



Responsible Use Policy

1. Introduction

Wendover recognises that access to technology in school gives students greater opportunities to learn, engage, communicate and develop skills that will prepare them for work, life and global citizenship. As an online school, we are committed to helping students develop progressive technology and communication skills.

This Responsible Use Policy outlines the guidelines and behaviours that all users are expected to follow when using school technologies.

- The school network is intended for educational purposes only
- All activity over the network or using school technologies may be monitored, documented and retained.
- Access to online content via the network may be restricted in accordance with our policies and legal regulations.
- Students are expected to follow the same rules for good behaviour and respectful conduct online as offline.
- Misuse of school resources may result in disciplinary action.
- Wendover makes a reasonable effort to ensure students' safety and security online but will not be held accountable for any harm or damages that result from use of school technologies.
- Users of the network or other technologies are expected to alert staff immediately of any concerns for safety or security.

2. Technologies covered

This Responsible Use Policy applies to both school-owned technology equipment utilising Wendover school platforms and privately owned devices accessing Wendover school platforms.

Usage

All technologies provided by the school are intended for educational purposes. All users are expected to use good judgment and to follow the specifics as well as the spirit of this policy. Users should be safe, appropriate, careful and kind; not try to get around technological protection measures; use good common sense; and ask if they do not know.

Email

Wendover provides users with an email account for the purposes of school-related communication. Availability and use may be restricted based on school policies. If users are provided with email accounts, the account(s) should be used with care. Users should not send personal information; should not attempt to open files or follow links from unknown or untrusted origins; should use appropriate language; and should only communicate with other people as allowed by the school policy or the teacher. Users are expected to communicate with the same appropriate, safe, mindful, courteous conduct online as offline. Email usage may be monitored and archived.

When sending an email using a school account, to either a teacher or another student, always carbon copy ('cc') the teaching@wendoverschool.com email address.

Collaborative content

Recognising the benefits collaboration brings to education, Wendover may provide users with access to websites or tools that allow communication, collaboration, sharing, and messaging among users. Users are expected to communicate with the same appropriate, safe, mindful, courteous conduct online as offline. Posts, chats, sharing, and messaging may be monitored. Users should be careful not to share personally identifying information online.

Security

Users are expected to take reasonable safeguards against the transmission of security threats over the school network. This includes not opening or distributing infected files or programmes and not opening files or programmes of unknown or untrusted origin. Users should never share personal information. If users believe a computer or mobile device they are using might be infected with a virus, they should alert the IT department immediately. Users should not attempt to remove the virus themselves or download any programmes to help remove the virus.

Netiquette

Users should always use the internet, network resources, and online sites in a courteous and respectful manner. Users should recognise that among the valuable content online there is also unverified, incorrect, or inappropriate content. Users should only use trusted sources when conducting research via the internet.

Users should remember not to post anything online that they would not want students, parents, teachers, or future colleges or employers to see. Once something is online, it cannot be completely retracted and can sometimes be shared and spread in ways the user never intended.

Plagiarism

Users should not plagiarise (or use as their own, without citing the original creator) content, including words, music, or images, from the internet. Users should not take credit for things they did not create themselves or misrepresent themselves as an author or creator of something found online. Information obtained via the internet should be appropriately cited, giving credit to the original author or creator.

Personal Safety

Users should never share personal information, including phone number, address, birthday, or financial information, over the internet without adult permission. Users should recognise that

communicating over the internet brings anonymity and associated risks and should carefully safeguard the personal information of themselves and others. Users should never agree to meet in real life someone they meet online without parental permission.

If users see a message, comment, image, or anything else online that makes them concerned for their personal safety, they should immediately bring it to the attention of an adult (teacher or staff if at school; parent if using the device at home).

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying will not be tolerated. Harassing, inflaming, denigrating, impersonating, outing, tricking, excluding, and cyberstalking are all examples of cyberbullying. Users should not be mean or send emails or post comments with the intent of scaring, hurting, embarrassing or intimidating someone else.

Engaging in these behaviours, or any online activities intended to harm (physically or emotionally) another person, will result in severe disciplinary action and loss of privileges. In some cases, cyberbullying can be a crime. Remember that online activities may be monitored and retained.

All students will be educated about appropriate online behaviour, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response.

Please see our Anti-bullying Policy for more information.

3. Staff roles and responsibilities

By accepting a position with Wendover Online School, all staff agree to adhere to the school's cyber security commitment. In practice, this means that they will allow a trusted third-party access to install antivirus, remote patch management, and backup software of Wendover data on their work device for protection.

4. Acceptable Use Agreements

As part of the admissions process, all students and their parents are required to read, sign and return the appropriate Acceptable Use Agreement (see Appendices 1 and 2).

Policy review

This policy is designed to set good practice standards. However, the school recognises that best practice develops over time and, as such, will update it regularly in light of experience and as a result of changes in legislation or its own internal organisation and policies. As with all Wendover policies, this policy will be reviewed according to our comprehensive policy review calendar.

Date of last policy review: August 2024

Date of next review: February 2026

Appendix 1: KS2 Acceptable Use Agreement

Introduction

Digital technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people, both within and outside schools. These technologies are powerful tools, which open-up new opportunities for everyone. They can stimulate discussion, encourage creativity and stimulate awareness of context to promote effective learning. Learners should have an entitlement to safe access to these digital technologies.

This acceptable use agreement is intended:

- to ensure that learners will have good access to devices and online content, be responsible users and stay safe while using digital technologies for educational, personal and recreational use
- to help learners understand good online behaviours that they can use in school, but also outside school
- to protect school devices and networks from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk.

Acceptable Use Agreement

When I use devices, I must behave responsibly to help keep me and other users safe online and to look after the devices.

For my own personal safety:

- I understand that what I do online during lessons will be supervised and monitored and that I may not be allowed to use devices in school unless I follow these rules and use them responsibly
- I will only visit internet sites that adults have told me are safe to visit
- I will keep my username and password safe and secure and not share it with anyone else
- I will be aware of “stranger danger” when I am online
- I will not share personal information about myself or others when online
- If I arrange to meet people off-line that I have communicated with online, I will do so in a public place and take a trusted adult with me
- I will immediately tell an adult if I see anything that makes me feel uncomfortable when I see it online.

I will look after the devices I use, so that the school and everyone there can be safe:

- I will handle all the devices carefully and only use them if I have permission.
- I will not try to alter the settings on any devices or try to install any software or programmes.
- I will tell an adult if a device is damaged or if anything else goes wrong.
- I will only use the devices to do things that I am allowed to do.

I will think about how my behaviour online might affect other people:

- When online, I will act as I expect others to act toward me.
- I will not copy anyone else's work or files without their permission.
- I will be polite and responsible when I communicate with others, and I appreciate that others may have different opinions to me.
- I will not take or share images of anyone without their permission.

I know that there are other rules that I need to follow:

- If I need to use any other device other than my school PC / laptop during the lesson, I will do so only with permission. If I am allowed, I still have to follow all the other school rules if I use them.
- I will only use social media sites with permission and at the times that are allowed
- Where work is protected by copyright, I will not try to download copies (including music and videos).
- When I am using the internet to find information, I should take care to check that the information is accurate, as I understand that the work of others may not be truthful and may be a deliberate attempt to mislead me.
- I should have permission if I use the original work of others in my own work.

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

- I know that I am expected to follow these rules in school and that I should behave in the same way when out of school as well.
- I understand that if I do not follow these rules, I may be subject to disciplinary action.

Learner Acceptable Use Agreement Form

Please complete the sections below to show that you have read, understood and agree to the rules included in the acceptable use agreement. If you do not sign and return this agreement, access will not be granted to school systems.

I have read and understand the above and agree to follow these guidelines when:

- I use the school systems and devices (both in and out of school)
- I use my own devices in the school (when allowed) e.g. mobile phones, gaming devices USB devices, cameras etc.
- I am out of school and involved in any online behaviour that might affect the school or other members of the school.

Name of Learner:

Group/Class:

Signed:

Date:

Parent/Carer Countersignature:

Adapted from templates at <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/online-safety-policy-templates/>

Appendix 2: KS3-5 Acceptable Use Agreement

Introduction

Digital technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people, both within schools and outside school. These technologies are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. These technologies can stimulate discussion, promote creativity and stimulate awareness of context to promote effective learning. Young people should have an entitlement to safe access to these digital technologies.

This acceptable use agreement is intended to ensure:

- that young people will be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other digital technologies for educational, personal and recreational use.
- that school systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and will have good access to digital technologies to enhance their learning and will, in return, expect the *learners* to agree to be responsible users.

Acceptable Use Agreement

I understand that I must use school 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.

For my own personal safety:

- I understand that the schools will monitor my use of the systems, devices and digital communications within the confines of the Wendover Office 365 platform (applicable to products such as Class Notebooks, MS Whiteboards, Teams Assignments etc., as well as student folders and materials accessible via Wendover SharePoint sites).
- 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 be aware of “stranger danger”, when I am communicating on-line.
- 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 etc.)
- If I arrange to meet people off-line that I have communicated with on-line, I will do so in a public place and take an adult with me.
- 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 understand that everyone has equal rights to use technology as a resource and:

- I understand that the school’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 permission.
- I will not use the school’s systems or devices for online gaming, online gambling, internet shopping, file sharing that is not related to learning, or video broadcasting (e.g. YouTube), unless I have permission of a member of staff to do so.

I will act as I expect others to act toward me:

- I will respect others' work and property and will not access, copy, remove or otherwise alter any other user's files, without the owner's knowledge and permission.
- 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 not take or distribute images of anyone without their permission.

I recognise that the school has a responsibility to maintain the security and integrity of the technology it offers me and to ensure the smooth running of the school:

- If I need to use any other device other than my school PC / laptop during the lesson, I will do so only with permission. I understand that, if I do use my own devices in the school, I will follow the rules set out in this agreement, in the same way as if I was using school equipment.
- I understand the risks 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 immediately report any damage or faults involving equipment or software; however this may have happened.
- 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 not install or attempt to install or store programmes of any type on any school device, nor will I try to alter computer settings.
- I will only use social media sites with permission and at the times that are allowed during lessons.

When using the internet for research or recreation, I recognise that:

- I should ensure that I have permission to use the original work of others in my own work
- Where work is protected by copyright, I will not try to download copies (including music and videos)
- When I am using the internet to find information, I should take care to check that the information that I access is accurate, as I understand that the work of others may not be truthful and may be a deliberate attempt to mislead me.

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.

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. If you do not sign and return this agreement, access will not be granted to school systems and devices.

Learner Acceptable Use Agreement Form

This form relates to the learner acceptable use agreement; to which it is attached.

Please complete the sections below to show that you have read, understood and agree to the rules included in the acceptable use agreement. If you do not sign and return this agreement, access to the school systems will not be granted.

I have read and understand the above and agree to follow these guidelines when:

- I use the school's systems and devices (both in and out of school).
- I use additional devices in the school (when allowed) e.g. mobile phones, gaming devices, USB devices, cameras etc.
- I use my own equipment out of the school in a way that is related to me being a member of this school e.g. communicating with other members of the school, accessing school email, VLE, website etc.

Name of Learner:

Group/Class:

Signed:

Date:

Parent/Carer Countersignature:

Adapted from templates at <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/online-safety-policy-templates/>