



Acceptable Use Policy

March 2021

Mersea Island School

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Email: office@merseaschool.org

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

I recognise the value of the use of ICT for enhancing learning and will ensure that pupils receive opportunities to gain from the use of ICT.

I will, where possible, educate the young people in my care in the safe use of ICT and embed online safety in my work with young people.

For my professional and personal safety:

- I understand that the rules set out in this agreement also apply to use of school ICT systems (e.g. laptops, email, websites etc.) out of school.
- I understand that the school ICT systems are intended for educational use and that I will only use the systems for personal or recreational use within the policies (E-Safety, Safeguarding, Staff Handbook and ICT Policy) and rules set down by the school.
- I will not disclose my username or password to anyone else, nor will I try to use any other person's username and password.
- I will immediately report any illegal, inappropriate or harmful material or incident I become aware of, to the appropriate person (a member of the SLT)
- I will be professional in my communications and actions when using school ICT systems:
- I will not access, copy, remove or otherwise alter any other user's files, without their express permission.
- I will communicate with others in a professional manner. I will not use aggressive or inappropriate language and I appreciate that others may have different opinions.
- I will ensure that when I take and / or publish images / videos of others (including children) I will do so with their permission and in accordance with the school's policy on the use of digital / video images. Where these images are published (e.g. on the school website) it will not be possible to identify by name, or other Personal information, those who are featured.
- I will not mention Mersea Island School on any social media platform in a negative or inappropriate manner.
- I will adhere to the school E-safety, Staff Handbook and safeguarding policies at all times.
- I will only communicate with students / pupils and parents / carers using official school systems and school email addresses. Any such communication will be professional in tone and manner. There will be no communication with parents/families using personal email addresses or telephones: (LOCK DOWN – You will need to use your class email. You may need to use your personal phone but your number should be blocked when making calls.)
- Photographs of children will not be taken on personal phones or cameras nor stored on laptops unless on a school residential. They must be deleted once transferred in school to the school ICT system.
- I will not use my mobile phone whilst children are present and will ensure that it is on silent and out of sight away in a store cupboard; off site visits are an exception and phones may be used when pertinent to safety and communication.
- I will not engage in any on-line activity that may compromise my professional responsibilities.

**When I use my personal hand held / external devices (laptops / mobile phones etc.) in school,
I will follow the rules set out in this agreement, in the same way as if I was using school equipment. I will also follow any additional rules set by the school about such use. I will ensure that any such devices are protected by up to date anti-virus software and are free from viruses.**

Mobile phones will only be used in a place, away from children, during break/lunchtimes or with the consent of the Head teacher or senior member of staff.

- I will not use personal email addresses or access personal networking sites on the ICT systems.
- I will not open any attachments to emails, unless the source is known and trusted, due to the risk of the attachment containing viruses or other harmful programmes.
- I will not try to upload, download or access any materials which are illegal (child sexual abuse images, criminally racist material, adult pornography covered by the Obscene Publications Act) or inappropriate or may cause harm or distress to others.
- I will not 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.
- If I wish to install a programme/app onto equipment that is owned by school, I will contact our technical support person using support@merseaschool.org
- I will not disable or cause any damage to school equipment, or the equipment belonging to others. If equipment is damaged, I will report it to school immediately and be aware I may be responsible for the cost of repair.
- I understand that data protection policy requires that any staff or student / pupil data, to which I have access, will be kept private and confidential, except when it is deemed necessary that I am required by law or by school policy to disclose such information to an appropriate authority.

When using the internet in my professional capacity or for school sanctioned personal use:

- I will 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 download or distribute copies (including music and videos).

I understand that I am responsible for my actions in and out of school:

- I understand that this Acceptable Use Policy applies not only to my work and use of school ICT equipment in school, but also applies to my use of school ICT systems and equipment out of school and my use of personal equipment in school or in situations related to my employment by the school.
- I understand that if I fail to comply with this Acceptable Use Policy Agreement, I could be subject to disciplinary action which may include termination of contract. This could include a warning, a suspension, referral to Governors and / or the Local Authority and in the event of illegal activities the involvement of the police.

I have read and understand the above and agree to use the school ICT systems (both in and out of school) and my own devices (in school and when carrying out communications related to the school) within these guidelines.

I have read and understand the Staff/Volunteer Acceptable Use Policy

Staff / Volunteer Name

Digitally Signed.....

Date