presentations, web pages, etc.) must not be published under any circumstances without written permission from parents or guardians. Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of pupils are published on the school web site. Pupils' work will only be published (e.g. photographs, video, TV presentations, web pages etc.) if parental consent has been given.

11. Monitoring and review

The headteacher and ICT4 monitor the implementation of this policy, including ensuring it is updated to reflect the needs and circumstances of the school.

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

If your governing board has a role in reviewing or approving the policy, add:

The governing board is responsible for approving this policy in November 2025. It will be revised again in November 2026.

12. Related policies

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

- Online safety
- Safeguarding and child protection
- Behaviour
- Staff discipline
- Data protection
- Mobile phone usage