

**“PASSIONATE ABOUT CELEBRATING
LEARNING, ENJOYMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT
FOR ALL”**



E-SAFETY AND ACCEPTABLE USE OF ICT POLICY

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Date of next Review:	April 2028
Signed – Headteacher	<i>A. NEALE</i>

Introduction

New technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people in today's society, both within schools and in their lives outside school.

The internet and other digital and information technologies are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone and are an essential element in 21st century life for education. As part of their learning experience the school has a duty to provide pupils with quality Internet access along with an understanding of how to safely use other information technologies.

The purpose of ICT and internet use at Tiverton School is to:

- Raise standards, promote student engagement and achievement
- Support the professional work and development of staff
- Enhance the school's management information and administration systems

Children and young people should have an entitlement to safe internet access at all times.

The requirement to ensure that children and young people are able to use the internet and related communications technologies appropriately and safely is addressed as part of the wider duty of care to which all who work at Tiverton School are bound. The school e-Safety policy should help to ensure safe and appropriate use. The development and implementation of such a strategy should involve all the stakeholders in a child's education from the head teacher and governors to the senior leaders and classroom teachers, support staff, parents, and the students themselves (if appropriate).

The resources used by pupils in school are carefully chosen by the teacher and determined by our curriculum. However, use of the internet, by its nature, will provide access to information which has not been selected by the teacher. Whilst pupils will often be directed to sites which provide reviewed and evaluated sources, they may move beyond these (through choice or accidentally), to sites unfamiliar to the teacher. There is therefore a genuine cause for concern and a need to raise awareness in order to promote the highest possible levels of safeguarding. This policy has been developed in order to allow staff, parents and pupils to have an awareness of internet safety issues, and some guidelines for the safe and responsible use of the internet. The procedures and guidelines within it aim to balance the obvious benefits and educational potential of internet use, whilst providing safeguards against the risks.

Risks

- Copyright infringement
- Obsessive use of the internet and ICT
- Exposure to inappropriate materials
- Inappropriate, antisocial or illegal behaviour
- Physical danger and abuse
- "Cyberbullying"
- Inappropriate use of social networking media

With these risks in mind, students at Tiverton School will:

- Have the school's e-safety rules explained
- Be supervised appropriately
- Be given clear objectives for internet use
- Be educated in responsible and effective internet use

Control Measures

The following measures have been adopted to help ensure that students are not exposed to unsuitable materials:

- The school operates a "firewall" to prevent unwanted network use, and a filtering system to prevent access to inappropriate material
- The School follow the guidelines from the DFE on internet monitoring and filtering
- Staff will check that sites pre-selected for use are appropriately screened in order to ensure suitability
- Staff will supervise internet use appropriately and be particularly vigilant when allowing students to undertake their own searches
- Students will be taught to use the internet and email responsibly and safely
- Students may use email as part of planned lessons. In this instance, outgoing messages will be checked by staff members. Any in-coming messages will not be regarded as private and will be screened by staff.
- Students will be taught about the potential risks of email attachments
- The school will employ anti-virus and anti-phishing control measures
- Rules for responsible internet use will be on display
- Forensic software is used to monitor internet usage and reports inappropriate usage to the technicians, Headteacher and Safeguarding lead.
- A record of any 'incidents' will be recorded and dealt with inline with the schools expectations for behavior.

A connection to the internet can significantly increase the risk that the school network can become affected by a virus or accessed remotely by unauthorized persons. The ICT technicians are responsible for regularly updating virus protection and will keep up to date with new developments in order to ensure that system security strategies are improved as and when necessary. In common with other media, some material available on the internet is unsuitable for students. The school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that students may only access appropriate material.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is defined by the Department for Education (DFE) as "Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place using technology. Whether on social media sites, through a mobile phone, or gaming sites, the effects can be devastating for the young person involved." DFE, 2014.

Cyberbullying along with any other forms of bullying by a member of the school community will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in line with the school anti-bullying policy.

Personal use of the internet and computers by staff

During the school day it is acceptable for staff to access the internet using school computers or laptops for personal reasons as long as this is not during work time and private usage is restricted to breaks and lunchtimes. This is also with the understanding that all material accessed is appropriate and that the IT technicians have the right to monitor individual usage and report any concerns to the Headteacher and safeguarding lead.

Staff must not access any form of social media using school devices. This includes use of school laptops outside of working hours to access such sites as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Staff should not use school computers or laptops to make any kind of financial transactions i.e. ebay, paypal.

For personal security reasons staff should not store any private information on school laptops.

Staff are not permitted to download software onto school laptops or computers, the addition of new software must be with the agreement of the IT technicians.

Staff must ensure personal use complies with the following:

- It must not be to the detriment of the purpose for which access was provided, e.g. school business
- Any exceptions to the personal use allowance must be formally approved by line management, e.g. additional personal use for approved study purposes
- It is not for commercial or profit-making purpose or other form of personal financial gain and does not result in unauthorised expenditure to the school, e.g. excessive printing
- It does not conflict with a user's obligations to the school, as their employer, or with any of the school's policies or procedures.

Any damage to school ICT equipment must be reported to the IT technician immediately.

All laptops and class iPads must be handed to the IT technicians on a need basis for general maintenance purposes; which could include inspections, tests, replacement of hardware, installation of new software or cabling, as well as for any other reasonable purpose.

School Website and content

The aim of the school website is to promote the school, enhance communication and publish information, and celebrate student's achievements. The overall editorial responsibility lies with the Headteacher who will ensure that the content is accurate and appropriate.

- Photographs used on the website that include students will only be published after being carefully selected.
- Permission to use images will be obtained from parents/carers before images are published. This record will be updated annually or on parent carers request.
- Images and supporting text will not allow individuals to be identified.

- Student's names will not be included anywhere on the website.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

At Tiverton we understand that our technology is changing rapidly. One major recent update has been the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Generative AI is one type of AI. The DfE defines this as technology that can be used to create new content based on large volumes of data that models have been trained on a variety of sources (DfE, 2025).

ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot and Google Gemini are generative AI tools, built on large language models (LLMs). LLMs are a category of foundation models trained on large amounts of data, enabling them to understand and generate human-like content (DfE, 2025).

Ofcom's 2025 research shows that half of all children have interacted with AI in some way (Ofcom, 2025).

- This can lead to risks linked to misinformation, deep fakes or online safety.

Knowing how AI is used can help us spot risks early like misinformation, impersonation or exposure to inappropriate content. It is important that as parents and staff we stay up to date and aware of digital technology that children could be using. This includes, building trust, staying curious and asking open questions is important.

At Tiverton, we have identified how we incorporate key safeguarding messages around the use of advanced technology and artificial intelligence within our ICT curriculum. This includes the knowledge, skills, safeguarding messages and examples of activities within each phase.

Staff use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at Tiverton School

From the DfE research and engagement (DfE, 2025) they explain how generative AI could be used:

Creating educational resources, lesson and curriculum planning, creating tailored feedback and revision activities, administrative tasks and supporting personalised learning.

When used appropriately, generative AI has the potential to:

Reduce workload across the education sector and free up teachers' time, allowing them to focus on delivering excellent teaching.

However, the content produced by generative AI could be:

Inaccurate, inappropriate or unsafe, biased, taken out of context, taken without permission (intellectual property infringement), out of date or unreliable and low quality.

This is because generative AI:

Returns results based on its training dataset, which may not be specific to our curriculum. It stores and learns from input data – any data entered should not contain information that could allow an individual

to be identified. It may not provide results that are comparable with a human-designed resource developed in the context of our curriculum. It can generate believable content, including credible scam emails. It can provide instructions for illegal or harmful activities. It can produce nonsensical, inaccurate or false information presented as fact, known as hallucinations (DfE, 2025).

The DfE also indicate that they see more immediate benefits and fewer risks from teacher-facing use of generative AI.

At Tiverton, staff must not use personal pupil information as per The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) guidelines in AI tools/systems. The use of AI technologies is subject to the school's safeguarding procedures, online safety practices, filtering and monitoring systems, acceptable use agreements, and staff code of conduct.

Working with parents

Parents and carers can access this policy via the school website. Printed copies for those without internet access can be requested. Parents have a key role to play in promoting internet safety by adopting control measures at home and reinforcing the messages taught at school. The school will endeavor to promote internet and e-safety, by advising parents whenever possible. Internet safety guidance will be made available via the school website.

Maintaining Information Systems Security

- The security of the school information systems and users will be reviewed regularly.
- Virus protection will be updated regularly.
- Portable media may not be used without specific permission alongside an anti-virus/malware scan on a regular basis.
- Unapproved software will not be allowed in work areas or attached to email.
- Files held on the school's network will be regularly checked.
- The network manager will review system capacity regularly.
- Use of user logins and passwords to access the school network will be enforced.

Password Security

The school will be responsible for ensuring that the school infrastructure/network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible and that:

- Users can only access data to which they have right of access.
- No user should be able to access another's files, without permission (or as allowed for monitoring purposes within the school's policies).
- Access to personal data is securely controlled in line with the school's personal data policy.
- Logs are maintained of access by users and of their actions while users of the system.

A safe and secure username/password system is essential if the above is to be established and will apply to all school ICT systems including email.

The management of password security will be the responsibility of the IT Technicians.

Responsibilities

All staff will have responsibility for the security of their username and password, must not allow other users to access the systems using their log-on details and must immediately report any suspicion or evidence that there has been a breach of security. Any changes carried out must be notified to the member of staff responsible for issuing and coordinating password security. Users are recommended to change their passwords every 6 months.

Training/Awareness

It is essential that users are made aware of the need to keep passwords secure, and the risks attached to unauthorised access/data loss.

Members of staff will be made aware of the school's password security procedures:

- At induction.
- Through the school's e-Safety policy.
- Through the Acceptable Use Agreement.

All users will have clearly defined access rights to school ICT systems. Details of the access rights available to groups of users will be recorded by the Network Manager.

Audit/Monitoring/Reporting/Review

The IT Technicians will monitor and maintain a log of the use of the internet and other forms of information technologies, any evidence of misuse will be reported to the Headteacher immediately.

The network manager will ensure that full records are kept of:

- User IDs and requests for password changes
- User log-ons
- Security incidents related to this policy.

In the event of a serious security incident, the police may request and will be allowed access to passwords used for encryption. Local Authority Auditors also have the right of access to passwords for audit investigation purposes.

User lists, IDs and other security related information must be given the highest security classification and stored in a secure manner (safe).

Email

All staff will be given a school email account for the purpose of school business.

It is the responsibility of each account holder to keep the password secure. For the safety and security of users and recipients, all mail is filtered and logged, if necessary e-mail histories can be traced. The

school email account should be the account that is used for all school business.

School email accounts should not be used for communication with parents unless approved by a member of the senior leadership team. Email is used as a normal method of communication amongst school governors and where governors are linked areas with members of staff, communication may take place via email.

All emails should be written and checked carefully before sending, in the same way as a letter sent on school headed paper.

When sending emails to external organizations staff are advised to CC. their line manager or the Headteacher.

Confidential information should never be sent. Where information needs to be sent via email staff must:

- depersonalise the communication.
- encrypted storage devices must be used for transporting confidential information.
- encrypt any documentation using an appropriate AES encryption process.
- verify the details, including accurate e-mail address, of any intended recipient of the information.
- verify (by phoning) the details of a requestor before responding to e-mail requests for information.
- not copy or forward the e-mail to any more recipients than is absolutely necessary.
- not send information to anybody/person whose details have not been separately verified (usually by phone).

Personal Information

‘Personally identifiable information (PII), or sensitive personal information (SPI), as used in information security and privacy laws, is information that can be used on its own or with other information to identify, contact, or locate a single person, or to identify an individual in context.’

It is the responsibility of all staff using such information, to ensure that it is password protected and, in some cases, encrypted on school devices. Should it need to be ‘transported’ then school encrypted memory devices must be used. Once this information has been used it will be removed from such devices.

Social media and networking

Social media is the term commonly used for websites which allow people to interact with each other in some way – by sharing information, opinions, knowledge and interests. Social networking websites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are perhaps the most well-known examples of social media but the term also covers other web based services such as blogs, video and audio podcasts, wikis, message boards, photo-document and video sharing websites such as Flickr, YouTube and micro blogging services such as Twitter. This definition of social media is not exhaustive as technology develops with new ways of communicating advancing every day. All adults working in school have a responsibility to safeguard the welfare and best interests of students and each other. It is therefore expected that they will adopt high standards of personal conduct in order to maintain the confidence and respect of their colleagues,

pupils or students, public in general and all those with whom they work.

Adults in contact with students should therefore understand and be aware that safe practice also involves using judgement and integrity about behaviours in places other than the work setting.

School staff should always maintain appropriate professional boundaries and avoid behaviour, during their use of the internet and other communication technologies, which might be misinterpreted by others. In addition, they should report and record any incident with this potential.

Staff should be aware of the dangers of putting personal information onto social networking sites, such as addresses, home and mobile phone numbers. This will avoid the potential for students or their families or friends having access to staff outside of the school environment. It also reduces the potential for identity theft by third parties.

All staff, particularly new staff, should review their social networking sites when they join the school to ensure that information available publicly about them is accurate and appropriate. This includes any photographs that may cause embarrassment to themselves and the school.

Staff should never 'friend' a student at the school or a parent of a student onto their social networking site. Staff should never use or access social networking sites of students/parents and should never accept an invitation to 'friend' a pupil/parent.

Confidentiality needs to be considered at all times. Social networking sites have the potential to discuss inappropriate information and employees need to ensure that they do not put any confidential information on their site about themselves, school, their colleagues, students or members of the public.

Staff, parents and other adults need to ensure that when they are communicating online, they give due regard to the potential for defamation of character. Making allegations on social networking sites (even in their own time and in their own homes) about staff, students or other individuals connected with the school could result in formal action being taken against them. This includes making comments or the uploading of photographs which might put the school into disrepute.

Use of video and digital images

As a school we recognise the educational benefits that the development of video digital imaging technologies has on learning, allowing staff and students instant use of images that they have recorded themselves or downloaded from the internet. Therefore, with the written consent of parents (on behalf of pupils) and staff, the school permits the appropriate taking of images by staff and pupils with school equipment.

It is the responsibility of school staff to ensure that video/digital images are taken only to promote educational purposes or to record and celebrate student achievement.

Staff are not permitted to use personal digital equipment, such as mobile phones and cameras, smart watches or smart glasses, to record images of pupils, this includes when on field trips. Only school devices can be used.

At certain times teachers will find it necessary to store photographs on pen drives and laptops to enable

them to fulfill their duties, such activities may include writing school reports, collating records of achievement or preparing work samples for moderation. However, once the work has been completed all images must be deleted immediately. All photographs must be stored on password protected or encrypted devices.

Images may be stored on the school network for educational purposes only and will be reviewed regularly by the IT technicians.

Responding to incidents of concern

All staff must report to the Headteacher immediately should they have any concerns regarding inappropriate use of the internet or any other form of information technology. The Headteacher will undertake the appropriate investigation as soon as possible.

The Designated Person for Child Protection will be informed of any e-Safety incidents involving Child Protection concerns, which will then be escalated appropriately.

The school will inform parents/carers of any incidents of concerns as and when required.

After any investigations are completed, the school will debrief, identify lessons learnt and implement any changes required.

Where there is cause for concern that illegal activity has taken place or is taking place then the school will contact Children's Services and escalate the concern to the Police.

A log will be maintained of all incidents and reviewed regularly by SLT and governors.