



BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Acceptable Use Agreement

The following guidance is a school policy aimed at supporting students to take care of and use the IT facilities to the best of their abilities in a safe and responsible manner. It is designed to be positive and should not be seen as an exhaustive list of rules. Students should always use any digital technology in ways which are productive, legal, kind and sensible and with the mantra of “I will be a responsible user and stay safe when using the internet and other digital technology.”

Following these rules will help to keep everyone safe and be fair to others. School systems and users are protected and monitored by security and filtering services to provide safe access to digital technologies and online services.

Responsible User

1. I will ensure that my online activity or use of technology, in school or outside school, will not cause my school, the staff, students or others distress, or bring the school into disrepute.
2. I understand that whilst in school, the Wi-Fi is filtered, and device use is monitored and breaches are reported to the DSL.
3. I will only use my personal devices (BYOD, mobile phones, other devices etc.) in school if I have been given permission to do so.
4. I will only use the school's internet and any device I may be using in school for appropriate school activities and learning, unless I have permission to engage in recreational activities, e.g. in a lunchtime club or after school.
5. I will only use my school email and account details to contact people as part of learning activities.
6. I will keep my logins, IDs and passwords secret and change my password regularly. If I think someone knows one of my passwords, I will change them. I will not leave my computer unattended if I am logged on and will only log in with my username and password.
7. I will not knowingly bring files into school or download files that can harm the school network or be used to bypass school security, such as VPN programmes.
8. 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. If I am suspicious about a file or attachment, I will let a teacher or member of the ICT support team know.
9. I will only edit or delete my own files and not view, change or delete other people's files or user areas without their permission.
10. I understand that websites, blogs, videos and other online information can be biased and misleading, so I need to check sources to see if they are trustworthy.

11. When using the internet, I will not download copyright-protected material (text, images, music, video etc.). I will always make sure I acknowledge the sources of information I find on the internet if I use it for my work or pass it on to friends.
12. I understand that cyberbullying is unacceptable, and will not use technology to bully, impersonate, harass, threaten, make fun of, exclude or upset anyone, at school or outside school.
13. I will not browse, download, upload, distribute, post, retweet or forward material that could be considered discriminatory, offensive, harmful, illegal or of a sexual nature. If I accidentally come across any such material, I will report it immediately to my teacher.
14. The messages I send, or information I upload, will always be polite and sensible. I understand that all messages I send reflect on me and the school.
15. I will not share my or others' personal information that can be used to identify me, my family, my friends or my school on any online space, unless a trusted adult has given permission or reviewed the site.
16. If live streaming I always tell a trusted adult about it and check my privacy settings so I am in control of who can see my stream.
17. I will never arrange to meet someone face to face if I have only ever previously met them on the internet or by e-mail or in a chat room, unless I take a trusted adult with me.
18. I will respect my body and other people's. That means using positive words about myself and others. It also means not revealing my or anyone else's body on camera or sharing /posting inappropriate photos.
19. I am aware that some websites, apps, games, online shopping, file sharing and social networks have age restrictions, and I will respect these. I will ensure sites are secure if exchanging personal or financial information.
20. I understand that many apps have geolocation settings (identifying my location or where I made a post or took a photo). I will make sure that I know how to turn geolocation on and off, and not tell the world where I am at all times or make it too easy to find out where I live or go to school.
21. If I see, watch, read, hear or receive anything I am unhappy with or I receive a message that makes me feel uncomfortable, e.g. bullying, extremist/hateful content, I will not respond and talk to a trusted adult.
22. I know that I can always say no online and end a chat or block a friend; if I do, it is best to talk to someone about it as well.
23. I know who my trusted adults are at school, home and elsewhere, but if I feel I cannot talk to them, I know I can call Childline on 0800 1111 or click CEOP.
28. If I need support or wish to report an online safety concern, I can speak to a trusted adult, the DSL, CEOP, Childline or use Report Remove.
27. I understand that Birkenhead School operates a mobile phone-free policy for Years 7 to 11 and I will follow School procedures regarding mobile phone storage and use.
26. I understand the risks of grooming, sextortion, online exploitation, scams, money mule recruitment, radicalisation and misinformation and will report concerns immediately.
25. I will not use artificial intelligence tools to create misleading, harmful, bullying, discriminatory, impersonation or sexually explicit content. AI-generated sexual imagery, deepfakes and manipulated harmful content are prohibited.
24. I will not use VPNs, proxy services, hotspots, mobile data connections or any other method to bypass the School's filtering and monitoring systems.

Trusted Adults

The trusted adults I can talk to if I have concerns about online safety are:

- Mr G Murdoch – Deputy Head (Pastoral & Operations), and DSL
- Mrs S Tharme – Head of Overdale, and Deputy DSL (Seniors)
- Ms L Smeaton – Head of Sixth Form
- Mr R Halpin – Deputy Head of Prep, and Deputy DSL
- Mrs S Ford – Head of Pre-Prep and Little School, and Deputy DSL
- Mr C Boden – Network Manager
- Mr S Parry – Assistant Head (Data & Systems), teacher in charge of SchoolBase and Firefly
- All Heads of Year, who have received full Designated Safeguarding Lead training.

Reviewed: DSL, August 2026

To be reviewed: August 2027