



Newton Abbot College

ICT and Internet Acceptable Use Policy

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of Newton Abbot College on 28/11/2023.

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1. Introduction and aims

Information and communications technology (ICT) is an integral part of the way Newton Abbot College works and is a critical resource for students, staff (including the senior leadership team), governors, volunteers and visitors. However, the ICT resources and facilities our college uses could also pose risks to data protection, online safety and safeguarding.

This policy aims to:

- Set guidelines and rules on the use of college ICT resources for staff, students, parents/carers and governors.
- Establish clear expectations for the way all members of the college community engage with each other online.
- Support the college's policies on data protection, online safety and safeguarding.
- Prevent disruption that could occur to the college through the misuse, or attempted misuse, of ICT systems.
- Support the college in teaching students safe and effective internet and ICT use.

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

Breaches of this policy may be dealt with under our Behaviour Policy.

2. Relevant legislation and guidance

This policy refers to, and complies with, the following legislation and guidance:

- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) – the EU GDPR was incorporated into UK legislation, with some amendments, by [The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications \(Amendments etc\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [Computer Misuse Act 1990](#)
- [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- [The Telecommunications \(Lawful Business Practice\) \(Interception of Communications\) Regulations 2000](#)
- [Education Act 2011](#)
- [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#)
- [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools 2022](#)
- [National Cyber Security Centre \(NCSC\): Cyber Security for Schools](#)
- [Education and Training \(Welfare of Children\) Act 2021](#)
- UK Council for Internet Safety (et al.) guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)
- [Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges](#)
- [The Terrorism Act 2000](#)

3. Definitions

- **ICT facilities:** 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 that may become available in the future which is provided as part of the school's ICT service.
- **Users:** anyone authorised by the college to use the college's ICT facilities, including governors, staff, students, volunteers, contractors and visitors.
- **Personal use:** any use or activity not directly related to the users' employment, study or purpose agreed by an authorised user.
- **Authorised personnel:** employees authorised by the college to perform systems administration and/or monitoring of the ICT facilities.

- **Materials:** files and data created using the college's 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 college's ICT facilities. Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary or behaviour proceedings (see section 4.2 below).

Unacceptable use of the college's ICT facilities includes:

- Using the college's ICT facilities to breach intellectual property rights or copyright.
- Using the college's ICT facilities to bully or harass someone else, or to promote unlawful discrimination.
- Breaching the college'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.
- Activity which defames or disparages the college, or risks bringing the college into disrepute.
- Sharing confidential information about the college, its students, or other members of the college community.
- Connecting any device to the college's ICT network without approval from authorised personnel.
- Setting up any software, applications or web services on the college's network without approval by authorised personnel, or creating or using any programme, tool or item of software designed to interfere with the functioning of the college's 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 college's ICT facilities.
- Causing intentional damage to the college's ICT facilities.
- Removing, deleting or disposing of the college's ICT equipment, systems, programmes or information without permission from authorised personnel.
- Causing a data breach by accessing, modifying, or sharing data (including personal data) to which a user is not permitted by authorised personnel to have access, or without authorisation,
- Using inappropriate or offensive language.
- Promoting a private business, unless that business is directly related to the college.
- Using websites or mechanisms to bypass the college's filtering or monitoring mechanisms.
- Engaging in content or conduct that is radicalised, extremist, racist, antisemitic or discriminatory in any other way.
- Using AI tools and generative chatbots (such as ChatGPT and Google Bard):
 - During assessments, including internal and external assessments, and coursework.
 - To write their homework or class assignments, where AI-generated text or imagery is presented as their own work.

This is not an exhaustive list. The college reserves the right to amend this list at any time. The Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and IT Manager will use their professional judgement to determine whether any act or behaviour not on the list above is considered unacceptable use of the college's ICT facilities.

4.1 Exceptions from unacceptable use

Where the use of college ICT facilities (on the college 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.

Students may use AI tools and generative chatbots:

- As a research tool to help them find out about new topics and ideas
- When specifically studying and discussing AI in college work, for example in IT lessons or art homework about AI-generated images. All AI-generated content must be properly attributed

4.2 Sanctions

Students and staff who engage in any of the unacceptable activities listed above may face disciplinary action in line with the college's Behaviour Policy and Code of Conduct policy.

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

5.1 Access to college ICT facilities and materials

The college's IT Manager is responsible for managing access to the college's ICT facilities and materials for college staff. That includes, but is not limited to:

- Computers, tablets, mobile phones and other devices
- Access permissions for certain programmes or files

Staff will be provided with unique login/account information and passwords that they must use when accessing the college's ICT facilities. Staff who have access to files that they are not authorised to view or edit, or who need their access permissions updated or changed, should contact the IT Manager.

5.1.1 Use of phones and email

- The college provides each member of staff with an email address.
- This email account should be used for work purposes only.
- All work-related business should be conducted using the email address the college has provided.
- Staff must not share their personal email addresses with parents/carers and students, 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 IT Manager immediately and follow our data breach procedure.
- Staff must not give their personal phone number(s) to parents/carers or students. Staff must use phones provided by the college to conduct all work-related business.
- College 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.
- College phones must not be used for personal matters.
- All calls are recorded by default and if a record of a conversation is needed, they need to speak with the IT Team.

5.2 Personal use

Staff are permitted to occasionally use college ICT facilities for personal use, subject to certain conditions set

out below. This permission must not be overused or abused. The IT Manager may withdraw or restrict this permission at any time and at their discretion.

Personal use is permitted provided that such use:

- Does not take place during teaching time.
- Does not constitute 'unacceptable use', as defined in section 4.
- Takes place when no students are present.
- Does not interfere with their jobs, or prevent other staff or students from using the facilities for work or educational purposes.

Staff may not use the college'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 college's ICT facilities for personal use may put personal communications within the scope of the college'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 college's Code of Conduct policy.

Staff should be aware that personal use of ICT (even when not using college ICT facilities) can impact on their employment by, for instance, putting personal details in the public domain, where students and parents/carers could see them. Staff should take care to follow the college's guidelines on use of 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 make sure their use of social media, either for work or personal purposes, is appropriate at all times. The college has guidelines for staff on appropriate security settings for Facebook accounts (see appendix 1).

5.3 Remote access

We allow staff to access the college's ICT facilities and materials remotely. They should dial in using a virtual private network (VPN).

- All forms of remote access are managed by the IT Manager
- The VPN uses a SSTP protocol to access data stored on the College Network.
- College also make use of cloud hosted file services for college data.
- Microsoft SharePoint and Google Drive, Classroom and Shared Drives are all systems that are accessible remotely.

Staff accessing the college's ICT facilities and materials remotely must abide by the same rules as those accessing the facilities and materials on site. Staff must be particularly vigilant if they use the college's ICT facilities outside the college and must take such precautions as the IT Manager may require against importing viruses or compromising system security. Our ICT facilities contain information which is confidential and/or subject to data protection legislation. Such information must be treated with extreme care and in accordance with our data protection policy.

5.4 College social media accounts

The college has official social media accounts, managed by the IT Manager. Staff members who have not been authorised to manage, or post to, the account, must not access, or attempt to access, the account. The college has guidelines for what may and must not be posted on its social media accounts. Those who are authorised to manage, or post to, the account must make sure they abide by these guidelines at all times.

5.5 Monitoring and filtering of the college network and use of ICT facilities

To safeguard and promote the welfare of children and provide them with a safe environment to learn, the college reserves the right to filter and monitor the use of its ICT facilities and network. This includes, but is

not limited to, the filtering and monitoring of:

- Internet sites visited.
- Bandwidth usage.
- Email accounts.
- Telephone calls.
- User activity/access logs.
- Any other electronic communications.

Only authorised ICT personnel may filter, inspect, monitor, intercept, assess, record and disclose the above, to the extent permitted by law. College uses Impero and Smoothwall to control, monitor, intercept and assess use of IT within the College. College also uses Microsoft eDiscovery on Office 365 and Barracuda for email searches (i.e., Subject Access Requests, Historical Searches etc.).

The college monitors ICT use in order to:

- Obtain information related to college business.
- Investigate compliance with college policies, procedures and standards.
- Ensure effective college 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.

Our governing board is responsible for making sure that:

- The college meets the DfE's filtering and monitoring standards.
- Appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place.
- Staff are aware of those systems and trained in their related roles and responsibilities.
 - For the leadership team and relevant staff, this will include how to manage the processes and systems effectively and how to escalate concerns.
- It regularly reviews the effectiveness of the college's monitoring and filtering systems.

The college's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) will take lead responsibility for understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place. Where appropriate, staff may raise concerns about monitored activity with the college's DSL and IT Manager, as appropriate.

6. Students

6.1 Access to ICT facilities

- Computers and equipment in the college's ICT suites are available to students only under the supervision of staff.
- Specialist ICT equipment, such as that used for music, or design and technology, must only be used under the supervision of staff.
- Students will be provided with an account linked to the college's virtual learning environment which they can access from any device.

6.2 Search and deletion

Under the Education Act 2011, the headteacher, and any member of staff authorised to do so by the headteacher, can search students and confiscate their mobile phones, computers or other devices that the authorised staff member has reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- Poses a risk to staff or students, **and/or**;
- Is identified in the college rules as a banned item for which a search can be carried out, **and/or**;
- Is evidence in relation to an offence.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Pornography
- Abusive messages, images or videos
- Indecent images of children
- Evidence of suspected criminal behaviour (such as threats of violence or assault)

Before a search, if the authorised staff member is satisfied that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting any of the above, they will also:

- Make an assessment of how urgent the search is and consider the risk to other students and staff. If the search is not urgent, they will seek advice from the Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or the IT Manager.
- Explain to the student why they are being searched, and how and where the search will happen, and give them the opportunity to ask questions about it
- Seek the student's co-operation.

The authorised staff member should:

- Inform the DSL (or deputy) of any searching incidents where they had reasonable grounds to suspect a student was in possession of a banned item.
- Involve the DSL (or deputy) without delay if they believe that a search has revealed a safeguarding risk

Authorised staff members may examine, and in exceptional circumstances erase, any data or files on a device that they have confiscated where they believe there is a 'good reason' to do so.

When deciding whether there is a 'good reason' to examine data or files on a device, the staff member should only do so if they reasonably suspect that the data has been, or could be, used to:

- Cause harm, **and/or;**
- Undermine the safe environment of the college or disrupt teaching, **and/or;**
- Commit an offence.

If inappropriate material is found on the device, it is up to the staff member in conjunction with the DSL and/or Headteacher to decide on a suitable response. If there are images, data or files on the device that staff reasonably suspect are likely to put a person at risk, they will first consider the appropriate safeguarding response. When deciding whether there is a good reason to erase data or files from a device, staff members will consider whether the material may constitute evidence relating to a suspected offence. In these instances, they will not delete the material, and the device will be handed to the police as soon as is reasonably practicable. If the material is not suspected to be evidence in relation to an offence, staff members may delete it if:

- They reasonably suspect that its continued existence is likely to cause harm to any person, **and/or;**
- The student and/or the parent refuses to delete the material themselves.

If a staff member **suspects** a device **may** contain an indecent image of a child (also known as a nude or semi-nude image), they will:

- **Not** view the image.
- **Not** copy, print, share, store or save the image.
- Confiscate the device and report the incident to the DSL (or deputy) immediately, who will decide what to do next. The DSL will make the decision in line with the DfE's latest guidance on [searching, screening and confiscation](#) and the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) et al.'s guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

Any searching of students will be carried out in line with:

- The DfE's latest guidance on [searching, screening and confiscation](#)
- UKCIS et al.'s guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

- Our behaviour policy / searches and confiscation policy

Any complaints about searching for, or deleting, inappropriate images or files on students' devices will be dealt with through the college complaints procedure.

6.3 Unacceptable use of ICT and the internet outside of college

The college will sanction students, in line with the Behaviour Policy, if a student engages in any of the following **at any time** (even if they are not on college 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 college's policies or procedures.
- Any illegal conduct or making 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.
- Consensual or 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 college, or risks bringing the college into disrepute.
- Sharing confidential information about the college, other students, or other members of the college 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 college's ICT facilities.
- Causing intentional damage to the college's ICT facilities or materials.
- Causing a data breach by accessing, modifying, or sharing data (including personal data) to which a user and/or those they share it with are not supposed to have access, or without authorisation.
- Using inappropriate or offensive language.

7. Parents/carers

7.1 Access to ICT facilities and materials

Parents/carers do not have access to the college's ICT facilities as a matter of course. However, parents/carers working for, or with, the college 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 college's facilities at the headteacher's discretion. Where parents/carers are granted access in this way, they must abide by this policy as it applies to staff.

7.2 Communicating with or about the college online

We believe it is important to model for students, and help them learn, how to communicate respectfully with, and about, others online. Parents/carers play a vital role in helping model this behaviour for their children, especially when communicating with the college through our website and social media channels.

7.3 Communicating with parents/carers about student activity

The college will ensure that parents and carers are made aware of any online activity that their children are being asked to carry out. When we ask students to use websites or engage in online activity, we will communicate the details of this to parents/carers in the same way that information about homework tasks is shared. In particular, staff will let parents/carers know which (if any) person or people from the college students will be interacting with online, including the purpose of the interaction. Parents/carers may seek any support and advice from the college to ensure a safe online environment is established for their child.

8. Data security

The college is responsible for making sure it has the appropriate level of security protection and procedures in place to safeguard its systems, staff and learners. It therefore takes steps to protect the security of its computing resources, data and user accounts. The effectiveness of these procedures is reviewed periodically to keep up with evolving cyber crime technologies. Staff, students, parents/carers and others who use the college's ICT facilities should use safe computing practices at all times. We aim to meet the cyber security standards recommended by the Department for Education's guidance on [digital and technology standards in colleges and schools](#), including the use of:

- Firewalls
- Security features
- User authentication and multi-factor authentication
- Anti-malware software

8.1 Passwords

All users of the college's ICT facilities should set strong passwords for their accounts and keep these passwords secure. Google Password manager should be used as far as practical to ensure secure passwords are set. 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 students who disclose account or password information may face disciplinary action, staff and students may only share secure information with the IT Team. Parents, visitors or volunteers who disclose account or password information may have their access rights revoked. All staff will use the password manager required by IT Manager to help them store their passwords securely. Teachers will generate passwords for students using the required password manager or generator and keep these in a secure location in case students lose or forget their passwords.

8.2 Software updates, firewalls and anti-virus software

All of the college's ICT devices that support software updates, security updates and anti-virus products will have these installed, and 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 college's ICT facilities. Any personal devices using the college'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 college's data protection policy available on our website and Google Classroom.

8.4 Access to facilities and materials

All users of the college's ICT facilities will have clearly defined access rights to college systems, files and devices. These access rights are managed by the IT Manager. 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 IT Team 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 shut down completely at the end of each working day.

8.5 Encryption

The college makes sure that its devices and systems have an appropriate level of encryption.

College staff may only use personal devices (including computers and USB drives) to access college data, work remotely, or take personal data (such as student information) out of college 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, as defined by the IT Manager.

9. Protection from cyber attacks

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

The college will:

- Work with governors and the IT department to make sure cyber security is given the time and resources it needs to make the college secure
- Provide annual training for staff (and include this training in any induction for new starters, if they join outside of the college'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 college will verify this using a third-party audit (such as [360 degree safe](#)) – at least annually - to objectively test that what it has in place is effective
 - **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 college needs to update its software
 - **Regularly reviewed and tested:** to make sure the systems are as effective and secure as they can be
- Back up critical data is performed daily, weekly and on a monthly basis and are stored on devices that are not connected to the college domain.
- Delegate specific responsibility for maintaining the security of our management information system (MIS) (SIMSO is hosted by SCOMIS who are responsible for the maintenance and security of our MIS System.
- Make sure staff:
 - Dial into our network using a virtual private network (VPN) when working from home
 - Enable multi-factor authentication where they can, on things like college email accounts
 - Store passwords securely using a password manager
- Make sure ICT staff conduct regular access reviews to make sure each user in the college has the right level of permissions and admin rights
- Have a firewall in place that is switched on
- Check that its supply chain is secure, for example by asking suppliers about how secure their business practices are and checking if they have the [Cyber Essentials](#) certification

10. Internet access

The college's wireless internet connection is secure.

- For Filtering see 5.5.
- Staff, students and guests use separate connections and filtering is applied to them appropriately.

10.1 Parents/carers and visitors

Parents/carers and visitors to the college will not be permitted to use the college's WiFi unless specific authorisation is granted by the headteacher.

The headteacher will only grant authorisation if:

- Parents/carers are working with the college in an official capacity (e.g. as a volunteer or as a member of the PTA)
- Visitors need to access the college's WiFi 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 WiFi password to anyone who is not authorised to have it. Doing so could result in disciplinary action.

11. Monitoring and review

The headteacher, DSL and IT Manager monitor the implementation of this policy, including ensuring it is updated to reflect the needs and circumstances of the college. This policy will be reviewed every year. The governing board is responsible for reviewing and approving this policy.

12. Related policies

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

- Online Safety
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Behaviour
- Code of Conduct
- Data Protection

Appendix 1: Facebook cheat sheet for staff

Do not accept friend requests from pupils on social media

10 rules for college staff on Facebook

1. Change your display name – use your first and middle name, use a maiden name, or put your surname backwards instead.
2. Change your profile picture to something unidentifiable, or if you don't, make sure that the image is professional
3. Check your privacy settings regularly
4. Be careful about tagging other staff members in images or posts
5. Don't share anything publicly that you wouldn't be happy showing your students.
6. Don't use social media sites during college hours
7. Don't make comments about your job, your colleagues, our college or your students online – once it's out there, it's out there
8. Don't associate yourself with the college on your profile (e.g. by setting it as your workplace, or by 'checking in' at a college event)
9. Don't link your work email address to your social media accounts. Anyone who has this address (or your personal email address/mobile number) is able to find you using this information
10. Consider uninstalling the Facebook app from your phone. The app recognises WiFi connections and makes friend suggestions based on who else uses the same WiFi connection (such as parents or students)

Check your privacy settings

- Change the visibility of your posts and photos to **'Friends only'**, rather than 'Friends of friends'. Otherwise, students and their families may still be able to read your posts, see things you've shared and look at your pictures if they're friends with anybody on your contacts list.
- Don't forget to check your **old posts and photos** – go to bit.ly/2MdQXMN to find out how to limit the visibility of previous posts.
- The public may still be able to see posts you've **'liked'**, even if your profile settings are private, because this depends on the privacy settings of the original poster.
- **Google your name** to see what information about you is visible to the public.
- Prevent search engines from indexing your profile so that people can't **search for you by name** – go to bit.ly/2zMdVht to find out how to do this.
- Remember that **some information is always public**: your display name, profile picture, cover photo, user ID (in the URL for your profile), country, age range and gender.

What to do if ...

A student adds you on social media

- In the first instance, ignore and delete the request. Block the student from viewing your profile
- Check your privacy settings again, and consider changing your display name or profile picture
- If the student asks you about the friend request in person, tell them that you're not allowed to accept friend requests from students and that if they persist, you'll have to notify senior leadership and/or their parents/carers. If the student persists, take a screenshot of their request and any accompanying messages
- Notify the senior leadership team or the headteacher about what's happening

A parent/carer adds you on social media

- It is at your discretion whether to respond. Bear in mind that:

- Responding to one parent/carer's friend request or message might set an unwelcome precedent for both you and other teachers at the college
- Students may then have indirect access through their parent/carer's account to anything you post, share, comment on or are tagged in.
- If you wish to decline the offer or ignore the message, consider drafting a stock response to let the parent/carer know that you're doing so.

You're being harassed on social media, or somebody is spreading something offensive about you:

- **Do not** retaliate or respond in any way
- Save evidence of any abuse by taking screenshots and recording the time and date it occurred
- Report the material to Facebook or the relevant social network and ask them to remove it
- If the perpetrator is a current student or staff member, our mediation and disciplinary procedures are usually sufficient to deal with online incidents
- If the perpetrator is a parent/carer or other external adult, a senior member of staff should invite them to a meeting to address any reasonable concerns or complaints and/or request they remove the offending comments or material
- If the comments are racist, sexist, of a sexual nature or constitute a hate crime, you or a senior leader should consider contacting the police

**Acceptable use of the college's ICT facilities and internet:
agreement for students and parents/carers**

Name of student:

When I use the college's ICT facilities (like computers and equipment) and go on the internet in college, I will not:

- Use them without asking a teacher first, or without a teacher in the room with me.
- Use them to break college rules.
- Go on any inappropriate websites.
- Go on Facebook or other social networking sites (unless my teacher said I could as part of a lesson)
- Use chat rooms.
- Open any attachments in emails, or click any links in emails, without checking with a teacher first.
- Use mean or rude language when talking to other people online or in emails.
- Send any photos, videos or livestreams of people (including me) who aren't wearing all of their clothes.
- Share my password with others or log in using someone else's name or password.
- Bully other people.
- Use artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots, such as ChatGPT or Google Bard, to create images or write for me, and then submit it as my own work.

I understand that the college will check the websites I visit and how I use the college's computers and equipment. This is so that they can help keep me safe and make sure I'm following the rules.

I will tell a teacher or a member of staff I know immediately if I find anything on a college computer or online that upsets me, or that I know is mean or wrong.

I will always be responsible when I use the college's ICT systems and internet.

I understand that the college can discipline me if I do certain unacceptable things online, even if I'm not in college when I do them.

Signed (student):

Date:

Parent/carer agreement: I agree that my child can use the college's ICT systems and internet when appropriately supervised by a member of college staff. I agree to the conditions set out above for students using the college's ICT systems and internet, and for using personal electronic devices in college, and will make sure my child understands these.

Signed (parent/carer):

Date:

Appendix 1: Acceptable use agreement for staff, governors, volunteers and visitors

Acceptable use of the college's ICT facilities and the internet: agreement for staff, governors, volunteers and visitors

Name of staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor:

When using the college's ICT facilities and accessing the internet in college, or outside college on a work device, I will not:

- Access, or attempt to access inappropriate material, including but not limited to material of a violent, criminal or pornographic nature (or create, share, link to or send such material)
- Use them in any way which could harm the college's reputation.
- Access social networking sites or chat rooms.
- Use any improper language when communicating online, including in emails or other messaging services.
- Install any unauthorised software, or connect unauthorised hardware or devices to the college's network.
- Share my password with others or log in to the college's network using someone else's details.
- Share confidential information about the college, its students or staff, or other members of the community.
- Access, modify or share data I'm not authorised to access, modify or share.
- Promote any private business, unless that business is directly related to the college.

I understand that the college will monitor the websites I visit and my use of the college's ICT facilities and systems.

I will take all reasonable steps to ensure that work devices are secure and password-protected when using them outside college, and keep all data securely stored in accordance with this policy and the college's data protection policy.

I will let the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and IT Manager know if a student informs me they have found any material which might upset, distress or harm them or others, and will also do so if I encounter any such material.

I will always use the college's ICT systems and internet responsibly, and ensure that students in my care do so too.

Signed (staff member/governor/volunteer/visitor):

Date:

Appendix 2: Glossary of cyber security terminology

These key terms will help you to understand the common forms of cyber-attack and the measures the college will put in place. They're from the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) [glossary](#).

TERM	DEFINITION
Antivirus	Software designed to detect, stop and remove malicious software and viruses.
Breach	When your data, systems or networks are accessed or changed in a non-authorized way.
Cloud	Where you can store and access your resources (including data and software) via the internet, instead of locally on physical devices.
Cyber attack	An attempt to access, damage or disrupt your computer systems, networks or devices maliciously.
Cyber incident	Where the security of your system or service has been breached.
Cyber security	The protection of your devices, services and networks (and the information they contain) from theft or damage.
Download attack	Where malicious software or a virus is downloaded unintentionally onto a device without the user's knowledge or consent.
Firewall	Hardware or software that uses a defined rule set to constrain network traffic – this is to prevent unauthorized access to or from a network.
Hacker	Someone with some computer skills who uses them to break into computers, systems and networks.
Malware	Malicious software. This includes viruses, trojans or any code or content that can adversely impact individuals or organisations.
Patching	Updating firmware or software to improve security and/or enhance functionality.
Pentest	Short for penetration test. This is an authorized test of a computer network or system to look for security weaknesses.
Pharming	An attack on your computer network that means users are redirected to a wrong or illegitimate website even if they type in the right website address.
Phishing	Untargeted, mass emails sent to many people asking for sensitive information (such as bank

TERM	DEFINITION
	details) or encouraging them to visit a fake website.
Ransomware	Malicious software that stops you from using your data or systems until you make a payment.
Social engineering	Manipulating people into giving information or carrying out specific actions that an attacker can use.
Spear-phishing	A more targeted form of phishing where an email is designed to look like it's from a person the recipient knows and/or trusts.
Trojan	A type of malware/virus designed to look like legitimate software that can be used to hack a victim's computer.
Two-factor/multi-factor authentication	Using 2 or more different components to verify a user's identity.
Virus	Programmes designed to self-replicate and infect legitimate software programs or systems.
Virtual private network (VPN)	An encrypted network which allows remote users to connect securely.
Whaling	Highly- targeted phishing attacks (where emails are made to look legitimate) aimed at senior people in an organisation.