

 Woodford County High School for Girls	Effective Date: 9 th June 2026
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SCHOOL POLICY Acceptable Use & Social Media Policy – Staff For all staff, governors and external contractors accessing the school network on site or remotely	Approved: Finance and General Business Committee Page 1 of 13

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Aims

Woodford County High School is committed to providing Staff with access to appropriate, up-to-date ICT resources, innovative educational technology to improve communication, and enrich learning ensuring the acquisition of skills and personal development.

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WCHS promotes the positive use of technology in school and assists in developing pupil's knowledge and understanding of digital devices and the Internet. We ensure that our school IT network is robust and resilient and staff have a duty of care to safeguard pupils when using technology in school.

Ownership of Work and Intellectual Property

Any work, resources, materials, or content created by staff in the course of their employment, including but not limited to documents, lesson materials, presentations, assessments, digital content, and resources created using school systems or during working time, remain the property of the school.

Staff are encouraged to embed online safety principles when teaching all curriculum subjects and reinforcing what is taught in lessons by taking appropriate and consistent action when responding to reports of online safety concerns from pupils.

Staff are encouraged to stay informed about cybersecurity through regular training, remaining vigilant for potential risks, and to promptly report any incidents. Staff are aware that it is their responsibility for securing devices, using strong passwords, and connecting to secure Wi-Fi.

Our school is committed to the responsible and ethical use of AI technologies. While we continue to develop our long-term approach, staff are currently permitted to use Microsoft Copilot Chat to support day-to-day tasks in a safe, secure, and controlled manner.

The use of other AI tools or platforms (including publicly available generative AI services such as ChatGPT) is not permitted for school related work at this time, unless explicitly approved by the school. This is to ensure data protection, safeguarding, and compliance with regulatory requirements.

As we expand our use of AI, we will do so with a strong emphasis on transparency, safeguarding, and accountability, ensuring that any tools adopted are thoroughly reviewed and aligned with the school's values and statutory obligations.

This suite of Acceptable Use & Social Media Policies [(i) Students, ii) Parents, iii) Staff] exists to ensure that all users are familiar with expectations which are designed to ensure safe ICT usage for everyone in the school community and promote positive and responsible network and Internet behaviour.

The AUP covers the following legislations:

[Statutory Requirements](#)

UK Data Protection Legislation (GDPR) 2018

Malicious Communications Act 1998

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Computer Misuse Act 1990
Communications Act 2003
Sexual Offences Act 2003
KCSIE (2025)
Prevent Duty
DfE AI Guidance (2025)

This Acceptable Use Policy should be read in conjunction with the Staff Code of Conduct, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Online Safety Policy, Data Protection (GDPR) Policy, Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy, Behaviour Policy, Equality and SEND Policies, Mobile Phone and the Staff Disciplinary Procedures.

All Staff using ICT equipment within the school must ensure that they have read, signed and abide by the Acceptable Use Policy as set out below.

Summary of undertaking

The school's ICT systems and network cannot be regarded as private, and user accounts could be subject to random monitoring. They should be used primarily for school purposes but **occasional** personal use is permitted. All ICT activities must conform to the norms of moral decency and not contravene ICT or other relevant legislation. Internet access is subject to website filtering (Smoothwall) and all sites visited are monitored and logged.

Staff should be aware that email accounts and digital communications may be accessed by authorised personnel where required by law, including in response to Subject Access Requests (SARs)

In the context of all Policies the term 'Staff' includes any and all contracted staff, Governors, visitors, volunteers or companies employed by Woodford County High School and using resources supplied by Woodford County High School.

The use of Woodford County High School's PCs and networked resources is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use, including violation of this policy, may result in cancellation of this privilege or disciplinary action, including termination of employment.

Using Technology in School

I understand that I must use school ICT systems in a responsible way, to ensure that there is no risk to my safety or to the safety and security of the ICT systems and other users. I recognise the value of the use of ICT for enhancing learning and will ensure that students receive opportunities to gain from the use of ICT. I will, where possible, educate the young people in my care in the safe use of ICT and embed e-Safety in my work with young people

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- I understand that the rules set out in this agreement also apply to use of school ICT systems out of school (e.g. remote access, laptops, e-mail, mobile devices online apps etc.)
- I understand that, in order to access the school servers from home, I will be required to download the Duo Mobile app onto my mobile device for MFA security.
- I will ensure that personal data is stored securely and or destroyed in line with UK Data Protection Legislation (GDPR) 2018. I will follow school policy with regard to external logins, encrypted data and not store school material on personal Unencrypted USB's or IT equipment.
- I understand that the school encourages & recommends the use of the OneDrive to ensure that data breaches do not occur.
- When I use a personal mobile device (PDAs, desktop/laptop computers, digital cameras, video cameras, mobile phones, Ipad, tablet, camera phones, USB devices, etc.) in school, I will follow the rules set out in this agreement, in the same way as if I was using school equipment. I will also follow any additional rules set by the school about such use. I will ensure that any such devices are protected by up-to-date anti-virus software and are free from viruses, are password protected and where necessary store data in an encrypted form. I will never store Personal or sensitive personal information about staff or students onto my personal device (please refer to the Schools Data Protection Policy SP 08.08.004)

Security, Password and Data Protection

Security

- Never attempt to access files or programs to which you have not been granted access to. Attempting to bypass security barriers may breach data protection regulations and such attempts will be considered as hack attacks and will be subject to disciplinary action.
- You should report any security concerns immediately to a member of IT staff
- If you are identified as a security risk to the School's ICT facilities you will be denied access to the systems and be subject to disciplinary action.

Passwords

Implementing a strong password policy is crucial for maintaining robust cybersecurity. Here are some recommendations for creating an effective password policy:

- Never share your password with anyone else or ask others for their password.
- When choosing a password, choose a word or phrase that you can easily remember, but not something which can be used to identify you, such as your name or address. Generally, longer passwords are better than short passwords.

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- Passwords to be a minimum length of 8 characters, use a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters. The longer and more complex a password is, the harder it is for attackers to crack.
Consider using a passphrase, or three non-related words i.e. CatDriveSink use this website to check how secure your password is:
<https://www.security.org/how-secure-is-my-password/>
- School policy will require a minimum of eight characters and you will be prompted to change this every 90 days
- If you forget your password, inform the ICT department immediately.
- If you believe that someone else may have discovered your password, then change it immediately and inform a member of the ICT department

Cyber Security

- I will undertake the required annual online NCSC Cyber Security Training for staff.

Data Protection

I will ensure that personal data and sensitive personal data is stored securely and in line with the UK Data Protection Legislation (GDPR) and the schools Data Protection Privacy Notices. I will follow school policy with regard to external logins, encrypted data and not store school material on personal IT equipment. I will only transport, hold, disclose or share personal information about myself or others, as outlined in the School's Data Protection Privacy Notices. Where personal data is transferred outside the secure school network, it will be encrypted.

- I will not send confidential or sensitive information to printers located in open access areas such as class rooms
- I will only disclose personal information (sensitive or otherwise) as required to perform my job duties.
- I will not send sensitive personal information via e-mail or post without suitable security measures being applied (as per Data Protection Privacy Notices)
- I will ensure that sensitive data, both paper and electronic, is disposed of properly, e.g. paper copies are shredded and data storage devices are physically destroyed when they are no longer needed.
- I understand that entering student data, assessment information, or any sensitive data into AI platforms such as OpenAI's ChatGPT is prohibited due to privacy, security, and ethical considerations. I understand that upholding responsible data handling practices is essential to protect sensitive information.

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- I will comply with UK Data Protection Legislation, the Computer Misuse Act 1990, the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, and the Telecommunications Act 1984.
- I will lock my computer whenever I leave the room to prevent unauthorised access.
- I will sign out of the school computers when leaving for the day.

Personal Contact Information

- I will not share my personal contact information (home address, phone number, mobile number, personal social networking details or email address) with current pupils. I accept that pupils may find these details out, and that any contact should be logged and either not reciprocated or replied to in line with school policies. I should be responsible and aware of my professional responsibilities and school policies if I supply any personal details to parents. Media files (Photographs & Video)
- My ICT activity will be consistent with professional standards of conduct and social interaction and with ICT and other relevant legislation
- Photographs of staff, pupils and any other members of the school community will not be used outside of the internal school IT network unless written permission has been granted by the subject of the photograph or their parent/guardian. I will ask the permission of the Head Teacher (on site) or the proprietor of the building (off site) prior to taking any photographs
- I will ensure that when I take or publish images of others I will do so with their express permission and in accordance with the school's policy on the use of digital and video images
- I **will not** use my personal equipment to record images, unless I have express permission to do so. Where these images are published (e.g. on the school website it will not be possible to identify individuals by name or by any other personal information
- I understand that images taken whilst undertaking Woodford County High School duties, taken on personal equipment remains the intellectual property of Woodford County High School. Staff must use a school-allocated memory card in any camera (personal or school owned) available from a member of the IT dept.
- I will follow school policy in respecting the wishes of parents who do not want photographs of their daughter to be used

Video Conferencing

- I will ensure that students who take part in video-conferences (where recording is requested) is done so with the permission of their parent.
- I will update the Video Conference logbook and record all video conferences, including date, time and whom the conference was with
- I understand that due to copyright, intellectual property and privacy laws no video conference should be recorded in any medium without the written permission of those taking part

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- I will ensure that students are always supervised by a member of staff when using video conferencing equipment
- I will ensure that the video conferencing equipment is never set to auto-answer and the unit will only be turned on for scheduled conferences
- I am aware that not all participants in conferences offered by 3rd party organisations may be DBS checked

Internet Access

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

- **all Internet activity is logged and actively monitored** and is stored (for at least 2 months) and usage reports can be made available to SLT in the event of allegations of misconduct
- In reviewing and monitoring user accounts Woodford County High School IT Staff will respect the privacy of user accounts. All messages sent over the Woodford County High School's network are the property of Woodford County High School

I will:

- watch for accidental access to inappropriate materials and report any offending site to the Director of IT & Cyber Security or ICT technicians so that action can be taken
- check copyright before publishing any work and ensure that any necessary permissions are obtained
- report any breaches of the school's internet policies
- ensure that I have permission to use the original work of others in my own work
- not search for, view, upload, download or access any materials which are considered illegal offensive, defamatory or copyright infringing (child sexual abuse images, criminally racist material, adult pornography - covered by the Obscene Publications Act) or other material which is inappropriate or may cause harm or distress to others
- not use any programs or software that might allow me to bypass the filtering or security systems in place to prevent access to such materials
- not download or distribute copies (including music and videos) of work that is protected by copyright

Email and Webmail via Office 365

Email is regarded as an essential means of communication and the school provides all members of the school community with an e-mail account for school based communication. Communication by

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email between staff, pupils and parents will only be made using the school email account and should be professional and related to school matters only. E-mail messages on school business should be regarded as having been sent on headed notepaper and reflect a suitable tone and content and should ensure that the good name of the school is maintained.

The sending or receiving of messages which contain material that is sexist, racist, unethical, illegal or likely to cause offence should not take place.

Remember when sending an email:

- Be Polite - never send or encourage others to send abusive messages.
- Use appropriate language - remember that you are a representative of the School on a global public system. What you say and do can be viewed by others. Never swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- Remember that any personal information in an e-mail is potentially disclosable to the individual concerned. If the recipient finds the content offensive, I understand that it could result in legal action against me directly.
- 'Netiquette' should be observed on all occasions. E-mail should not be considered as a private method of communication and great care should always be taken over content because of the possibility of public scrutiny
- Do not reveal any personal information about yourself or anyone else, especially home addresses, personal telephone numbers, usernames or passwords. Remember that electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private.
- Consider the file size of an attachment, files exceeding 1MByte in size are generally considered to be excessively large and other methods to transfer such files should be considered.
- Only communicate with students and parents (or carers) using official school systems which can be monitored
- Immediately report any illegal, inappropriate or harmful material or incident of which you become aware to the Director of IT & Cyber Security or Head Teacher.
- Do not download or open file attachments unless you are certain of both their content and origin. File attachments may contain viruses that may cause loss of data or damage to the School network.
- Never create or forward text which is offensive, abusive, libellous or designed to incite hatred against any ethnic, religious or other minority
- Never send any unsolicited promotional or advertising material nor any chain letters or pyramid selling schemes
- School will set clear guidelines about when pupil-staff communication via email is acceptable and staff will set clear boundaries for pupils on the out-of-school times when emails may be answered

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- As part of the curriculum pupils are taught about safe and appropriate use of email. Pupils are informed that misuse of email will result in a loss of privileges.
- Be aware that responsible use of personal web mail accounts on school systems is permitted outside teaching hours

Social Media

- I will be mindful in my use of social media not to bring the school or my profession into disrepute by posting unsuitable comments or media.
- I will not use social media tools to communicate with current or former pupils under the age of 18.

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- I will only use authorised school social media accounts to post information to pupils or parents
- I will not write or upload any defamatory, objectionable, copyright infringing or private material, including images and videos, of pupils, parents or staff on social media or websites in any way which might bring the school into disrepute.
- I understand the damage that could potentially be done to both my own and the school's professional reputations by inadvertently allowing students and parents free access to the contents of my personal Social Media accounts, and will therefore ensure that privacy controls are set at the appropriate levels for each personal Social Media account that I have
- I will not become "friends" with current students or their parents using my personal Facebook account
- I will not "follow" current students or their parents using my personal Facebook, Twitter Instagram, Tiktok BeReal or any other social media apps accounts,
- I will apply similar control and consideration to any other existing or new and emerging personal Social Media accounts
- I will ensure that any private social networking sites, websites or blogs etc. that I create or actively contribute to, are not confused with my professional role in any way

Mobile Technologies

Staff are expected to model safe, professional, and responsible use of mobile phones and smart devices at all times.

Personal mobile phones and smart devices must not be used during lessons or when supervising students, except where permitted by the school or required for professional duties.

- I will ensure that my mobile phone and any other personally owned device is switched off or switched to 'silent' mode when I have directed time with pupils.
- I will not (other than under exceptional circumstances) contact any parents or pupils using my personally owned device.
- I will not use any personally owned mobile device to take images, video or sound recordings.
- I will ensure that all school data on personal devices is password protected and that I have agreed for the IT support staff to erase and wipe data off my device, if it is lost and/or as part of my exit strategy.

Supporting the school's mobile phone policy for students

Staff are expected to support and consistently enforce the school's mobile phone expectations for students, including confiscation procedures where applicable, and to refer to senior staff where required.

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Staff should not make personal exceptions to the school's mobile phone rules unless these have been formally agreed and documented.

Remote Learning and using Microsoft Teams

In the event that the school needs to move to remote learning the Protocols for live & blended learning sessions are:

- For live sessions students will need to be invited to join a Microsoft Teams meeting or live chat via the calendar.
- When using face to face live sessions, you must record your session. This will also allow students to view the session at a later time if needed.
- ensure your live session takes place in an environment that is quiet, safe and free from distractions. Please be mindful of any background that will appear in the video.
- Staff and pupils should blur their background (if this facility is available) when participating in a lesson which involves switching on the camera.
- Start the session with all pupils muted and use the 'hand up' feature to take a question or use the chat feature. Students may unmute when directed by their teacher
- Ensure that student understand and think carefully about what is acceptable language with regards to what is said, typed or posted when using Microsoft Teams. This includes the use of emoji's and images
- behaviour when participating within a 'Live' interaction should mirror normal classroom behaviour
- When a live session is finished, you must remember to hang up using the red phone icon.
Please ensure that all pupils have left the session before you hang up or this will leave the session open to them.
- Any live sessions must take place as per the timetable and within core school hours.
- Please communicate any academic or behavioural concerns about a live session.
- For some subjects it may be necessary for staff to have one-to-one conversations with students using Microsoft Teams (for example, to provide feedback on examination preparation in Art etc.) in these instances, please ensure the session is recorded and that you follow all of the above protocols for a live session.

Useful Links – where to go for more support:

- DfE - Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- NCA-CEOP Education - 'Understanding Online Child Sexual Abuse' course:
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/training/>

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- NSPCC and NCA-CEOP - Keeping Children Safe Online: an online introductory safeguarding course for anyone who works with children (2022 version):
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/training/online-safety>
- UK Safer Internet Centre - training, advice and resources for teachers and professionals:
<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/teachers-and-school-staff>
- UK Safer Internet Centre - Online Safety Briefings: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/training-events/online-safety-live-free-online-safety-events>
- National Cyber Security Centre - <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/cyber-security-training-schools>
- [National Framework for Generative AI schools](#)

Review

The policy will also be reconsidered where particular concerns are raised, where an e-safety incident has been recorded or to incorporate issues raised by emerging technologies.

This policy will be monitored regularly with a full review being carried out annually by the Governing Board.

Questions

If you have any questions about this present statement of policy, please contact the School Business Manager, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 9LA.

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Acceptable Use Policy Agreement Form: Staff

I understand that I am responsible for my conduct both in and out of school. I will ensure that my online behaviour reflects the highest professional standards, does not bring the teaching profession into disrepute, and aligns with the **Teachers’ Standards (2012)** and all relevant **DfE guidance**.

I understand that this Acceptable Use Policy applies not only to my work and use of school ICT equipment on site, but also to:

- my use of school ICT systems and equipment off site, and
- my use of personal devices when used in school or in any situation connected to my employment.

I acknowledge that failure to comply with this Acceptable Use Policy may result in disciplinary action. This may include a formal warning, suspension, referral to the Governing Board and/or Local Authority, and, in cases involving illegal activity, police involvement.

I confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to abide by the guidelines set out in this Acceptable Use Policy and will use the school’s ICT systems responsibly and professionally.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Department _____ Date: __/__/__