



Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

Parents/Carers

2026/2027

OUR TRUST PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
Let peace, friendship and love
grow in our schools.
Send the Holy Spirit to give
excellence to our learning,
love to our actions and
joy to our worship.
Guide us to help others,
so that we may all
Learn, Love and Achieve,
Together with Jesus

Amen

Background

The use of technology is an essential part of all of our lives. At our school we take our responsibilities for supporting your child to develop skills in using technology very seriously, and their safety and wellbeing are our utmost priority to us.

We ask all children, young people and adults involved in the life of our school to read and sign an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) to outline how we expect them to behave when they are online, and/or using school networks, connections, internet connectivity and devices, cloud platforms and social media (both when on school site and outside of school).

Your child has also signed an AUP which, depending on the age of your child, has been sent home or completed in school.

We tell your children that **they should not behave any differently when they are out of school or using their own device or on a home network.** What we tell pupils about behaviour and respect applies to all members of the school community, whether they are at home or school. We seek the support of parents and carers to reinforce this message and help children to behave in a safe way when online:

“Treat yourself and others with respect at all times; treat people in the same way when you are online or on a device as you would face to face.”

Where can I find out more?

You can read our full Online Safety Policy (which is available on our website at <https://www.parish.st-helens.sch.uk/page/policies/11392>) for more detail on our approach to online safety and links to other relevant policies (e.g. Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Behaviour Policy, etc). If you have any questions about this AUP or our approach to online safety, please contact the school office.

What am I agreeing to?

1. I understand that school uses technology as part of the daily life of the school when it is appropriate to support teaching & learning and the smooth running of the school, and to help prepare the children and young people in our care for their future lives.
2. I understand that the school takes every reasonable precaution to keep pupils safe and to prevent pupils from accessing inappropriate materials, including through behaviour policies and agreements, physical and technical monitoring, education and support and web filtering.
3. School network protections will be superior to most home filtering. However, I understand that accessing the internet always involves an element of risk and the school cannot be held responsible for the nature and content of materials accessed through the internet and mobile technologies. Schools are asked not to

overblock or provide an experience which is so locked down as to block educational content or not train pupils for life in an online world.

4. I understand that internet and device use in school, and use of school-owned devices, networks and cloud platforms out of school is subject to filtering and monitoring. More details of this can be found in our online safety policy.
5. I understand and will help my child to use any devices at home in the same manner as when in school, including during any remote learning periods.
6. I will support my child to follow the school's policy regarding bringing devices (mobile phones, tablets, Smart watches and glasses etc) to school. Our Mobile Phone Policy and Online Safety Policy provides further information regarding mobile phones and wearable devices (eg smartwatches).
7. I understand that my child might be contacted online using school approved systems by school staff and only about their learning, wellbeing or behaviour. If they are contacted by someone else or staff ask them to use a different app to chat, they will tell another teacher. Our Online Safety Policy provides further information regarding the systems school uses – our policy can be found on our website.
8. I will promote positive online safety and model safe, responsible and positive behaviours in my own use of technology, including on social media: not sharing other's images or details without permission and refraining from posting negative, threatening or violent comments about others, including the school staff, volunteers, governors, contractors, pupils or other parents/carers.
9. Parents are kindly asked not to call their child on their mobile phones during the school day; urgent messages can be passed via the school office. Our Mobile Phone Policy provides further information regarding this.
10. The impact of social media use is often felt strongly in schools, which is why we expect certain behaviours from pupils when using social media. I will support the school's social media policy and not encourage my child to join any platform where they are below the minimum age (for nearly every platform, this means under 13 years old).
11. When I visit the school premises, I will keep any online technology in my pocket where possible. *Please read the school's Mobile Phone Policy that includes further information regarding this.*
12. I will follow the "Images and Videos" section within the school's Data Protection Policy which outlines when I can capture and/or share images/videos. I will not share images of other people's children on social media and understand that there may be cultural or legal reasons why this would be inappropriate or even dangerous (see nofilming@lgfl.net for more information) . The school sometimes uses images/video of my child for internal purposes such as recording attainment, but it will only do so publicly if I have given my consent on the relevant form (*Note: consent for a child aged 12+ may be sought directly from the child if the child has capacity and maturity to understand what they are agreeing to*).
13. I will not covertly film or make recordings of any interactions with pupils or adults in schools. *If you wish to make any recording, we request you contact the school office who will manage your request with others in school or in our Trust.*

14. I understand that for my child to grow up safe online, they will need positive input from school and home, so I will talk to my child about online safety and refer to parentsafe.lgfl.net where I can find advice and support on safe settings, parental controls, apps and games, talking to them about life online, screentime and relevant topics from bullying to accessing pornography, extremism and gangs, sharing inappropriate content etc...
15. Research tells us that the vast majority of children are now accessing intelligence in some form, which is available for free on most mainstream apps and social media platforms. There are some significant risks involved with this including talking to chatbots, and the use of nudifying apps and image creators to create inappropriate and illegal images/videos. I will talk to my about these risks.
16. I understand that my child needs a safe and appropriate place to do home learning, whether for homework or during times of school closure. When on any video calls with school, my child will be fully dressed and not in bed, and the camera angle will point away from beds/bedding/personal information etc. Where it is possible to blur or change the background, I will help my child to do so.
17. If my child has online tuition, I will refer to the [Online Tutors – Keeping children Safe](#) poster and undertake necessary checks where I have arranged this privately, ensuring they are registered/safe and reliable, and for any tuition to remain in the room where possible, ensuring my child knows that tutors should not arrange new sessions or online chats directly with them.
18. I understand that whilst home networks are much less secure than school ones, I can apply child safety settings to my home internet and to various devices, operating systems, consoles, apps and games. There are also child-safe search engines e.g. [swiggle.org.uk](https://www.swiggle.org.uk) and YouTube Kids is an alternative to YouTube with age appropriate content. Find out more at parentsafe.lgfl.net
19. I understand that it can be hard to stop using technology sometimes, and I will talk about this to my child, role model healthy behaviours and refer to the principles of the Digital 5 A Day: childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/our-work/digital/5-a-day/
20. I will not attempt to track my child during the school day or on school trips, eg with Apple AirTags or similar devices. Not only is this against the terms and conditions of these products, but it is also unhelpful to the operation of the school, can broadcast the location of children to passing users and can lead to unnecessary distress among parents, eg if a school trip has an unannounced change of route of schedule.
21. I understand and support the commitments made by my child in the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) which they have signed, and I understand that they will be subject to sanctions if they do not follow these rules. *Our school's Acceptable Use Policies can be found on our website.*
22. I can find out more about online safety at school by reading the full Online Safety Policy and can talk to my staff (eg form tutor/class teacher) if I have any concerns about my child/ren's use of technology, or about that of others in the community, or if I have questions about online safety or technology use in school.

Signature Page

I/we have read, understood and agreed to this policy.

Signature/s:

Name/s of parent / guardian:

Parent / guardian of:

Date:

Please note: you may also be interested in school's approach to online safety, which are all covered as sections within the overall school Online Safety Policy (uploaded to the school website)

Review Schedule

Policy Author	Data Protection Officer (DPO)
Policy Approver	Trust Chief Operating Officer
Current Policy Version	1.6
Policy Effective From	1 st September 2026
Policy Review Date	By 31 st August 2027

Revision Schedule

Version	Revisions	By whom
1.0	Original document produced	DPO
1.1	Updated in line with KCSIE 2020 and COVID-19 (page 3 – “Why do we need an AUP” removed. Point 3 “including during any remote learning periods” added. Point 6 – new sentence added re DP Policy. Points 8, 9 and 11 added. All other points reviewed, some with minor amendments).	DPO
1.2	Reviewed in line with KCSIE 2021, bullet 7 and bullet 9 updated. Online Tutor poster appended.	DPO
1.3	Reviewed in line with KCSIE 2022. New bullet 4. New Trust Prayer.	DPO
1.4	Reviewed in line with KCSIE 2023. New bullet 3, 5, 6 and 9.	DPO
1.5	Reviewed in line with KCSIE 2024. The Background section has been updated. Additional wording added to bullets 10 and 12. New bullets: 11 and 13. Removed copy of Online Tutors – Keeping Children Safe poster and added a link to the poster : bullet 16.	DPO
1.6	Reviewed in line with KCSIE 2025. Added new bullets (15 and 20).	DPO