



GRANGE INFANT SCHOOL

ICT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

This policy applies to all employees and volunteers within the school and in respect of all ICT resources and equipment within the school and resources that have been made available to staff/governors for working at home. ICT resources and equipment includes computer resources, use of school internet/network access and email systems, software (including use of software such as IBC and Arbor), school telephones and text systems, cameras and recording equipment, intranet and virtual learning environment and any other electronic or communication equipment used in the course of the employee or volunteer's work.

This policy also provides advice to members of staff and volunteers in respect of the potential risks and consequences in relation to inappropriate use of their own personal ICT facilities, where this use is inconsistent with the expectations of staff working with children and young people. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Code of Conduct.

Access

School staff/volunteers will be provided with a log- on where they are entitled to use the school ICT facilities and advised what hardware and software they are permitted to access, including access to the internet and email. Unless indicated, staff/volunteers can use any facilities available subject to the facilities not being in use by pupils or other colleagues. Access is provided to enable staff/governors to both perform their role and to enable the wider staff/volunteers in the school to benefit from such facilities.

Where staff/volunteers have been provided with a school email address to enable them to perform their role effectively, it would not normally be used to communicate with parents and pupils unless express permission has been provided. Where staff/volunteers are able to access email outside of school's hours, the email facility should not routinely be used to undertake school business outside of normal office hours. (The Headteacher and admin office email address are the only individual address shared under safeguarding to enable families to make contact during holidays and weekends.)

Access to certain software packages and systems (e.g., Hampshire Services for Schools; IBC (HR, finance and procurement system, ARBOR, Perspective Lite, school texting services) will be restricted to nominated staff/volunteers and unless permission and access has been provided, staff/volunteers must not access these systems.

Some staff/volunteers may be provided with laptops and other equipment for the performance of their role. Where provided, staff/volunteers must ensure that their school laptop/other equipment is not accessible by others when in use at home and that it is not used inappropriately by themselves or others. Staff/volunteers must also ensure that they bring their laptop/equipment in as required for updating of software, licences, virus protection and annual inventory checks.

Where the school provides digital cameras, iPods and iPads and other recording equipment for educational and school business use and it is used away from the school site, it must be kept secure and safe. Where pictures of pupils are taken, staff/volunteers must ensure that consent has been provided by parents, and that the school's policy in relation to use of pictures, is followed. All pictures should be deleted off cameras and iPads/ iPods once used. Any pictures of children stored on the school network should be deleted when the child is no longer a pupil at the school.

As the school does not provide school mobile phones (aside from the HSLW), staff may use, in urgent or emergency situations during off site visits, their personal mobile telephones. Where used in these emergency situations and a cost incurred, the school will provide reimbursement of the cost of any calls made. Should staff/volunteers need to make contact whilst off site, this should normally be undertaken via the school rather than a direct call from the individual's personal mobile. School staff/volunteers who have access to colleagues' personal contact details must ensure that they are kept confidential.

No mobile telephones or similar devices, even those with hands free facilities should be used whilst driving on school business.

Whether school staff/volunteers have access to the school telephone system for personal use will be confirmed by the school. Where such use is made of this facility, it must be done during break periods, must not be excessive and the school should require either the cost of the call or a donation to be made towards the cost of the call.

Communication with parents, pupils and governors

The school communicates with parents/carers and governors through a variety of mechanisms. The points below highlight who is normally authorised to use which systems and can directly communicate without requiring any approval before use or to agree content. School must indicate to staff/volunteers if any other staff/volunteers are permitted to make contact using the systems below:

School Telephones – all teachers, administrative staff and staff who have been permitted through their roles in pupil welfare or a home/school link staff. Normally teaching assistants and lunchtime supervisory staff would need to seek approval from a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) where they feel they need to make a telephone call to a parent.

Text System – All Teachers and office staff. Where other staff need to send a text, this is normally approved by a member of the SLT.

Letters – Teachers may send letters home, but they will be required to have these approved by the Headteacher/Year Group Leader before sending. Where office staff send letters home these will normally require approval by the Headteacher. Some letters may be sent electronically to reduce paper use.

Email – school email accounts should not be used for communication with parents unless approved by a member of the SLT. Email is used as a normal method of communication amongst school governors and where governors are linked in particular areas with members of staff, communication may take place via email. All email correspondence related to school business should be through a school email address, all documents sent and received should be through a school email address. *The headteacher's email will be accessible to parents under safeguarding out of school hours.*

Class Dojo- All teaching and admin staff may communicate with parents through the whole school story/class story/ or the messenger APP within the secured site

Under normal circumstances, school staff should not be using any of the methods outlined above to communicate directly with pupils. In the unlikely event that a member of staff needs to contact pupils direct via any of these methods, this must be approved by the Headteacher.

Where pupils are submitting work electronically to school staff, this must be undertaken where possible using school systems and not via personal email. The submission of work will either be through Class Dojo or through Google classroom.

Social Networking: PLEASE SEE SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Unacceptable Use

Appendix 1 provides a list of Do's and Don'ts for school staff/volunteers to enable them to protect themselves from inappropriate use of ICT resources and equipment. School systems and resources must not be used under any circumstances for the following purposes:

- to communicate any information that is confidential to the school or to communicate/share confidential information which the member of staff/volunteer does not have authority to share
- to present any personal views and opinions as the views of the school, or to make any comments that are libellous, slanderous, false or misrepresent others
- to access, view, download, post, email or otherwise transmit pornography, sexually suggestive or any other type of offensive, obscene or discriminatory material
- to communicate anything via ICT resources and systems or post that may be regarded as defamatory, derogatory, discriminatory, harassing, bullying or offensive, either internally or externally
- to communicate anything via ICT resources and systems or post that may be regarded as critical of the school, the leadership of the school, the school's staff/volunteers or its pupils
- to upload, download, post, email or otherwise transmit or store material that contains software viruses or any other computer code, files or programmes designed to interrupt, damage, destroy or limit the functionality of any computer software or hardware or telecommunications equipment
- to collect or store personal information about others without direct reference to the Data Protection Act
- To use the school's facilities to undertake any trading, gambling, other action for personal financial gain, or political purposes, unless as part of an authorised curriculum project
- to visit or use any online messaging service, social networking site, chat site, web-based email or discussion forum not supplied or authorised by the school
- to undertake any activity (whether communicating, accessing, viewing, sharing, uploading or downloading) which has negative implications for the safeguarding of children and young people

Any of the above activities are likely to be regarded as gross misconduct, which may, after proper investigation, lead to dismissal. If employees are unsure about the use of ICT resources including email and the intranet, advice should be sought from a member of the SLT or ICT lead if applicable.

Where an individual accidentally accesses a website or material that they consider to be pornographic or offensive, this should be reported immediately to the Headteacher or another member of the SLT. Schools are encouraged to use appropriate blocking software to avoid the potential for this to happen. Reporting to the Headteacher or SLT equally applies where school staff/volunteers are using school equipment or facilities at home and accidentally access inappropriate sites or material. Internet access is filtered by Agile ICT and Hampshire County Council. This works by means of a 'disallowed' list, so that inappropriate sites are filtered before they get to school. However, because of the nature of the Internet, there is a possibility that an inappropriate site can be accessed. If this happens, the school should contact Agile ICT and report the problem. The incident should also be reported to the headteacher, who may wish to report it to HCC. The child's parents should be informed and, if appropriate, the teacher should have a sensitive chat with the child concerned in the event that a child has gained access.

Where an individual has been communicated with in a manner outlined above (e.g. has received an inappropriate email or attachment), they are advised to report this immediately to the Headteacher or another member of the SLT so that this can be dealt with appropriately.

Personal and private use

All school staff/volunteers with access to computer equipment, including email and internet, are permitted to use them for occasional personal use provided that this is access is not:

- taking place at the expense of contracted working hours (i.e. is not taking place during paid working time)
- interfering with the individual's work
- relating to a personal business interest
- involving the use of news groups, chat lines or similar social networking services
- at a cost to the school
- detrimental to the education or welfare of pupils at the school

Excessive personal use of school facilities is likely to be considered to be a disciplinary matter, may lead to restricted access to computer equipment and where costs are incurred (e.g. personal telephone use), the school will seek reimbursement from the member of staff/volunteer.

It is important for staff/volunteers to also be aware that inappropriate use of their own or other ICT facilities in their personal time, can have implications for their employment situation where this becomes known and the activities that are undertaken are inconsistent with the expectations of staff/volunteers working with children and young people.

Where school staff/volunteers have brought their own personal equipment such as mobile telephones, digital assistants, laptops and cameras, into the school, these personal items should not be used during pupil contact sessions unless authorised. Photographs of children at school events etc should only be taken on school authorised equipment unless permission is given by the Headteacher. Staff should follow all points outlined in this section in relation to their personal use. Staff/volunteers should ensure that there is no inappropriate content on any of these pieces of equipment and ensure that they are not accessed by pupils at any time. Such equipment should not normally be required to enable staff/volunteers to undertake their role but where it is used; staff/volunteers should take care to ensure any school data/images are deleted following use of the equipment.

Whilst individuals may be required to use their personal mobile telephone to make contact with the school, staff should exercise care and seek reimbursement as outlined in previous sections.

Security and confidentiality

Any concerns about the security of the ICT system should be raised with a member of the SLT.

Staff are required to ensure that they keep any passwords confidential, do not select a password that is easily guessed and regularly change such passwords. Supply staff and students should log on using the designated logon rather than using those of a class teacher. They can contact the ICT lead to obtain the log on details or speak to a member of the Office team.

School staff/volunteers must take account of any advice issued regarding what is permitted in terms of downloading educational and professional material to the school server. All staff must review the appropriateness of the material that they are downloading prior to downloading and are encouraged to do so from known and reputable sites to protect the integrity of the school's systems. Where problems are encountered in downloading material, this should be reported to the school's ICT lead.

Where staff/volunteers are permitted to work on material at home they should access the network through the proper remote log in procedure, making sure they log off properly. Use of USB memory sticks and other portable devices are not permitted.

Following UK GDPR guidelines, USB memory sticks should not be used to transport pupil data or information. Where provided, staff should normally use their school issued laptop for such work.

Staff must ensure that they follow appropriate and agreed approval processes before uploading material for use by pupils to the pupil ICT system and/or VLE.

Whilst any members of school staff may be involved in drafting material for the school website, staff must ensure that they follow appropriate and agreed approval processes before uploading material to the website. Website access and administration rights are limited to the Office staff only.

The school will nominate staff who are responsible for ensuring that all equipment is regularly updated with new software including virus packages and that licences are maintained on all school based and school issued equipment. Staff/volunteers must ensure that they notify the nominated staff when reporting any concerns regarding potential viruses, inappropriate software or licences.

Staff/volunteers must ensure that their use of the school's ICT facilities does not compromise rights of any individuals under the Data Protection Act. This is also particularly important when communicating personal data via email rather than through secure systems. In these circumstances, staff/volunteers must ensure that they have the correct email address and have verified the identity of the person that they are communicating the data with.

Staff/volunteers must also ensure that they do not compromise any rights of individuals and companies under the laws of Copyright through their use of ICT facilities.

Monitoring

The school uses AGILE ICT for Education services and therefore is required to comply with their privacy policy which governs data collection, processing and usage practices. The school and AGILE ICT for Education reserve the right to monitor the use of email, internet and where data may be accessed or intercepted in the following circumstances:

- to ensure that the security of the school's hardware, software, networks and systems are not compromised
- to prevent or detect crime or unauthorised use of the school's hardware, software, networks or systems
- to gain access to communications where necessary where a user is absent from work

Where staff/volunteers have access to the internet during the course of their work, it is important for them to be aware that the school or AGILE ICT for Education may track the history of the internet sites that have been visited.

To protect the right to privacy, any interception of personal and private communications will not take place unless grounds exist to show evidence of crime, or other unlawful or unauthorised use. Such interception and access will only take place following approval by the Chair of Governors, after discussions with relevant staff in Hampshire County Council's HR, IT and Audit Services and following an assessment to determine whether access or interception is justified.

Whistleblowing and cyber bullying

Staff/volunteers, who have concerns about any abuse or inappropriate use of ICT resources, virtual learning environments, camera/recording equipment, telephony, social networking sites, email or internet facilities or inappropriate communications, whether by pupils or colleagues, should alert the Headteacher to such abuse. Where a concern relates to the Headteacher, this should be disclosed to the Chair of Governors. If any matter concerns child safety, it should also be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and could lead to a referral to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

It is recognised that increased use of ICT has led to cyber bullying and/or concerns regarding e-safety of school staff. Staff/volunteers are strongly advised to notify their Headteacher where they are subject to such circumstances. Advice can also be sought from professional associations and trade unions. Support is also available through Hampshire's confidential counselling service, Employee Support Line (0800 028 0199) and also via the UK Safer Internet Centre <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

Review: This policy will be reviewed annually.

Agreed: This policy was agreed and ratified at the Governing Board meeting held 19th March 2025.

Date for next review: March 2026

Signed
Headteacher



Signed
Chair of Governors



Appendix 1

Dos and Don'ts: Advice for Staff/Volunteers

Whilst the wide range of ICT systems and resources available to staff/volunteers, both in school and outside of school, have irrefutable advantages, there are also potential risks that staff/volunteers must be aware of. Ultimately if staff/volunteers use ICT resources inappropriately, this may become a matter for a police or social care investigation and/or a disciplinary issue which could lead to their dismissal. Staff/volunteers should also be aware that this extends to inappropriate use of ICT outside of school.

This Dos and Don'ts list has been written as a guidance document. Whilst it is not fully comprehensive of every circumstance that may arise, it indicates the types of behaviours and actions that staff/volunteers should not display or undertake as well as those that they should in order to protect themselves from risk.

General issues

Do

- ensure that you do not breach any restrictions that there may be on your use of school systems or resources
- ensure that where a password is required for access to a system, that it is not inappropriately disclosed
- respect copyright and intellectual property rights
- ensure that you have approval for any personal use of the school's ICT resources and facilities
- be aware that the school's systems will be monitored and recorded to ensure policy compliance
- ensure you comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act when using personal data
- seek approval before taking personal data off of the school site. No data to be carried on USB sticks
- be aware that a breach of your school's ICT Acceptable Use Policy will be a disciplinary matter and, in some cases, may lead to dismissal
- ensure that any equipment provided for use at home is not accessed by anyone not approved to use it
- ensure that you have received adequate training in ICT
- ensure that your use of ICT bears due regard to your personal health and safety and that of others
- ensure personal data is stored safely and securely whether kept on site, taken off site or accessed remotely
- report any suspected misuse or concerns that you have regarding the school's systems, resources and equipment to the Headteacher or designated manager and/or Child Protection Liaison Officer as appropriate

Don't

- access or use any systems, resources or equipment without being sure that you have permission to do so
- compromise any confidentiality requirements in relation to material and resources accessed through ICT systems
- use other people's log on and password details to access school systems and resources
- use unsecure removable storage devices to store personal data
- communicate with parents and pupils outside normal working hours unless absolutely necessary and only through class dojo
- access or use any systems or resources or equipment for any purpose that you don't have permission to use the system, resources or equipment for
- use systems, resources or equipment for personal use without having approval to do so
- download, upload or install any hardware or software without approval
- use school systems for personal financial gain, gambling, political activity or advertising

Use of email, the internet, Virtual Learning Environments (VLE) and HCC intranets

Do

- alert your Headteacher or designated manager if you receive inappropriate content via email
- be aware that the school's email system will be monitored and recorded to ensure policy compliance
- ensure that your email communications are compatible with your professional role
- give full consideration as to whether it is appropriate to communicate with pupils or parents via email, or whether another communication mechanism (which may be more secure and where messages are less open to misinterpretation) is more appropriate
- be aware that the school may intercept emails where it believes that there is inappropriate use
- seek support to block spam
- alert your Headteacher or designated manager if you accidentally access a website with inappropriate content
- be aware that a website log is recorded by the school and will be monitored to ensure policy compliance
- answer email messages from pupils and parents within your directed time
- mark personal emails by typing 'Personal/Private' within the subject header line

Don't

- send via email or download from email, any inappropriate content
- send messages that could be misinterpreted or misunderstood
- use personal email addresses to communicate with pupils or parents
- send messages in the heat of the moment
- send messages that may be construed as defamatory, discriminatory, derogatory, offensive or rude
- use email systems to communicate with parents or pupils unless approved to do so
- download attachments from emails without being sure of the security and content of the attachment
- forward email messages without the sender's consent unless the matter relates to a safeguarding concern or other serious matter which must be brought to a senior manager's attention
- access or download inappropriate content (material which is illegal, obscene, libellous, offensive or threatening) from the internet or upload such content to the school or HCC intranet
- upload any material onto the school website that doesn't meet style requirements and without approval

Use of telephones, mobile telephones and instant messaging

Do

- ensure that your communications are compatible with your professional role
- ensure that you comply with your school's policy on use of personal mobile telephones
- ensure that you reimburse your school for personal telephone calls as required
- use school mobile telephones when on educational visits

Don't

- send messages that could be misinterpreted or misunderstood
- excessively use the school's telephone system for personal calls
- use personal or school mobile telephones when driving
- use the camera function on personal or school mobile telephones to take images of colleagues, pupils or of the school

Use of cameras and recording equipment

Do

- ensure that material recorded is for educational purposes only
- ensure that where recording equipment is to be used, approval has been given to do so
- ensure that material recorded is stored appropriately and destroyed in accordance with the school's policy
- ensure that parental consent has been given before you take pictures of school pupils

Don't

- bring personal recording equipment into school without the prior approval of the Headteacher
- Inappropriately Access, view, share or use material recorded other than for the purpose for which it has been recorded
- Put material onto the VLE, school network without prior agreement from a member of the SLT

Use of social networking sites

Do

- ensure that you understand how any site you use operates and therefore the risks associated with using the site
- familiarise yourself with the processes for reporting misuse of the site
- consider carefully who you accept as friends on a social networking site
- report to your Headteacher any incidents where a pupil has sought to become your friend through a social networking site
- take care when publishing information about yourself and images of yourself on line – assume that anything you release will end up in the public domain
- ask yourself about whether you would feel comfortable about a current or prospective employer, colleague, pupil or parent viewing the content of your page
- follow school procedures for contacting parents and/or pupils
- only contact pupils and/or parents via school-based computer systems
- through your teaching, alert pupils to the risk of potential misuse of social networking sites (where employed in a teaching role)

Don't

- spend excessive time utilising social networking sites while at work
- accept friendship requests from pupils or parents – you may be giving them access to personal information, and allowing them to contact you inappropriately
- put information or images on line or share them with colleagues, pupils, or parents (either on or off site) when the nature of the material may be controversial
- post anything that may be interpreted as slanderous towards colleagues, pupils or parents
- use social networking sites to contact parts and/or pupil

GRANGE INFANT SCHOOL
ICT ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT
Appendix 2

Staff/volunteers must comply with the terms of this policy. Any breach will be considered to be a breach of disciplinary rules, which may lead to a disciplinary sanction (e.g., warning), dismissal, and/or withdrawal of access to ICT facilities. Staff/volunteers should be aware, that in certain instances, inappropriate use of ICT may become a matter for police or social care investigations.

The ICT Acceptable Use policy applies to:

- all members of staff, including teaching and support staff;
- volunteers, including governors;
- casual workers;
- temporary and supply staff, either from agencies or engaged directly;
- student placements, including those undertaking initial teacher training, and apprentices.

References to 'staff' throughout the ICT Acceptable Use policy refer to all of the above groups.

Breach or failure to observe the provisions of this document may lead to:

- Action being taken under the school disciplinary procedure
- Instant disciplinary for any staff member
- Termination of placement for a Student or Volunteer
- Instant removal from the Governing Board for a Governor

I have read and understood the ICT Acceptable Use document and agree to abide by it at all times.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

This document will be retained and kept on record.