

FOX WOOD SCHOOL



Acceptable use of ICT policy & ICT Code of Conduct June 2024

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Introduction

- 1.1 This policy outlines what are acceptable and unacceptable uses of Information Communications Technology (ICT) facilities within Fox Wood School. It is relevant to pupils, staff, governors and visitors. Whilst we aim to support the full use of the vast educational potential of new technologies we also have a responsibility to provide safeguards against risk, unacceptable material and activities. These guidelines are designed to protect pupils, staff and visitors from e-safety incidents and promote a safe e-learning environment for pupils.
- 1.2 At Fox Wood School we believe that pupils should be trusted to use digital technologies in a principled and productive way. The general spirit of this policy is about giving everyone the opportunity to make productive decisions in the ways they decide to use digital technologies; we should all be fully engaged in the on-going debate about what responsible digital citizenship means and how we can nurture it within our school.

Acceptable use

- 2.1 Fox Wood's ICT facilities should only be used to support learning, teaching, research, administration and approved business activities of Fox Wood School. These services may not be used for personal commercial, political, charitable, and other such activities unless expressly authorised by Fox Wood School.
- 2.2 Should authorisation be provided permitting other personal, personal commercial, political, or charitable, any such use must not hinder or interfere with an individual's duties and must not prevent the legitimate use of these facilities by others. Users may not use Fox Wood's ICT facilities to store personal non-work related information or materials on the ICT facilities (e.g. eBooks, music, home videos, photography), and use of the ICT facilities is provided with no expectation of privacy.
- 2.3 Users should therefore engage in safe computing practices by establishing appropriate access restrictions for their accounts by setting a password for their user account, safeguarding their passwords, backing up files, and promptly reporting any misuse or violations of this policy.
- 2.4 Users' accounts and passwords must not be shared with anyone. Users are responsible for the security of their passwords, accounts and setting account and file permissions. Disclosure of account or password information may result in disciplinary action.

Monitoring of users

- 3.1 Fox Wood School monitor the usage of all IT facilities using 'Securus' which includes access to reports on any internet sites that have been visited. This is irrespective of whether it is for Fox Wood or personal use, and users should have no expectation of privacy when accessing or using IT systems or services.
- 3.2 Monitoring of ICT facilities is performed:
 - To monitor the performance and operation of the ICT facilities;
 - To secure, fix, enhance or as an inherent part of effective and responsible systems development or operation;
 - To collect evidence pertaining to compliance with this policy, and other related policies, regarding the acceptable use of ICT facilities within the School;
 - To investigate or detect unauthorised use of the computing and network facilities of the school;
 - In the interests of national security, as required by law; and - To prevent or detect crime, as by required by law.

3.3 Fox Wood School reserves the right to inspect any items of computer equipment connected to the network. Any ICT device connected to Fox Wood's network will be removed if it is deemed to be breaching policy or otherwise interfering with the operation of the ICT facilities.

3.4 Fox Wood School will designate Authorised Personnel, usually IT services and senior staff, to be permitted to engage in monitoring and it will be considered a disciplinary offence for anyone to engage in monitoring activities without proper authorisation or monitor areas outside their areas of responsibility. A Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) has been completed which reviews the risks and details the circumstances with which monitoring will take place.

Unacceptable use

4.1 Fox Wood School reserves the right to block, disconnect or otherwise prevent what it considers to be unacceptable use of its ICT facilities. Unacceptable use includes, but is not limited to:

- All actions or activities that are illegal or in conflict with Fox Wood's policies, procedures and processes;
- Using the ICT facilities for access, creation, modification, storage, download, hosting or transmission of material that could be considered pornographic, offensive, obscene, or otherwise inappropriate, or for placing direct or indirect links to websites which publish or host pornographic, offensive or inappropriate material;
- Publishing materials or making statements which Fox Wood School may deem to be advocating illegal activity, or threatening, or harassing, or defamatory, or bullying or disparaging of others, or abusive, or libellous, or slanderous, or indecent, or obscene, or offensive or promotes unlawful discrimination, breaches copyright or otherwise causing annoyance, or inconvenience;
- Unauthorised production, distribution, copying, selling, hiring, performing of copyrighted material including, but not limited to, digitisation and distribution of computer software, television, radio, streaming services, websites, photographs, magazines, books, music or any copyrighted sources and installation of any copyrighted software for which Fox Wood School does not have an active licence or explicit permission of the copyright owner, is strictly prohibited;
- Authoring or sending any form of electronic communications or messages, including, but not limited to, messages and emails that were unsolicited and may be considered junk mail, "chain letters", "Ponzi" (fraud that lures potential investors), hoax warnings or advertising, and that do not correctly identify you as the sender, or messages which appear to originate from another person;
- Unauthorised transmission, distribution, discussion or disclosure of information gained through a user's presence within Fox Wood School or through the use of ICT facilities;
- Connecting any non-approved ICT device, system or service (including wireless access points) to Fox Wood's networks or setting up any network services, without the explicit or delegated permission from Authorised Personnel;
- Unauthorised access (or attempted unauthorised access) to any ICT facilities provided by Fox Wood School;
- Allowing, inciting, encouraging or enabling others to gain or attempt to gain unauthorised access to the ICT facilities;
- Causing any damage to ICT facilities, including through the consumption of food or drink, or moving or removing such facilities without authorisation. Fox Wood School reserves the right to charge for any damage caused;

- Attempting to modify, alter or in any way interfere with ICT facility security controls, hardware or software, configurations, settings, equipment, data files or websites without the written authorisation or delegated permission from Authorised Personnel;
- Introduction of unauthorised and/or malicious software or programs into the ICT facilities, including, but not limited to: unlicensed software, viruses, worms, Trojan horses or logic bombs; by downloading, creating or using any program, tool or item of software designed to monitor damage, disrupt or interfere with the functioning of ICT facilities, user accounts or data;
- Effecting security breaches or disruptions of network communication, including, but not limited to, accessing or modifying data (or data headers) of which the user is not an intended recipient or logging into an ICT system or service, or account, that the user is not expressly authorised to access. Disruption includes, but is not limited to, network sniffing, pinged floods, packet spoofing, denial of service, and forged routing information;
- Executing any form of network monitoring including any data capture, port scanning or security scanning without written authorisation or delegated permission from Authorised Personnel;
- Registering for any system or service, including, but not limited to, social media accounts, web applications, domain names, which includes the name of Fox Wood School or any similar name, or abbreviation that may mislead the public into believing that the domain name refers to the Fox Wood; and
- Acting in any way that directly or indirectly causes disruption to others' use of Fox Wood's ICT facilities, or using ICT facilities to disrupt or deny the use of ICT facilities of third parties at any time.

Remote Access

- 5.1 Remote access to Fox Wood's network is possible where this has been granted by the ICT Department.
- 5.2 Remote connections are considered direct connections to Fox Wood's network. As such, generally accessing services remotely, subjects the user to the same conditions, requirements and responsibilities of this policy.

Social Media

- 6.1 At Fox Wood School we recognise that social media and networking are playing an increasing role within every-day life and that many staff are users of tools such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs for both personal and professional use. We will ensure that staff and children are kept fully aware of risks and issues that may arise and ways in which to minimise these risks.
- 6.2 Staff should apply this guidance with regard to social networking:

Fox Wood School Social Media Guidance

- A. The use of social networking sites for school promotion
- B. Use of social networking by staff in a personal capacity
- C. Comments posted by parents/carers
- D. Dealing with incidents of online bullying

A The use of social networking sites by pupils within school

Fox Wood School has two social media streams, one on Facebook “Fantastic Fox Wood” and one on twitter with the twitter handle “@foxwoodschool”.

Named teachers have a log in for the school social media pages. These are monitored by the Deputy Headteacher. Staff send one of these teachers their photos and information in line with permissions given by parents/carers at the start of each academic year.

B Use of social networking by staff in a personal capacity

It is possible that a high proportion of staff will have their own social networking site accounts. It is important for them to protect their professional reputation by ensuring that they use their personal accounts in an appropriate manner.

Guidelines to be followed by all staff:

- Staff must **never** add pupils as ‘friends’ into their personal accounts (including past pupils under the age of 16)
- Staff **must never** add parents as ‘friends’ into their personal accounts
- Staff **must not** post comments about the school, pupils, parents or colleagues including members of the Governing Body
- Staff must not use social networking sites within lesson times (for personal use)
- Staff should only use social networking in a way that does not conflict with the current National Teacher’s Standards
- Staff should review and adjust their privacy settings to give them the appropriate level of privacy and confidentiality
- Staff should read and comply with the latest version of ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’
- Inappropriate use by staff should be referred to the Headteacher in the first instance and may lead to disciplinary action

C Comments posted by parents/carers

Parents and carers will be made aware of their responsibilities regarding their use of social networking. Methods of school communication include the prospectus, the website, school social media pages, newsletters, letters and verbal discussion. School policies and documents provide further information regarding appropriate channels of communication and means of resolving differences of opinion. Effective communication following principles of mutual respect is the best means of ensuring the best learning experiences for the child.

Parents must not post pictures of pupils, other than their own children, on social networking sites where these photographs have been taken at a school event.

Parents should make complaints through official school channels rather than posting them on social networking sites.

Parents should not post malicious or fictitious comments on social networking sites about any member of the school community.

D Dealing with incidents of online bullying/inappropriate use of social networking sites

The school’s Anti-Bullying Policy sets out the processes and sanctions regarding any type of bullying by a child on the school roll.

In the case of inappropriate use of social networking by parents, the Governing Body will contact the parent asking them to remove such comments and seek redress through the appropriate channels such as the Complaints Policy.

The Governing Body understands that, “There are circumstances in which police involvement is appropriate. These include where postings have a racist element or where violence is

threatened or encouraged". Furthermore, "Laws of defamation and privacy still apply to the web and it is unlawful for statements to be written ... which:

- Expose (an individual) to hatred, ridicule or contempt
- Cause (an individual) to be shunned or avoided
- Lower (an individual's) standing in the estimation of right-thinking members of society or
- Disparage (an individual in their) business, trade, office or profession" (National Association of Headteachers)

Emails

7.1 In terms of email, senders and receivers must (as applicable):

- Ensure that the method of sending is secure, especially when the information is confidential. Staff should maintain the school's standards for presentation and formality, in both text and attachments.
- At Fox Wood School emails must conform to the requirements of the Data Protection Act and where an email is used to send information register under this act the sender/receiver must ensure that the information is stored securely and managed in accordance with the registration.
- Staff at Fox Wood School should only open an attachment when it is known to be virusfree. Otherwise, staff must not open the email and should report to SLT/ICT Support immediately.
- Not use email for official documents or correspondence without the permission of the Headteacher.
- Not use email to circumvent the school's policies and/or procedures
- Not use email if the message would not bear scrutiny on a public notice board.

ICT Code of Conduct

ICT is seen as beneficial to all members of Fox Wood School in supporting learning, teaching, research, administration and approved business activities of Fox Wood. Fox Wood School's ICT facilities provide a number of integral services and, therefore, any attempt to misuse a computer system could cause significant disruption to other users at Fox Wood. This could also lead to breaches of the data protection rights of a number of individuals causing harm to those individuals, and to Fox Wood School.

This Acceptable Use Agreement is intended to ensure:

- that all users, will be responsible and stay safe while using ICT devices, systems and services.
- that Fox Wood School devices, systems, services and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of these systems and users at risk.

Agreement

I understand that I must use Fox Wood's systems in a responsible way, to ensure that there is no risk to my safety or to the safety and security of the systems and other users, including as to the personal data of others.

When using Fox Wood School's ICT facilities:

- I understand that Fox Wood's systems and devices are primarily intended for educational use and that I will not use them for personal or recreational use unless I have prior permission;
- I understand that Fox Wood School monitor my use of the devices, systems, services and communications at any time through a system called 'Securus';
- I will keep my username and password safe and secure – I will not share it, nor will I try to use any other person's username and password. I understand that I should not write down or store a password where it is possible that someone may steal it;
- I will not disclose or share personal information about myself or others when on-line (this could include names, addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers, age, gender, educational details, financial details, requests to send money/goods);
- I will immediately report any unpleasant or inappropriate material or messages or anything that makes me feel uncomfortable when I see it on-line;
- I will not open any hyperlinks in emails or any attachments to emails, unless I know and trust the person / organisation who sent the email, or if I have any concerns about the validity of the email (due to the risk of the attachment containing viruses or other harmful programmes);
- I will respect others' work and property and will not access, copy, remove or otherwise use or alter any other user's files, without the owner's knowledge and permission, and I will ensure that any use is in accordance with Fox Wood School's policies;
- I understand there are risks when using the systems and services, and will not try to upload, download or access any materials which are illegal or inappropriate or may cause harm or distress to others, nor will I try to use any programmes or software that might allow me to bypass the filtering / security systems in place to prevent access to such materials;
- 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;
- I will respect copyright of materials and intellectual property rights and not take or distribute text, images or other materials without permission;

- I will not use or modify any of Fox Wood's devices, systems and services in any way that will disrupt their use for others in any way;
- I will not install or attempt to install or store programmes of any type on any Fox Wood device, nor will I try to alter computer settings;
- I understand that I am not permitted to attempt to connect any devices or systems (e.g. laptops, mobile phones, USB devices, etc) to any Fox Wood devices, systems or services without prior permission from the headteacher within Fox Wood School. I understand that, if I am permitted to use my own devices in Fox Wood School I will follow the rules set out in this agreement, in the same way as if I was using school equipment.
- I will ensure that when I take and/or publish images of others I will do so with their permission and in accordance with Fox Wood School's policies. I will not use my personal equipment to record these images, unless I have permission from the Headteacher and from the individual to do so;
- I will only use social networking sites in school in accordance with Fox Wood School's policies;
- I will only communicate with students, parents / carers, and other parties solely related to my employment, using official Fox Wood systems. Any such communication will be professional in tone and manner;
- I will not engage in any on-line activity that may compromise my professional responsibilities;
 - I recognise that a failure to comply with the policies of Fox Wood School, and any misuse of ICT equipment, could lead to breaches of the rights of data subjects and I will act at all times in accordance with such policies in order to avoid any inappropriate use of personal data, or the breach of the data protection rights of any individual.

I understand that I am responsible for my actions, both inside and outside of Fox Wood School:

- I understand that Fox Wood 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 outside of Fox Wood School and where they involve my membership of the Fox Wood School community (for example, use of images, digital communications, 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 loss of access to Fox Wood School ICT systems and services, disciplinary action as set out in the codes of conduct and in the event of illegal activities, involvement of the police.

I agree to follow these guidelines at all times when:

- using or connected to Fox Wood School's devices, systems and services;
- using my own equipment inside or outside of Fox Wood School in a way that is related to me being a member of this school (for example, communicating with other members of Fox Wood, accessing school email, websites and services).

I have read and understand that use of Fox Wood School's IT systems and devices is governed by the full Acceptable Use Policy and all other related ICT policies.

Print Name

Signed

Date: