

Blue Coat C.E. (Aided) Junior School



Acceptable Use Policy

Adopted: September 2025

To Review: September 2027

BLUE COAT C.E (AIDED) JUNIOR SCHOOL

Acceptable Use Policy 2025 - 2027

As a professional organisation with responsibility for children's safeguarding it is important that all staff take all possible and necessary measures to protect data and information systems from infection, unauthorised access, damage, loss, abuse and theft. All members of staff have a responsibility to use the school's computer system in a professional, lawful, and ethical manner. To ensure that members of staff are fully aware of their professional responsibilities when using Information Communication Technology - both the school systems and personal mobile technology and social media use, they are asked to read and sign this Acceptable Use Policy.

This is not an exhaustive list and all members of staff are reminded that ICT use should be consistent with the school ethos, other appropriate policies and the Law.

- 1) I understand that Information Systems and ICT include networks, data and data storage, online and offline communication technologies and access devices. Examples include mobile phones, tablets, digital cameras, smartwatches and other mobile and smart technology email and social media sites.
- 2) School owned information systems must be used appropriately. I understand that the Computer Misuse Act 1990 makes the following criminal offences: to gain unauthorised access to computer material; to gain unauthorised access to computer material with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences or to modify computer material without authorisation.
- 3) Mobile and Smart technology (including mobile phones, smartwatches, tablets etc)
 - a) Staff mobile phones will be stored in their secure locker or their locked desk drawer during the school day and may only be used outside school hours and during breaks.
 - b) Staff mobile phones are allowed in school, but are not allowed to be used in sensitive areas (cloak rooms, toilets, when children are changing, swimming). Mobile phones should only be used for communication when not working with children. Mobile phones should not be visible to pupils unless their use is linked to learning, for instance as a stopwatch or to play music.
 - c) Cameras on personal devices will not be used to take pictures of children in any circumstances.
 - d) In the event of needing to contact a parent/carers directly a school phone will be issued to the member of staff concerned.
- 4) I understand that any hardware and software provided by my school for staff use can only be used by members of staff and can only be used for school related work.
- 5) Personal use of school ICT systems and connectivity is only permitted with the consent of the headteacher.
- 6) To prevent unauthorised access to systems or personal data, I will not leave any information system unattended without first logging out or locking my login as appropriate.
- 7) I will respect system security and I will not disclose any password or security information. I will use a 'strong' password (A strong password has numbers, letters and symbols, with 10 or more characters).

- 8) I will not attempt to install any purchased or downloaded software, including browser toolbars, or hardware without permission from the system manager.
- 9) Data Protection {see also the school Data Protection Policy}
 - a) I will ensure that any personal data is kept in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This means that all personal data will be obtained and processed fairly and lawfully, only kept for specific purposes, held no longer than necessary and will be kept private and secure with appropriate security measures in place, whether used in the workplace, hosted online or accessed remotely.
 - b) If I choose to use a portable device (Phone, Tablet etc...) to collect my work e-mail I will ensure that the device is locked by a pin code or password and will be wiped when I dispose of the device.
 - c) I will not transfer sensitive personal information from my school e-mail account (e.g. EHCP's Safeguarding Reports, Medical Information) UNLESS the information is encrypted.
 - d) I will not keep professional documents which contain school-related personal information (including images, files, videos etc.) on any personally owned devices (such as laptops, digital cameras, mobile phones)
 - e) Digital Images or videos of pupils only be taken from the school premises using encrypted memory OR alternative secure transport method if extremely necessary.
 - f) I will not use unapproved cloud storage systems (Dropbox, icloud etc) for storing personal data of staff or pupils.
- 10) I will not store any personal information on the school computer system that is unrelated to school activities, such as personal photographs, files or financial information.
- 11) I will respect copyright and intellectual property rights.
- 12) Social Media:
 - a) I have read and understood the school Online Safety policy which covers the requirements for safe ICT use, including using appropriate devices, safe use of social media.
 - b) I will not communicate with pupils or ex-pupils using social media without the express permission of the Headteacher.
 - c) My electronic communications with pupils, parents/carers and other professionals will only take place via work approved communication channels e.g. via a school provided email address or telephone number. Any pre-existing relationships which may compromise this will be discussed with the Senior Leadership team. *This would include any relatives of current pupils that are my "friends" on a social media site.*
 - d) My use of ICT and information systems will always be compatible with my professional role, whether using school or personal systems. This includes the use of email, text, social media, social networking, gaming, web publications and any other devices or websites. My use of ICT will not interfere with my work duties and will be in accordance with the school AUP and the Law.

- e) I will not create, transmit, display, publish or forward any material that is likely to harass, cause offence, inconvenience or needless anxiety to any other person, or anything which could bring my professional role, the school, or the County Council, into disrepute. This would include any comment made, even in the belief that it is private on social media.
- 13) I will report all incidents of concern regarding children's online safety to the Designated Safeguarding lead (DSL) as soon as possible. I will report any accidental access, receipt of inappropriate materials, filtering breaches or unsuitable websites to the DSL as soon as possible.
- 14) I will not attempt to bypass any filtering and/or security systems put in place by the school. If I suspect a computer or system has been damaged or affected by a virus or other malware or if I have lost any school related documents or files, then I will report this to the ICT Support Provider/Team as soon as possible
- 15) I will promote Online Safety with the pupils in my care and in line with the school policy and curriculum.
- 16) If I have any queries or questions regarding safe and professional practise online either in school or off site, then I will raise them with the DSL or their deputy.
- 17) I understand that my use of the information systems, Internet and email may be monitored and recorded to ensure policy compliance.

The School may exercise its right to monitor the use of information systems, including Internet access and the interception of e-mails in order to monitor compliance with this Acceptable Use Policy and the School's Data Security Policy. Where it believes unauthorised and/or inappropriate use of the service's information system or unacceptable or inappropriate behaviour may be taking place, the School will invoke its disciplinary procedure. If the School suspects that the system may be being used for criminal purposes or for storing unlawful text, imagery or sound, the matter will be brought to the attention of the relevant law enforcement organisation.