

Information Technology ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The Ursuline Preparatory School does not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Scope of this Policy

This policy applies to all members of The Ursuline Preparatory School community, including staff, pupils, parents, and visitors. In this policy 'staff' includes teaching and non-teaching staff, governors, and regular volunteers (but access to systems is not intended in any way to imply an employment relationship). 'Parents' include, where applicable, pupils' carers and those with parental responsibility. 'Visitors' includes anyone else who comes to the school, including occasional volunteers.

Online behaviour

As a member of the school community, you should follow these principles in all of your online activities:

- Ensure that your online communications, and any content you share online, are respectful of others and composed in a way you would wish to stand by.
- Do not access, create or share content that is illegal, deceptive, or likely to offend other members of the school community (for example, content that is obscene, or promotes violence, discrimination, or extremism, or raises safeguarding issues).
- Respect the privacy of others. Do not share photos, videos, contact details, or other information about members of the school community, even if the content is not shared publicly, without going through official channels and obtaining permission.
- Do not claim the work of others as your own.
- Do not use the internet to distribute malicious software, to damage, interfere with, or gain unauthorised access to the computer systems of others, or carry out illegal activities.

Staff should not use their personal email, or social media accounts to contact pupils or parents, and pupils and parents should not attempt to discover or contact the personal email addresses or social media accounts of staff.

Using the school's IT systems

Whenever you use the school's IT systems (including by connecting your own device to the network) you should follow these principles:

- Only access school IT systems using your own username and password. Do not share your username or password with anyone else.
- Do not attempt to circumvent the content filters or other security measures installed on the school's IT systems, and do not attempt to access parts of the system that you do not have permission to access.
- Do not attempt to install software on, or otherwise alter, school IT systems.
- Do not use the school's IT systems in a way that breaches the principles of online behaviour set out above.
- Remember that the school monitors use of the school's IT systems, and that the school can view content accessed or sent via its systems.

Filtering, monitoring and online safety

The school maintains filtering and monitoring systems across its network and school-owned devices, designed to restrict access to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful online content and to identify safeguarding concerns arising from online activity, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE).

A member of the Senior Leadership Team who has responsibility for Safeguarding holds overall responsibility for the school's filtering and monitoring provision. That person will lead a review of the effectiveness and coverage of these systems at least once every academic year, working with the IT Co-ordinator, and a record of each review will be retained by the school.

All members of the school community should be aware of the risks associated with generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including the creation or sharing of false, harmful, or explicit content, and AI-generated ("deepfake") images or video. The creation, possession, or sharing of any nude or semi-nude image of a person under 18 – including one generated or altered using AI – is illegal, regardless of whether those involved consented, and will always be treated as a child protection matter and referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay.

Passwords

Passwords protect the school network and computer system and are your responsibility. Complex passwords have been allocated to you to ensure password integrity. You should not let anyone else know your password, nor keep a list of passwords where they may be accessed, and must

change it immediately if it appears to be compromised. You should not attempt to gain unauthorised access to anyone else's computer or to confidential information to which you do not have access rights.

Use of Property

Any property belonging to the School should be treated with respect and care, and used only in accordance with any training and policies provided. You must report any faults or breakages without delay to IT Co-ordinator.

Use of school systems

The provision of school email accounts, Wi-Fi and internet access is for official school business, administration, and education. Staff and pupils should keep their personal, family, and social lives separate from their school IT use and limit as far as possible any personal use of these accounts. Again, please be aware of the school's right to monitor and access web history and email use.

Use of personal devices or accounts and working remotely

All official school business must be conducted on school systems, and it is not permissible to use personal email accounts for school business. Any use of personal devices for school purposes, and any removal of personal data or confidential information from school systems – by any means including email, printing, file transfer, cloud, or encrypted memory stick – must be registered and approved by IT Co-ordinator.

Where permission is given for use of personal devices, these must be subject to appropriate safeguards in line with the school's policies. Devices must be password protected.

Mobile phones and personal devices (pupils)

In line with statutory government guidance on mobile phones in schools, pupils are not permitted to access personal mobile phones, smartwatches, or other personal devices capable of internet access or messaging during the school day, other than where an exception has been agreed in advance (for example, for a medical or additional need). Any phone brought into school for the purposes of the pupil's journey to and from school must be handed in and stored securely for the duration of the school day, in accordance with the school's mobile phone policy.

Monitoring and access

Staff, parents, and pupils should be aware that school email and internet usage (including through school Wi-Fi) will be monitored for safeguarding, conduct and performance purposes, and both web history and school email accounts may be accessed by the school where necessary for a lawful purpose – including serious conduct or welfare concerns, extremism and the protection of others.

Any personal devices used by pupils, whether or not such use is permitted, may be confiscated and examined under such circumstances. The school may be required to conduct searches of staff personal accounts or devices if they were used for school business in contravention of this policy, and in particular if there is any reason to suspect illegal activity or any risk to the wellbeing of any person.

Compliance with related school policies

You will ensure that you comply with the school's E-Safety, Safeguarding and Bullying Policy.

Data protection contact

Personal data processed under this policy (including monitored email and internet activity) is handled in accordance with the school's Privacy Notice and Retention of Data Policy. Questions about how personal data is used, or requests to exercise data protection rights, should be directed to the school's Data Protection Officer/Data Protection Lead, [insert name/contact details], whose details are also set out in the school's Privacy Notice.

Retention of digital data

E-mail accounts will be immediately suspended once a member of staff or pupil leaves. The contents will be deleted after 5 years of that person leaving the school.

Any important information from email folders that is necessary for the school to be kept for longer, including personal information (e.g. for a reason set out in the school privacy notice or Retention of Data Policy), should be held on the relevant personnel or pupil file, not kept in personal email folders, archives or inboxes, nor in local files. Hence it is the responsibility of each account user to ensure that important information is retained in the right place or, where applicable, provided to the right colleague. That way no important information should ever be lost as a result of the school's email deletion protocol.

If you consider that reasons exist for the protocol not to apply, or need assistance in how to retain and appropriately archive data, please contact the IT Co-ordinator.

Breach reporting

The law requires the school to notify personal data breaches, if they are likely to cause harm, to the authorities and, in some cases, to those affected. A personal data breach is a breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data.

This will include almost any loss of, or compromise to, personal data held by the school regardless of whether the personal data falls into a third party's hands. This would include:

- loss of an unencrypted laptop, USB stick or a physical file containing personal data;
- any external hacking of the school's systems, e.g., through the use of malware;
- application of the wrong privacy settings to online systems;
- misdirected post or email;
- failing to BCC recipients of a mass email; and
- unsecure disposal.

The School must generally report personal data breaches to the ICO without undue delay (i.e. within 72 hours), and certainly if it presents a risk to individuals. In addition, controllers must notify individuals affected if that risk is high. In any event, the school must keep a record of any personal data breaches, regardless of whether we need to notify the ICO.

If either staff or pupils become aware of a suspected breach, they should inform the IT Co-ordinator, Headteacher or any member of the Senior Management Team.

Data breaches will happen to all organisations, but the school must take steps to ensure they are as rare and limited as possible and that, when they do happen, the worst effects are contained and mitigated. This requires the involvement and support of all staff and pupils. The school's primary interest and responsibility is in protecting potential victims and having visibility of how effective its policies and training are. Accordingly, falling victim to a data breach, either by human error or malicious attack, will not always be the result of a serious conduct issue or breach of policy; but failure to report a breach will be a disciplinary offence.

Breaches of this policy

A deliberate breach of this policy will be dealt with as a disciplinary matter using the school's usual applicable procedures. In addition, a deliberate breach may result in the school restricting that person's access to school IT systems.

If you become aware of a breach of this policy or the E-Safety Policy, or you are concerned that a member of the school community is being harassed or harmed online you should report it to the schools Designated Safeguarding Lead. Reports will be treated in confidence wherever possible.