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|  <b>Woodford County</b><br>High School for Girls | Effective Date:  | 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2026                              |
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|                                                                                                                                   | Replaces Version | 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2026                            |
| <b>SCHOOL POLICY</b><br><br><b>Acceptable Use &amp; Social Media Policy - Student</b>                                             |                  | Approved:<br>Finance and General<br>Business Committee |
|                                                                                                                                   |                  | Page 1 of 9                                            |

## Table of Contents

|                                                             |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Aims .....                                                  | 1 |
| Statutory Requirements .....                                | 2 |
| Acceptable Use Agreement .....                              | 2 |
| For my own personal safety: .....                           | 2 |
| Using Technology in school .....                            | 2 |
| Mobile Phones and Smart Devices .....                       | 3 |
| Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) - 6th form students only ..... | 3 |
| Security, Passwords & Copyright .....                       | 4 |
| Online behaviour & Safety .....                             | 4 |
| Social Media .....                                          | 5 |
| School Email .....                                          | 5 |
| Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) .....                   | 6 |
| Review .....                                                | 7 |
| Student Responsibility .....                                | 7 |
| eSafety - Useful Sites .....                                | 8 |
| Acceptable Use Agreement Form: Student .....                | 9 |

## Aims

Woodford County High School is committed to using innovative educational technology to enhance communication, teaching and learning. We believe that all pupils need strong digital skills for their future studies and careers, and we actively promote the safe, purposeful use of technology throughout the school. By integrating technology into lessons, we aim to inspire our students, support their progress, and help them achieve individual excellence.

We maintain a robust and secure school IT network and take all reasonable steps to ensure pupils are safe when using it. To help us uphold these standards, pupils must follow the school's rules for responsible technology use and immediately inform a member of staff if they become aware of any misuse or concerns online.

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
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| <b>SCHOOL POLICY</b><br><br><b>Acceptable Use &amp; Social Media Policy - Student</b>                                             | Approved:<br>Finance and General<br>Business Committee | Page 2 of 9                 |

Our suite of Acceptable Use and Social Media Policies — for **students, parents, and staff** — ensures that every member of our school community understands what is expected of them. These policies are designed to promote safe, positive, and responsible use of the school's ICT systems and the wider Internet.

Please read carefully and sign at the bottom to show you agree to these terms. If you do not sign and return this form you will not be able to use the IT systems in school.

### Statutory Requirements

UK Data Protection Legislation

Data Protection Act 2018 – 2021 update

Malicious Communications Act

[Computer Misuse Act 1990](#)

[Communications Act 2003](#)

Sexual Offences Act 2003

### Acceptable Use Agreement

I understand that I must use school, systems responsibly and respectfully, and that my actions must not put myself, other users, or the security of the school's network and equipment at risk.

### For my own personal safety:

- I understand that the school will monitor my use of the systems, devices and digital communications.
- I will immediately report any unpleasant or inappropriate material or messages or anything that makes me feel uncomfortable when I see it on-line.

### Using Technology in school

- I will only use school Internet, IT facilities and mobile technologies for educational purposes following my teachers' instructions at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, email, Office 365, video, messaging, video-conferencing, using software apps, social media, mobile phone apps, Internet, file-saving and printing.
- I will not attempt to access the staff-only Wi-Fi or any other network that I am not authorised to use
- I understand that I must not use external media (e.g. USB memory and external hard disks) as my primary storage repository as it is not possible to recover lost or corrupted files. We are advised to save all files to the Home Drive (H:\) where it is routinely backed up and to use Office 365 'OneDrive' to transfer data too & from school.
- I will not look for ways to bypass the school filtering or proxy service.

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|                                                                                                                                   | Replaces Version 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2026           |                           |
| <b>SCHOOL POLICY</b><br><br><b>Acceptable Use &amp; Social Media Policy - Student</b>                                             | Approved:<br>Finance and General<br>Business Committee | Page <b>3</b> of <b>9</b> |

## Mobile Phones and Smart Devices

Mobile phones and other smart devices (including smartwatches with messaging, recording, or internet capability) must not be used at any time during the school day. This includes before lessons, between lessons, at breaktime, lunchtime, and during assemblies or supervised activities.

Students may bring a mobile phone onto the school site at their own risk, but it must be switched off and stored securely in accordance with school procedures. Devices must not be seen, heard, or accessed.

Mobile phones and smart devices must not be used to:

- Make or receive calls, messages, or notifications
- Access the internet, social media, or apps
- Take photographs, record audio, or film video
- Play games or for any entertainment purpose

Any use of a mobile phone or smart device in breach of this policy may result in the device being **confiscated** and dealt with in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

The use of personal devices to photograph, film, or record any member of the school community without permission is strictly prohibited and may result in serious disciplinary action.

The school accepts no responsibility for the loss, damage, or theft of personal devices brought onto the school premises.

**Exceptions** will only be made where a student has an agreed medical, SEND, or safeguarding need. Any such exception must be authorised in advance by the school and documented.

## Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) - 6<sup>th</sup> form students only

I understand that I am only permitted to use my phone in the Sixth Form Block, during study periods in H3/Library or during lessons with explicit permission from a staff member. If permission is granted, I will use my mobile device as if it was a school computer, following all the rules for using school computers and as is set out in this agreement

- I understand this includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following technologies: Laptops, Netbooks, all smart phones, iPods, iPads, Tablets and eReaders, USB Data Sticks, any device deemed as portable or with the ability to connect to WIFI /internet.
- I will not use my mobile phone or any mobile device without my teacher's knowledge to stream live lessons, to photograph or video staff or other students without their knowledge,
- I understand what constitutes misuse

## **SCHOOL POLICY**

### **Acceptable Use & Social Media Policy - Student**

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Replaces Version 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026

Approved:  
Finance and General  
Business Committee

Page 4 of 9

- I will report suspected misuse immediately
- I will ensure that personal equipment brought onto school is covered by my parent's insurance policy (i.e. laptop, mobile phone, tablets etc.)

### **Security, Passwords & Copyright**

- I will not install software or attempt to install programs of any type on a school computer due to the risk of damage being caused by malware or viruses.
- I will not try to alter computer settings
- I will keep my logins, ID's and passwords secret and change them regularly
- I will change my passwords when asked to do so
- I will respect others' work and property and will not access, copy, move, delete or otherwise alter any other user's files, without the owner's knowledge and permission
- I will respect copyright when making use of images and videos in my school work. I will use and attribute 'Creative Commons' material as taught in ICT lessons.
- I understand the risks and will not look for, view, upload, or download offensive materials, or access any materials which are illegal, copyright-infringing or inappropriate or may cause harm or distress to others nor will I try to use any programs or software that might allow me to bypass the filtering or security systems in place to prevent access to such materials.

### **Online behaviour & Safety**

- I will make sure all my contact with other people at school is responsible. I will not cyber bully pupils' teachers or others.
- I will be polite and responsible when I communicate with others, I will not use strong, aggressive or inappropriate language and I appreciate that others may have different opinions and beliefs
- I will not look for or look at unpleasant, rude or extremist websites in school. I will check with a teacher if I think a website might be unsuitable.
- I will not give out my personal details, such as my name, address, school or phone number on the Internet.
- I will not meet up with people I've met on the Internet unless I have told my parents and they come with me.
- I will not upload or download any pictures, writing or films which might upset people online.
- I will not write unpleasant, rude or untrue comments online about pupils, teachers or the school.
- I am aware that everything I do on the computers at school is monitored and logged, and that the school can talk to my parents if a teacher is concerned about my online safety or my behaviour when using school computers
- I am aware that internet sites I visit when using my personal mobile devices (when connected to the school WIFI ) is subject to the same monitoring and logging as the school computers
- I will not take, upload or distribute images of anyone without their permission
- I understand that these rules are designed to keep me safe and that if they are not followed, sanctions may be applied and my parent/guardian may be contacted.

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### Social Media

- I understand that interacting with others on-line is **no** different than interacting face-to-face, and that we are required to maintain the principles of respect, dignity, prudence, concern for and protection of others, and safety in all interactions.
- I will be cautious about the information given by others on sites, as they may not be who they say they are.
- I will think twice before posting. I understand that there is no such thing as privacy on the internet. Search engines can turn up posts years after they are created - even after you think you have deleted them. I will not say anything online that I would not say in public or that I would not want my parents or a future employer to read.
- I will respect the age restrictions on websites, games and social networks and will not sign up to online services until I am old enough to do so
- I understand that I should set and maintain profiles on such sites to maximum privacy and deny access to unknown individuals.
- I will not engage in any form of cyberbullying. This includes abusive emails or text, embarrassing pictures, the misuse of mobile phone apps (including live streaming apps) and social networking sites, etc.
- I will not send a friend request to any WCHS member of staff, as it is inappropriate and they will not be able to respond

### School Email

- I understand that I will be provided with a school email account and that technical restrictions apply.
- I understand that my teachers may correspond with me by email, using my Woodford.redbridge.sch.uk email address, this may be regarding my study or on school business. I will check my school email regularly.
- I must use my Woodford.redbridge.sch.uk email address when communicating with my teachers so that my correspondence can be verified and tracked. Staff may not respond to email from other email domains because of the difficulty of establishing authenticity.
- I will be careful when opening files and attachments, checking for viruses etc. If I am unsure, I will never open a file, hyperlink or any other attachment.
- The messages I send, or information I upload, will always be polite and sensible. I understand that all messages I send will reflect on me and the school.
- I will immediately tell a teacher if I receive offensive or inappropriate e-mail.
- I understand that the sending or receiving of any email, which contains any inappropriate material, is strictly forbidden.
- I understand that it is also forbidden to send large volume emails (spamming).

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## Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- I will only use AI tools, such as Co-pilot, ChatGPT, when allowed by teachers and will not share personal or sensitive information with these tools.
- I will complete my assignments using my own ideas and in my own words. I understand that copying or relying heavily on AI generated content without permission or proper citation violates school policies.
- If I encounter anything online that makes me feel uncomfortable or unsafe, I will report it immediately to my parent, a teacher or trusted adult.
- I will use AI tools for learning purposes, like research and academic improvement.
- I will use AI ethically, promoting fairness and respectful interactions.
- I will follow school rules related to AI use and maintain our code of conduct.
- I will be mindful of cybersecurity when using AI tools to protect personal information.
- I will seek consent when using AI applications involving personal data.
- I will avoid any misuse of AI tools, understanding it is strictly prohibited and may lead to consequences.
- I will use tell my parents of teachers if I encounter issues or have concerns about AI use.
- I will learn about potential biases in AI algorithms
- I will understand that violations of AI guidelines may lead to disciplinary actions.
- I will participate in AI literacy education to understand how AI works.
- I will respect privacy rights and protect sensitive information when using AI.
- I will stay informed about emerging AI technologies and their impact on society.
- I will communicate AI-related guidelines to my parents and appreciate their guidance.
- I will be aware that school policies on AI will be regularly reviewed and updated.
- Remote Learning and using Microsoft Teams
- It is an expectation that normal high levels of behaviour as expected when in school, will remain in place at all times when interacting with the school from home.
- I will not attempt to call, chat or set up private groups with other pupils on Microsoft Teams.
- I will not attempt to start or record a meeting/lesson.
- I understand that the recording of still images, filmed images or audio of staff or other pupils without permission, and the distribution of such images, is strictly forbidden.
- I will blur my background (if this facility is available) when participating in a lesson which involves switching on my camera.
- I should leave myself muted during an audio lesson and use the hand up feature to indicate that I have a question or use the chat feature. I agree to only unmute myself when directed to by my teacher
- I will think carefully about what is acceptable language with regards to what I say, type or post when using Microsoft Teams. This includes the use of emoji's and images.
- I agree to never export Live lesson recordings outside of Woodford County High School
- I understand that my behaviour when participating within a 'Live' interaction will mirror normal classroom behaviour. I am expected to:



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- ❖ Respect all participants by allowing others to share their view point in a safe environment.
- ❖ Respond to questions or tasks from teachers in an appropriate way.
- Attempt all tasks in a positive manner. Engage with enthusiasm when collaborating virtually with class members. I will ensure that I hang up at the end of the lesson once instructed to do so. The teacher is responsible for ensuring the meeting is closed.
- I must not attempt to re-join an audio chat once it has ended. The teacher will be notified if this is attempted.

#### **I understand that I am responsible for my actions, both in and out of school:**

- I understand that the school also has the right to take action against me if I am involved in incidents of inappropriate behaviour, that are covered in this agreement, when I am out of school and where they involve my membership of the school community (examples would be online bullying, use of images or personal information).
- I understand that if I fail to comply with this acceptable use agreement, I may be subject to disciplinary action. This could include loss of access to the school network/internet, detentions, suspensions, contact with parents and in the event of illegal activities involvement of the police.

#### **Review**

*The policy will also be reconsidered where particular concerns are raised 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.*

#### **Student Responsibility**

I understand that I am responsible for my actions, both in and out of school. If I see anything I am unhappy with or I receive a message that makes me feel uncomfortable, I will not respond to it but I will save it and talk to a trusted adult.

I understand that the school also has the right to take action against me if I am involved in any incidents of inappropriate behaviour that are covered in this agreement, when I am out of school and where they involve my membership of the school community (examples would be cyberbullying, use of images or personal information).

I understand that if I fail to comply with this Acceptable Use Policy Agreement, I will be subject to disciplinary action. This may include sanctions such as loss of access to the school network or internet, detentions, suspensions, contact with parents and in the event of illegal activities involvement of the police.

This Acceptable Use Policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Online Safety Policy, Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy, Data Protection (GDPR) Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, and Equality and SEND Policies.

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## eSafety - Useful Sites

Think You Know

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Childnet International

<http://www.childnet.com/>

Safer Internet

<http://www.saferinternetday.org/web/guest>

Cyber Mentors

<http://www.cybermentors.org.uk/>

Child Exploitation and Online Protection

Centre <http://www.ceop.police.uk/>

Child Line

<http://www.childline.org.uk/pages/home.aspx>

Bullying Online

<http://www.bullying.co.uk/advice/parents-advice>

Report a concern to your school mentor

<https://tootoot.co.uk/>

***Please complete the sections on the next page to show that you have read, understood and agree to the rules included in the Acceptable Use Agreement.***



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## Acceptable Use Agreement Form: Student

This form relates to the Student Acceptable Use Policy, to which it is attached.

Pupils are expected to read and discuss this agreement with their parents and then to sign and follow the terms of the agreement

Please complete the sections below to show that you have read, understood and agree to the rules included in the Acceptable Use & Social Media Agreement. If you do not sign and return this agreement, access will not be granted to school ICT systems.

### Student Consent

I confirm that I have read and understood the above Acceptable Use Policy and agree to follow these expectations at all times when:

I use the school ICT systems and equipment both in and out of school.

I use my own personal equipment on the school site only where this is explicitly permitted by the school (for example, USB devices or cameras). Mobile phones and smart devices must not be used during the school day and must be switched off and stored securely in accordance with school policy.

I use my personal equipment or online accounts outside of school in a way that is connected to my role as a student of the school, including communicating with other members of the school community or accessing school systems such as email, Office 365, websites, social media, or related applications.

I understand that failure to follow this policy may result in sanctions in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Full Name (Student

Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

(student): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Form: \_\_\_\_\_