



THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN ENGLAND

# Online Safety Policy

This policy applies to the whole school including Boarding and the Early Years. The current version of any policy, procedure, protocol or guideline is the version held on the TASIS England website. It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that they are following the current version.

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Agreed by:

<b>Head of School</b>	<b>Chair of the Board</b>
Bryan Nixon	David King
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**Introduction:** The purpose of this Policy is to safeguard students and faculty and staff at TASIS England (**the terms ‘faculty’ and ‘staff’ are used interchangeably within this policy and any reference to faculty or staff refers to any person employed at TASIS England whether they are directly employed, contractors, consultants, bank or agency**). It details the actions and behaviour required from students and members of staff in order to maintain a safe electronic environment and is based on current best practice drawn from a wide range of sources. In accordance with legislative requirements, we have a whole school approach to Online Safety. Our key message to keep students and young people safe is to be promoted and should be applied to both online and offline behaviours. Within our Online Safety Policy, we have clearly defined roles and responsibilities for online safety as part of the school’s wider safeguarding strategy and how this links with our main Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and other related documents.

Online safety is a running and interrelated theme when devising and implementing our wider school policies and procedures, including our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and our Preventing Extremism and Tackling Radicalisation Policy. The faculty and staff and student Acceptable Use Policies (AUPs) are central to the Online Safety Policy and should be consulted alongside this policy. We consider how we can promote online safety whilst developing our curriculum, through our staff training, and also through parental engagement. The Online Safety Policy will be reviewed annually by the safeguarding team who will provide recommendations for updating the policy in the light of experience and changes in legislation or technologies. The Student Council will be consulted regarding any changes to the Student AUP. All staff should read these policies in conjunction with the Online Safety Policy. This is particularly important with regard to the Prevent Strategy, as a large portion of cases of radicalisation happen through the online medium. Staff must be vigilant when dealing with such matters and ensure that they observe the procedure for reporting such concerns in line with that laid out in the Safeguarding & Child Protection and Preventing Extremism and Tackling Radicalisation Policies.

The Policy is publicly available on the school website and upon request a copy (which can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required) may be obtained from the school Office. All who work, volunteer or supply services to our school have an equal responsibility to understand and implement this policy and its procedures both within and outside of normal school hours including activities away from school. For purposes of this document, the term “Board of Directors” is deemed to have the same meaning as “Proprietor” in accordance with the Independent Schools Standards Regulations (ISSR) and is used interchangeably.

**Monitoring and Review:** This policy is subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by The Head of School and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The Board of Directors will undertake a full annual review of this policy and procedures, inclusive of its implementation and the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged. This discussion will be formally documented in writing. The Board of Directors recognises that staff builds expertise by undertaking safeguarding training and managing safeguarding concerns. Any deficiencies or weaknesses recognised in arrangements or procedures will be remedied immediately and without delay. All staff will be informed of the update/reviewed policy and it is made available to them in either a hard copy or electronically.

**Roles and Responsibilities:** Our nominated Online Safety Officer is John Arcay who has responsibility for ensuring that online safety is considered an integral part of everyday safeguarding practice. This role overlaps with that of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) role and he works alongside the DSL in all matters regarding safeguarding and Online Safety. Their roles, in collaboration with the TASIS England IT Department, will include ensuring:

- Young people know how to use the Internet and connected devices responsibly and that parents and teachers have the right measures in place to keep students safe from exploitation or radicalisation.
- Students are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the Internet in school, including by establishing appropriate levels of filtering.
- To ensure that students use Information and Communications Technology (ICT) safely and securely and are aware of both external and peer to peer risks when using ICT, including cyberbullying and other forms of abuse.
- Children, faculty, staff, the Board of Directors and volunteers will receive the appropriate Online Safety training, guidance, time and resources to effectively implement online safety policies and procedures.

TASIS England is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and expects all faculty, staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all students fulfil their potential.

- Clear and rigorous policies and procedures are to be applied to the use/non-use of personal ICT equipment by all individuals who affect or come into contact with the early years, MS and US setting. Such policies and procedures are to include the personal use of work-related resources.
- The Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to be implemented, monitored and reviewed regularly, and for ensuring all updates are to be shared with relevant individuals at the earliest opportunity.
- Monitoring procedures are to be transparent and updated as agreed in school policies.
- Allegations of misuse or known incidents are to be dealt with appropriately and promptly, in line with agreed procedures, and in liaison with other agencies, where applicable.
- Effective online safeguarding support systems are to be put in place, for example, filtering controls, secure networks and virus protection to ensure that the school's technical infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack.
- An appropriate level of authorisation is to be given to ICT users. Not all levels of authorisation will be the same - this will depend on, for example, the position, work role and experience of the individual concerned.
- That users may only access the networks and devices through a properly enforced password protection policy, in which passwords are regularly changed.
- A current record of all staff and Students who are granted access to school ICT system is maintained.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is a member of the senior leadership team (SLT) has relevant, current and practical knowledge and understanding of safeguarding, child protection and online safety. Access to an individual holding this role is available at all times, for example, a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is also in place should the DSL be absent. The designated persons for safeguarding will be responsible for ensuring:

- agreed policies and procedures are to be implemented in practice;
- all updates, issues and concerns are to be communicated to all ICT users;
- the importance of online safety in relation to safeguarding is to be understood by all ICT users;
- the training, learning and development requirements of staff are to be monitored and additional training needs identified and provided for boarding specific training;
- an appropriate level of access authorisation is given to ICT users.

Not all levels of authorisation will be the same - this will depend on, for example, the position, work role and experience of the individual concerned. In some instances, explicit individual authorisation must be obtained for specific activities when deemed appropriate, and any concerns and incidents are to be reported in a timely manner in line with agreed procedures. The learning and development plans of students and young people will address online safety. A safe ICT learning environment is to be promoted and maintained.

**The Board of Director's responsibilities:** Whilst considering their responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and provide them with a safe environment in which to learn, the Board of Directors will do all that they reasonably can to limit children's exposure to risks when using the school's IT system. As part of this process, the Board of Directors has ensured the school has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place which are reviewed regularly to monitor their effectiveness. They ensure that the leadership team and relevant staff have an awareness and understanding of the provisions in place, how to manage them effectively and know how to escalate concerns when identified.

**All Staff:** It is the responsibility of all staff to be alert to possible harm to students or staff due to inappropriate internet access or use, both inside and outside of TASIS England, and to deal with incidents of such as a priority. All staff are responsible for ensuring they are up to date with current Online Safety issues, and this online Safety Policy. Cyber-bullying incidents will be reported in accordance with TASIS England's Anti-Bullying Policy. All staff will ensure they understand and adhere to our staff Acceptable Use Policy, which they must sign and return to the online Safety Officer and a copy placed on faculty/staff file. Teachers will ensure they are confident in delivering the school's computing and Online Safety curriculum as required, identifying risks and reporting concerns as they arise.

**Parents:** Parents are responsible for ensuring their child understands how to use computer technology and other digital devices appropriately. TASIS England will support parents by sharing information and links through newsletters, school's website, social media platforms and informal/formal training.

**All Students:** All students will ensure they understand and adhere to our student Acceptable Use Policy, which they must sign and return to the Online Safety Officer. Students are reminded of their responsibilities regarding the use of the school's ICT systems and equipment, including their expected behaviour.

**Breadth of Online Safety Issues:** We classify the issues within online safety into **four** areas of risk:

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.
- **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.
- **Conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g., consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
- **Commerce** - risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.

These issues are to be managed by reducing availability, restricting access, promoting safe and responsible use.

**Staff/Volunteers Use of IT Systems:** Access to the Internet and e-mail is provided to support the curriculum, support school administration and for staff professional development only. All staff must read and confirm by signature that they have read the 'Staff Code of Conduct for ICT' (please see appendices) before using any school ICT resource. In addition:

- All faculty and staff including the Board of Directors will receive appropriate Online Safety training, which is updated regularly;
- Online Safety issues are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum and other activities.
- Access to systems should be made by authorised passwords, which must not be made available to any other person.
- At all times take care to ensure the safe keeping of personal data, minimising the risk of its loss or misuse, using personal data only on secure password protected computers and other devices. Staff are advised to follow the "How do I stay secure on the Internet?" section in the Online Safety FAQ document.
- In lessons where Internet use is pre-planned, students should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in Internet searches.
- Where students are allowed to freely search the Internet, staff should be vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites the students visit. Student internet usage is also monitored through ContentKeeper which monitors blocked search terms and websites.
- Occasionally students may need to research educational material that may normally result in websites being blocked (e.g., racism). In this situation, staff may request to remove these sites from the filtered list for the period of study. Every request to do so should be auditable with clear reasons for the need.
- The Internet can be used to actively gather personal information about individuals which may lead to undesirable consequences (e.g., SPAM, fraud, harassment or identity theft). Because of this, staff are advised to only use the school approved web browsers and email systems which have appropriate security in place. Additionally, files should not be saved directly from the Internet unless they can first be scanned for computer viruses, malware, spyware and other malicious programmes.
- Additionally, staff should not communicate with students through electronic methods such as social networking sites, blogging, chat rooms, texts or private email. Instead, only the school email system should be used for this purpose.
- Educational materials made by and for classes and uploaded to password-protected YouTube channels, i.e., videos of lessons, activities or fieldtrips, must be logged for record-keeping purposes. This provides an opportunity to share best practices and resources and enable better teaching and learning outcomes.

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- In order to strengthen the schools' defences against future cyber incidents, staff are expected to enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for the Google Workspace and Axiom/LMS.

Any person suspecting another of deliberate misuse or abuse of technology should take the following action:

- Report in confidence to the school's Online Safety Officer.
- The Online Safety Officer should investigate the incident.
- If this investigation results in confirmation of access to illegal material, the committing of illegal acts, or transgression of school rules, appropriate sanctions will be enforced.
- In exceptional circumstances, where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a user has committed a serious criminal offence, the CEOP or the police will be informed.
- No student or member of staff should attempt to access or view the material, whether online or stored on internal or external storage devices. If this step is necessary, CEOP and/or police will be contacted.

**Teaching about online safety:** The school's Internet access is designed to enhance and extend education. Students will be taught what Internet use is acceptable and what is not and given clear guidelines for Internet use. Access levels reflect the curriculum requirements and age of students. Staff should guide students to on-line activities that will support the learning outcomes planned for the students' age and maturity. Students are taught to be critically aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy. The evaluation of on-line materials is a part of teaching/learning in every subject.

Staff should be vigilant in lessons where students use the Internet. If staff allow the use of mobile devices in their lessons, they must ensure that they are used in line with school policy. Staff will be provided with sufficient Online Safety training to protect students and themselves from online risks and to deal appropriately with Online Safety incidents when they occur. Ongoing staff development training includes training on online safety, together with specific safeguarding issues including cyberbullying and radicalisation. The frequency, level and focus of such training will depend on individual roles and requirements.

Because new opportunities and challenges appear all the time, it is important that we focus our teaching on the underpinning knowledge and behaviours that can help students to navigate the online world safely and confidently regardless of the device, platform or app. Online Safety is a focus in all areas of the curriculum and key Online Safety messages are reinforced regularly, teaching students about the risks of Internet use, how to protect themselves and their peers from potential risks, how to recognise suspicious, bullying or extremist behaviour and the consequences of negative online behaviour. Access levels to ICT reflect the curriculum requirements and age of students. Faculty/staff should guide students to on-line activities that will support the learning outcomes planned for the students' age and maturity. This teaching is built into existing lessons alongside our wider whole-school approach. Students will explicitly be taught the following topics through their lessons:

- What internet use is acceptable and what is not and given clear guidelines for internet use;
- How to use a wide range of devices and learn about their advantages and disadvantages, in different applications;
- How to evaluate what they see online;
- How to recognise and respond to harmful online challenges and online hoaxes.
- How to recognise techniques used for persuasion;
- Online behaviour;
- How to identify online risks and
- How and when to seek support.

We recognise that Child-on-Child abuse can occur online and to this end we teach students how to spot early warning signs of potential abuse, and what to do if students are subject to sexual harassment online. When accessing the internet, individuals are especially vulnerable to a number of risks which may be physically and emotionally harmful, including:

- access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate images;
- cyber bullying;
- access to, or loss of, personal information;
- access to unsuitable online videos or games;

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- loss of personal images;
- inappropriate communication with others;
- illegal downloading of files;
- exposure to explicit or harmful content, e.g., involving radicalisation;
- plagiarism and copyright infringement; and
- sharing the personal information of others without the individual's consent or knowledge.

**Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes:** [\(Please refer to the latest DfE Guidance\)](#) There has been a growing trend in the number of both challenges and hoaxes online as well as their popularity. As such, the school has put in a number of measures to safeguard our children. A hoax is a deliberate lie designed to seem truthful, and online challenges generally involve users recording themselves taking a challenge, and then distributing the video through social media channels, inspiring or daring others to repeat the challenge. We teach students to recognise the signs that something may be untruthful online or that risks associated with any online challenges as well as who they can speak to if they have a concern. Where a child or member of faculty/staff reports an online hoax or challenge, we ensure that they are taken seriously, and acted upon appropriately, with the best interests of the child coming first. We ensure we provide opportunities to discuss this topic within Online Safety lessons, ensuring children and young people can ask questions and share concerns about what they experience online without being made to feel foolish or blamed.

A case-by-case assessment, establishing the scale and nature of the possible risk to our students will be carried out, and appropriate actions taken, which may include sharing information with parents and carers, our own young people as well as other local schools. Forward planning, together with case-by-case research, will allow for a calm and measured response and avoid creating panic or confusion by spreading information which itself is untrue or would only draw students' attention to a potential risk.

Our DSL will check the factual basis of any harmful online challenge or online hoax with a known, reliable and trustworthy source, such as the [Professional Online Safety Helpline](#) from the UK Safer Internet Centre. Where harmful online challenges or online hoaxes appear to be local (rather than large scale national ones) local safeguarding advice, such as from the local authority or local police force, may also be appropriate and helpful. Information that is shared with parents and carers will include encouraging them to focus on positive and empowering online behaviours with their children, such as critical thinking, how and where to report concerns about harmful content and how to block content and users.

**Students Use of IT Systems:** All students must agree to the IT Acceptable Use Policy before accessing the school systems. Students at TASIS England will be given supervised access to our computing facilities and will be provided with access to filtered Internet (see FAQ Document) and other services operating at the school (Student internet usage is monitored through ContentKeeper which monitors blocked search terms and websites.). The promotion of online safety within ICT activities is to be considered essential for meeting the learning and development needs of students and young people. The school will ensure that the use of Internet-derived materials by staff and students complies with copyright law. TASIS England will help students to understand the risks posed by adults or young people, who use the Internet and social media to bully, groom, abuse or radicalise other people, especially students, young people and vulnerable adults. Internet safety is integral to the school's ICT curriculum and is also be embedded in our Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development. The latest resources promoted by the DfE can be found at:

- [Education for a connected world](#)
- The UK Safer Internet Centre ([www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk))
- CEOP's Thinkuknow website ([www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk))
- Teaching Online Safety in School <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-schools>
- Google Legends (KS2) ([https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en\\_uk](https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk))

**Educating Faculty/Staff:** A planned calendar program of online safety training opportunities will be available to all staff members (including the Board of Directors, including whole charity activities and CPD training courses. Faculty/staff will be

provided with sufficient Online Safety training to protect students and themselves from online risks and to deal appropriately with Online Safety incidents when they occur. Ongoing staff development training includes training in online safety, together with specific safeguarding issues including cyberbullying and radicalisation. The frequency, level and focus of such training will depend on individual roles and requirements. Faculty/staff will undergo online safety training annually/when changes occur basis to ensure they are aware of current online safety issues and any changes to the provision of Online Safety, as well as current developments in social media and the internet as a whole. All faculty/staff will employ methods of good practice and act as role models for young people when using the internet and other digital devices. All faculty/staff will be educated on which sites are deemed appropriate and inappropriate. All faculty/staff are reminded of the importance of acknowledging information they access online, in order to avoid copyright infringement and/or plagiarism. Any new faculty/staff members are required to undergo online safety training as part of their induction program, ensuring they fully understand this online safety policy/social media policy/user agreement. The online safety officer will act as the first point of contact for faculty/staff requiring online safety advice.

**Communicating and Educating Parents/Guardians in Online Safety:** Parents will be provided with a copy of the IT User Acceptance Policy, and parents will be asked to sign it, as well as students aged eight and older. TASIS England recognises the crucial role that parents play in the protection of their children with regards to online safety. The school organises an annual awareness session for parents with regards to Online Safety which looks at emerging technologies and the latest ways to safeguard students from inappropriate content. The school will also provide parents and carers with information through newsletters, web site and the parent portals. Parents and guardians are always welcome to discuss their concerns on Online Safety with the school, who can direct them to the support of our Online Safety Officer if required. Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the school in promoting good Online Safety practice.

**Protecting Personal Data:** Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. The school recognises that if required, data may need to be obtained by relevant parties such as the Police. Students are encouraged to keep their personal data private as part of our Online Safety lessons and IT curriculum, including areas such as password protection and knowledge about apps and unsecured networks/apps etc. The school will act responsible for ensuring we have an appropriate level of security protection procedures in place, in order to safeguard systems, staff and learners and we review the effectiveness of these procedures periodically to keep up with evolving cyber-crime technologies.

**Radicalisation and the Use of Social Media to Encourage Extremism:** The Internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major way to communicate with others, especially young people, which has provided access for like-minded people to create an online community and confirm extreme beliefs, sharing extreme ideological views or advocating the use of violence to solve problems. This has led to social media becoming a platform for:

- Intensifying and accelerating the radicalisation of young people;
- Confirming extreme beliefs;
- Accessing likeminded people where they are not able to do this off-line, creating an online community;
- Normalising abnormal views and behaviours, such as extreme ideological views or the use of violence to solve problems and address grievances.

TASIS England has a number of measures in place to help prevent the use of social media for this purpose:

- Web site filtering is in place on the school network to help prevent access to terrorist and extremist material and social networking sites such as TikTok, SnapChat, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter by students.
- Students, parents and staff are educated in safe use of social media and the risks posed by on-line activity, including from extremist and terrorist groups.

Further details on how social media is used to promote extremism and radicalisation can be found in guidance from the Department for Education '*How Social Media Is Used to Encourage Travel to Syria and Iraq: Briefing Note for Schools.*'



**Reporting of Online Safety Issues and Concerns Including Concerns Regarding Radicalisation:** TASIS England has clear reporting mechanisms in place, available for all users to report issues and concerns. For staff, any concerns regarding Online Safety should be made to the Online Safety Officer who will review the issue and take the appropriate action. For students, they are taught to raise any concerns to their class teacher who will then pass this on to the Online Safety officer. Complaints of a child protection nature must be dealt with in accordance with our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead provides advice and support to other members of faculty/staff on protecting students from the risk of on-line radicalisation. TASIS England ensures faculty/staff understand what radicalisation and extremism mean and why people may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. We ensure staff have the knowledge and confidence to identify students at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism. Faculty/staff safeguard and promote the welfare of students and know where and how to refer students and young people for further help as appropriate by making referrals as necessary to Channel.

#### **Assessing Risks:**

- We will take all reasonable precautions to prevent access to inappropriate material. However, due to the international scale and linked nature of Internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never appear on a computer connected to the school network. The school cannot accept liability for any material accessed, or any consequences of Internet access.
- Emerging technologies, such as mobile phones with Internet access (smartphones) are not governed by the school's infrastructure and bypass any and all security and filtering measures that are or could be deployed.
- We carry out an annual audit of our Online Safety provision to establish if the Online Safety Policy is sufficiently robust and that the implementation of the Online Safety Policy is appropriate and effective.
- Methods to identify, assess and minimise risks will be reviewed regularly.
- The Section Heads will review and examine emerging technologies for educational benefit and a risk assessment will be carried out before use in school is allowed.
- Any person not directly employed by the school will not be provided with access to any of the school systems with the exception of filtered *Wi-Fi* access.
- TASIS England takes measures to ensure appropriate IT filters monitoring systems are in place to safeguard students from potentially harmful and inappropriate material on-line without unreasonable "over-blocking"
- TASIS England recognises that students may choose to circumvent certain safety precautions by using devices over 3G, 4G and 5G. To help provide a safe environment for all students, we will supplement the systems filtering with behaviour management and additional staff/student training.

**Mobile Electronic Devices (Phones, Laptops, iPads and Tablets; please see appendix 5 for more details):** Mobile telephones are permitted both in boarding houses and in academic school buildings. During the school day phones are only to be used by students during break time and lunch time, unless in the boarding houses. Mobile phones are kept on site at the risk of the individual student. If in the rare case a student in the Lower School brings a mobile phone into lessons, this must be kept in their backpack or handed over to the class teacher who will lock the device in a drawer where possible. In the Middle and Upper School, (aged 10 and upwards) students must ensure that their devices are kept in a secure place, e.g., their school bag or in their locker. TASIS England is not responsible for any devices lost by students. No personal mobile phones are to be used in the Early Years setting during the teaching day. (See Safeguarding Children-Child Protection policy).

Recordings made using mobile electronic devices: Using the camera on a phone or similar device, either to photograph/film/record any member of the school community, do any form of live streaming or to show to others the photos/videos/audio recordings already on the phone or similar device is prohibited. The discovery of any uploads to social media platforms will result in serious sanctions being applied.

**Cyber-Bullying:** Cyber-Bullying is the use of ICT, particularly mobile electronic devices and the Internet, deliberately to upset someone else. Cyberbullying (along with all forms of bullying) will not be tolerated and incidents of cyberbullying should be reported and will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Anti-Bullying Policy. Use of electronic devices of any kind to bully, harass or intimidate others will not be tolerated and will constitute a serious breach of discipline. If there is a suggestion

that a child is at risk of abuse or significant harm, the matter will be dealt with under the school's child protection procedures (see our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy).

Seven categories of cyber-bullying have been identified:

- **Text message bullying** involves sending unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort;
- **Picture/video-clip bullying via mobile phone cameras** is used to make the person being bullied feel threatened or embarrassed, with images usually sent to other people. 'Happy slapping' involves filming and sharing physical attacks;
- **Phone call bullying via mobile phone** uses silent calls or abusive messages. Sometimes the bullied person's phone is stolen and used to harass others, who then think the phone owner is responsible. As with all mobile phone bullying, the perpetrators often disguise their numbers, sometimes using someone else's phone to avoid being identified;
- **Email bullying** uses email to send bullying or threatening messages, often using a pseudonym for anonymity or using someone else's name to pin the blame on them;
- **Chat room bullying and online grooming** involve sending menacing or upsetting responses to students or young people when they are in a web-based chat room;
- **Bullying through instant messaging (IM)** is an Internet-based form of bullying where students and young people are sent unpleasant messages through various messaging applications (for example, WhatsApp, Group Me, Skype, Facebook Messenger, Snapchat, Google Hangouts etc.) as they conduct real-time conversations online;
- **Bullying via websites and social networks (an example of this would be TikTok, SnapChat, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)** includes the use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal polling sites. There has also been a significant increase in social networking sites for young people, which can provide new opportunities for cyber-bullying.

Students should remember the following:

- Always respect others - be careful what you say online and what images you send.
- Think before you send - whatever you send can be made public very quickly and could stay online forever.
- Don't retaliate or reply online.
- Save the evidence - learn how to keep records of offending messages, pictures or online conversations. Ask someone if you are unsure how to do this. This will help to show what is happening and can be used by the school to investigate the matter.
- Block the bully. Most social media websites and online or mobile services allow you block someone who is behaving badly.
- Don't do nothing - if you see cyberbullying going on, support the victim and report the bullying.

**Online Sexual Harassment:** Sexual harassment creates an atmosphere that, if not challenged, can normalise inappropriate behaviours and provide an environment that may lead to sexual violence. online sexual harassment include: non-consensual sharing of nude or semi-nude images and videos and sharing sexual images and videos (both often referred to as sexting); inappropriate sexual comments on social media; exploitation; coercion and threats. Online sexual harassment may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence. All cases or allegations of sexual harassment, online or offline, is unacceptable and will dealt with under our Child Protection Procedures.

Additionally, we recognise that incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment that occur online (either in isolation or in connection to offline incidents) can introduce a number of complex factors. These include the potential for the incident to take place across a number of social media platforms and services and for things to move from platform to platform online. It also includes the potential for the impact of the incident to extend further than the school's local community (e.g., for images or content to be shared around neighbouring schools/colleges) and for a victim (or alleged perpetrator) to become marginalised and excluded by both online and offline communities. There is also the strong potential for repeat victimisation in the future if abusive content continues to exist somewhere online. Online concerns can be especially complicated. Support is available at: The UK Safer Internet Centre provides an online safety helpline for professionals at 0344 381 4772 and [helpline@saferinternet.org.uk](mailto:helpline@saferinternet.org.uk). Providing expert advice and support for school staff with regard to online safety issues and when an allegation is received.

If the incident involves sexual images or videos that have been made and circulated online, we will support the victim to get the images removed through the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). The IWF will make an assessment of whether the image is illegal in line with UK Law. If the image is assessed to be illegal, it will be removed and added to the IWF's Image Hash list.

**Social Media, including TikTok, SnapChat, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:** TikTok, SnapChat, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other forms of social media are increasingly becoming an important part of our daily lives. Social media is very likely to play a central role in the fall out from any incident or alleged incident. There is the potential for contact between victim and alleged perpetrator and a very high likelihood that friends from either side could well harass the victim or alleged perpetrator online.

Staff are not permitted to access their personal social media accounts using school equipment at any time, unless granted prior permission by the Head of School for reasons of work. Faculty/staff and students are provided with information on how to use social media responsibly and what to do if they are aware of inappropriate use by others. Staff and students, are aware that the information, comments, images and video they post online can be viewed by others, copied and stay online forever. Faculty/staff and students are aware that their online behaviour should at all times be compatible with UK law.

**ICT-Based Sexual Abuse:** The impact on a child of ICT-based sexual abuse is similar to that for all sexually abused students. However, it has an additional dimension in that there is a visual record of the abuse. ICT-based sexual abuse of a child constitutes significant harm through sexual and emotional abuse. Recognition and response are recognising a situation where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer a degree of physical, sexual and/or emotional harm (through abuse or neglect) which is so harmful that there needs to be compulsory intervention by child protection agencies into the life of the child and their family. All adults (volunteers, staff) working with students, adults and families will be alerted to the possibility that:

- A child may already have been/is being abused and the images distributed on the Internet or by mobile telephone;
- An adult or older child may be grooming a child for sexual abuse, including involvement in making abusive images. This process can involve the child being shown abusive images;
- An adult or older child may be viewing and downloading child sexual abuse images.

Students are reminded that sending nude or semi-nude images is strictly prohibited by the school and may constitute a criminal offence. Often referred to as 'sexting', the school will treat incidences of both sending and receiving these images as a safeguarding and/or child protection issue and students concerned about images that they have received, sent or forwarded should speak to any member of staff for advice.

There are no circumstances that will justify adults possessing indecent images of students. Adults who access and possess links to such websites will be viewed as a significant and potential threat to students. Accessing, making and storing indecent images of students is illegal. This will lead to criminal investigation and the individual being barred from working with students, if proven. Adults should not use equipment belonging to the school to access adult pornography; neither should personal equipment containing these images or links to them be brought into the workplace. This will raise serious concerns about the suitability of the adult to continue to work with students. Adults should ensure that students are not exposed to any inappropriate images or web links. Where indecent images of students or other unsuitable material are found, the police and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) should be immediately informed. Adults should not attempt to investigate the matter or evaluate the material themselves, as this may lead to evidence being contaminated, which in itself can lead to a criminal prosecution.

**Chat Room Grooming and Offline Abuse:** Our faculty/staff need to be continually alert to any suspicious activity involving computers and the Internet. Grooming of students online is a faster process than usual grooming, and totally anonymous. The abuser develops a 'special' relationship with the child online (often adopting a false identity), which remains a secret to enable an offline meeting to occur in order for the abuser to harm the child.

**Communicating and educating parents/carers in online safety:** We believe that it is essential for parents/carers to be fully involved with promoting Online Safety both in and outside of school and to be aware of their responsibilities. We regularly

consult and discuss Online Safety with parents/ carers and seek to promote a wide understanding of the benefits of new technologies, together with the associated risks. Parents will be provided with a copy of the IT User Acceptance Policy, and parents of students from the Early Years to Year 6 will be asked to sign it on their child's behalf. TASIS England recognises the crucial role that parents play in the protection of their children with regards to online safety. The school organises annually awareness sessions for parents with regards to Online Safety, which look at emerging technologies and the latest ways to safeguard children from inappropriate content. The school will also provide parents and carers with information through newsletters, website; Parents/Carers sessions. Parents and carers are always welcome to discuss their concerns on Online Safety with the school, who can direct them to the support of our Online Safety officer if required. Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the school in promoting good Online Safety practice.

- Parents/carers are required to decide as to whether they consent to images of their child being taken and used in the public domain (e.g., on school website).
- Parents/carers are expected to sign an agreement containing the following statement or similar:
- We will support the school approach to on-line safety and not deliberately upload or add any text, image, sound or videos that could upset or offend any member of the school community or bring the school's name into disrepute.
- The school disseminates information to parents relating to Online Safety where appropriate in the form of; posters and school website

**Taking and Storing Images of Students Including Mobile Phones (See our related documents including Appendix 6):** TASIS England provides an environment in which students, parents and staff are safe from images being recorded and inappropriately used. Upon their initial visit, parents, volunteers and visitors are given information informing them they are not permitted to use mobile phones on the premises in the presence of students, or to take photographs of students apart from circumstances as outlined in appendix 6 of this policy. This prevents staff from being distracted from their work with students and ensures the safeguarding of students from inappropriate use of mobile phone cameras and other digital recording equipment. The school will inform and educate users about these risks and will implement policies to reduce the likelihood of the potential for harm:

- When using digital images, staff should inform and educate students about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images of themselves and others especially on social networking sites.
- Photographs published onto any website will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images. Care will be taken to ensure that students are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute. Their full names will not be used anywhere on the website, particularly in association with photographs. The word 'camera' in this document refers to any device that may be used to take and store a digital image e.g., mobile phone, tablet, laptop etc. The school has a Mobile Phone Policy which includes:
  - The commitment to keep the students safe.
  - How we manage the use of mobile phones at TASIS England taking into consideration faculty, staff, students on placement, volunteers, other professionals, trustees, visitors and parents/carers.
  - How we inform parents/carers, visitors and other professional of our procedures.
  - What type of mobile phones will be used on educational visits and learning outside the classroom.
  - The consequences of any breaches of this policy.
  - Reference to other policies, such as Whistleblowing and Safeguarding Children-Child Protection Policies.

**Remote Learning (Please see our Remote Learning Policy for more details):** Where there are periods in which the school is forced to close yet continue to provide education (such as during significant rising respiratory infection rates, such as the Covid-19 pandemic) it is important that TASIS England supports faculty, staff, students and parents to access learning safely, especially considering the safety of our vulnerable students. Staff and volunteers are aware that this difficult time potentially puts all children at greater risk and the school recognises the importance of all staff who interact with children, including online, continuing to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Faculty, staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on learners' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns and will act on concerns immediately. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police. Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the school's

staff and students respective Behaviour - Code of Conduct. Additionally, school name will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

The school will put additional measures in place to support parents and students who are learning from home. This will include specific guidance on which programmes the school is expecting students to use and how to access these alongside how students and parents can report any concerns that they may have. Guidance will also be issued on which staff members students will have contact with and how this will happen, including how to conduct virtual lessons (including video conferencing). Details of this can be found in our schools Remote Learning Policy.

Additionally, the Head of School has a duty of care for ensuring the safety (including online safety) of members of the school community, with the day-to-day responsibility being delegated to the Online Safety Lead who is our DSL. The Head of School and the DSL are aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safety allegation being made against a member of faculty/staff, which in line with our main safeguarding reporting procedures. Staff working remotely should wherever possible use their school-issued ICT equipment, however they may use their own computer equipment if this is not practical, as long as it is in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy. Faculty and staff are responsible for security of personal data and must ensure it is stored securely when using personal systems or remote systems to maintain confidentiality from other members of the household.

For more information relating to Online Safety procedures, refer to the Online Safety Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) in Appendix 5. It covers the following topics on the relevant page as follows:

- How will the policy be introduced to students? How will staff be consulted and made aware of this policy? How will complaints regarding Internet use be handled? How will parents' support be enlisted?
- Why is the use of Internet and ICT important? How is the safe use of ICT and the Internet promoted? How does the Internet and use of ICT benefit education in our school? How will students learn to evaluate Internet content?
- How is filtering managed? How are emerging technologies managed? How to react to misuse by students and young people
- How is printing managed? What are the categories of Cyber-Bullying? What are the student rules?
- What has research into Cyber Bullying found? What is the impact on a child of ICT based sexual abuse? What is the impact on a child of ICT-based sexual abuse? How do I stay secure on the Internet? Why is promoting safe use of ICT important? What does the school's Mobile Phone Policy Include?
- Where can we learn more about Prevent? What do we have to do?
- Do we have to have a separate Prevent Policy? What IT filtering systems must we have? What is the definition of a visiting speaker? Do we have to check all our visiting speakers? What checks must we run on visiting speakers? What do we have to record in our Single Central Register about visiting speakers?
- What training must we have? What are the potential legal consequences if we do not take the Prevent duty seriously? What are the rules for publishing content online?

#### **Related documents:**

- Online Safety Appendices 1-6
- Safeguarding Children- Child Protection Policy; Anti-Bullying Policy; Behaviour and Discipline Policy.
- Prevent Duty: Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC); Personal; Personal Social, Health, Economic Education (PSHEE); The School Rules.
- Taking and storing images of Students – Including Mobile Phones Policy; Acceptable use of ICT Sign off forms for Staff/Students; Use of Photographs Sign-off Form.
- What to do if you are worried; [www.thinkyouknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk).

#### **Legal Status:**

- Part 3, paragraphs 7 (a) and (b) of the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2014, in force from the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and as amended in September 2015
- *Keeping Students Safe in Education (KCSIE) Information for all schools and colleges* (DfE: September 2022) incorporates the additional statutory guidance,

TASIS England is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and expects all faculty, staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all students fulfil their potential.

- *Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.*
- *Working Together to Safeguard children (WT)* (HM Government: September 2018) which also refers to non-statutory advice, *Information sharing* HM Government: March 2015); [Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales](#) (March 2015) (*Prevent*). *Prevent* is supplemented by [The Prevent duty: Departmental advice for schools and childminders](#) (June 2015) and [The use of social media for on-line radicalisation](#) (July 2015) *How Social Media Is Used To Encourage Travel To Syria And Iraq: Briefing Note For Schools (DfE)*
- Based on guidance from the DfE (2014) 'Cyberbullying: Advice for Heads and School staff 'and 'Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying'
- Prepared with reference to DfE Guidance (2014) *Preventing and Tackling Bullying: Advice for school leaders and governors* and the relevant aspects of *Safe to Learn, embedding anti-bullying work in schools.*
- Having regard for the guidance set out in the DfE (*Don't Suffer in Silence booklet*)
- The Data Protection Act 2018; UK GDPR and Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP).
- [Teaching Online Safety in School](#) (DfE: 2019)
- [Education for a connected world](#) (2020)
- [Harmful Online challenges and online hoaxes](#) (2021)

### Appendix 1: EARLY YEARS ONLINE SAFETY, INTERNET AND ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

**This policy, which applies to the whole school inclusive of the Early Years Foundation Stage, is in support of the health and safety policy and the individual health and safety assessments. This policy is publicly available on the school's website. On request a copy may be obtained from the school's office**

**Aim:** The Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) will aim to:

- Safeguard students and young people by promoting appropriate and acceptable use of information and communication technology (ICT).
- Outline the roles and responsibilities of all individuals who are to have access to and/or be users of work-related ICT systems.
- Ensure all ICT users have an acute awareness of risk, a clear understanding of what constitutes misuse and the sanctions that may be applied.

**Scope:** The AUP will apply to all individuals who are to have access to and/or be users of work-related ICT systems. This will include students and young people, parents and carers, early years teachers and their coordinators, volunteers, students, committee members, visitors, contractors and community users. This list is not to be considered exhaustive. Parents and carers, and where applicable, other agencies, will be informed of any incidents of inappropriate use of ICT that takes place on-site, and, where known, off-site.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

**Early Years Coordinator:** The **Early Years Coordinator** has overall responsibility for ensuring online safety and will be considered an integral part of everyday safeguarding practice. The Early Years Coordinator will liaise with the Online Safety Officer who will monitor the practice of Online Safety within the Early Years. This will include ensuring:

- Early years teachers and their **Coordinator** will receive the appropriate training, guidance, time and resources to effectively implement online safety policies and procedures.
- Clear and rigorous policies and procedures are to be applied to the use/non-use of personal ICT equipment by all individuals who affect or come into contact with the early years setting. Such policies and procedures are to include the personal use of work-related resources.
- The AUP is to be implemented, monitored and reviewed regularly, and for ensuring all updates are to be shared with relevant individuals at the earliest opportunity.
- Monitoring procedures are to be open and transparent.
- Allegations of misuse or known incidents are to be dealt with appropriately and promptly, in line with agreed procedures, and in liaison with other agencies, where applicable.
- Effective online safeguarding support systems are to be put in place, for example, filtering controls, secure networks and virus protection.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) must be a senior member of the leadership team who is to have relevant, current and practical knowledge and understanding of safeguarding, child protection and online safety. Access to an individual holding this role is to be available at all times, for example, a Designated Deputy. The designated person for safeguarding will be responsible for ensuring:

- Agreed policies and procedures are to be implemented in practice.
- All updates, issues and concerns are to be communicated to all ICT users.
- The importance of online safety in relation to safeguarding is to be understood by all ICT users.
- The training, learning and development requirements of early years teachers and their coordinators are to be monitored and additional training needs identified and provided for.
- An appropriate level of authorization is to be given to ICT users.

Not all levels of authorisation will be the same - this will depend on, for example, the position, work role and experience of the individual concerned. In some instances, explicit individual authorisation must be obtained for specific activities when deemed

appropriate, and any concerns and incidents are to be reported in a timely manner in line with agreed procedures. The learning and development plans of students and young people will address online safety. A safe ICT learning environment is to be promoted and maintained.

**Early years teachers and their co-ordinators:** Early years teachers and their co-ordinators will ensure:

- The timely reporting of concerns in relation to alleged misuse or known incidents, subject to agreed procedures.
- ICT equipment is to be checked before use and all relevant security systems judged to be operational.
- Awareness will be raised of any new or potential issues, and any risks which could be encountered as a result.
- Students and young people are to be supported and protected in their use of online technologies – enabling them to use ICT in a safe and responsible manner.
- Online safety information is to be presented to students and young people as appropriate for their age and stage of development.
- Students and young people will know how to recognize and report a concern.
- All relevant policies and procedures are to be adhered to at all times and training undertaken as is to be required.

**Students and young people:** Students and young people will be encouraged to:

- Be active, independent and responsible learners.
- Abide by the Acceptable Use Agreement as to be approved by peers, early years teachers and their co-ordinators, parents and carers.
- Tell a familiar adult about any access of inappropriate content, material that makes them feel uncomfortable or contact made with someone they do not know, straight away, without fear of reprimand (age and activity dependent).

**Acceptable use by early years teachers and their co-ordinators:** Early years teachers and their co-ordinators should be enabled to use work-based online technologies:

- To access age-appropriate resources for students and young people.
- For research and information purposes.
- For study support.

**Use of images, displays etc:** We will only use images of our students for the following purposes:

- Internal displays (including clips of moving images) on digital and conventional notice boards within the school premises,
- Communications with the school community (parents, students, faculty, staff), for example newsletters.
- Marketing the school both digitally by website, by prospectus [which includes an iPad app], by displays at educational fairs and other marketing functions [both inside the UK and overseas] and by other means.

**In the event of misuse by early years teachers or their co-ordinators:** Should it be alleged, that an early years practitioner or manager is to have misused any ICT resource in an abusive, inappropriate or illegal manner, a report is to be made to the Head of School or Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately. Should the allegation be made against the Head of School or Designated Safeguarding Lead, a report is to be made to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Procedures are to be followed as appropriate, in line with the ICT Misuse Procedure, Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and/or Disciplinary Procedures. Should allegations relate to abuse or unlawful activity, Children's Social Care, the Local Authority Designated Officer, Ofsted and/or the Police will be notified as applicable.

**Acceptable use by students and young people:** Students and young people will also be informed of the behaviours, which will be deemed unacceptable. This will allow students and young people to take some degree of responsibility for their own actions. Students will only be able to download a file under the direct supervision of a member of staff and it will be virus checked prior to being opened. The use of game-style activities and websites should be monitored by teachers to determine suitability.

**Acceptable use by visitors, contractors and others:** All individuals who affect or come into contact with the early years setting are to be expected to behave in an appropriate and respectful manner. No such individual will be permitted to have



unsupervised contact with students and young people. All guidelines in respect of acceptable use of technologies must be adhered to. The right to ask any individual to leave at any time is to be reserved.

**Links to other policies:**

**Behaviour Policy:** The Behaviour Policy together with the anti-bullying contain up-to-date anti-bullying guidance, which should highlight relevant issues, such as cyber-bullying. It should be recognised that all inappropriate behaviours will be taken seriously and dealt with in a similar way, whether committed on or offline. There are to be consistent expectations for appropriate behaviour in both the 'real' and 'cyber' world and this is to be reflected in all relevant policies.

**Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and ICT Misuse Policy:** The Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and the ICT Misuse Policy are to be referred to when dealing with any incidents that should occur as a result of the intentional or unintentional misuse of ICT. Any allegations of abuse or other unlawful activity are to be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will ensure procedures outlined in the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy are followed with immediate effect.

**Relationships and Sex Education Policy:** When teaching students about developing positive relationships and sex education, including Health Education, this is underpinned by teaching effective online safety practices alongside how to report online sexual harassment or unwanted content.

**Personal, Social, and Emotional Development:** The promotion of online safety within PSED activities is to be considered essential for meeting the learning and development needs of students and young people. Key messages to keep students and young people safe are to be promoted and should be applied to both online and offline behaviours.

**Health and Safety Policy:** The safe use of ICT is included within the Health and Safety Policy and should also include guidelines for the use of display screen equipment. The detrimental impact of prolonged ICT use on students' brain development should also be addressed.

## Appendix 2 -STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

## Student Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

# E

Ensure that I do not create, send or post anything which is offensive to other people or brings the school into disrepute. I will not use any language or images which could offend any minority group.

# S

Secure all my passwords and not share them with others. I understand I must not reveal or use anyone else's login details or access a device someone else is logged onto. I will change my password immediately if it becomes known to someone else and ensure I log out after every network session.

# A

Access only appropriate material. I will not attempt to visit websites that might be considered inappropriate or illegal. I am aware that school can monitor my use of the internet if any poor conduct is suspected. I will report any accidental access to other people's information, unsuitable websites or receipt of any inappropriate material as well as any security risk or suspicious behaviour that I become aware of. Offensive material includes, but is not limited to, content that is abusive, racist, considered to be of an extreme or terrorist related nature, sexist, homophobic, any form of bullying, pornographic, defamatory or criminal activity.

# F

Facebook, social media and email use. I will not publish my own and others' personal details, information or location over any social networking site. I am aware that email is not guaranteed to be private. Messages or any communication via social media or email supporting illegal activities will be reported to the authorities.

# E

Exercise caution when downloading material. I understand that the illegal download and/or copyright of any material, including receiving, sending or publishing, is forbidden and may be passed to the relevant authorities. I will not download any unapproved software, system utilities or resources from the internet.

# T

Turn off mobile hot spots and not use the network in any way that will disrupt its use for other people. This includes any attempt to harm, destroy or remove any equipment, work of another user, or website connected to the system.

# Y

Your device, your responsibility. I understand that the school has the right to confiscate and search any device if it suspects that a student is in danger or has misused a device or the school network. I understand that any activity from a device I own is my responsibility, including all portable devices and their content or viruses.

All students must follow the rules outlined in this policy when using school ICT resources and equipment, including all Internet access and the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), accessed from both in and outside of school, and on school provided or personal electronic devices. Breaking these conditions may lead to: confiscation of any electronic devices, close monitoring of the student’s network activity, investigation of the student’s past network activity, withdrawal of the student’s access and, in some cases, permanent removal from the school and even criminal prosecution. Students are also expected to take care of school-issued electronic devices and any damage to them may result in fines to replace or fix damaged devices. Misuse of the Internet will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behaviour and Discipline Policy and, where there is a safeguarding risk, this will be reported to the DSL. The school is not responsible for any loss of data on the network, computers connected to the network or data storage used on the network (including USB memory sticks). Data held on the network will be backed up for a limited period. Students are responsible for backups of any other data held. Use of any information obtained via the network is at the student’s own risk. Student internet usage is monitored through ContentKeeper which monitors blocked search terms and websites.

**Student access to networked resources is a privilege, not a right. Students will be expected to use the resources for the educational purposes for which they are provided.**

Students are expected to use the network systems in a responsible manner and are required to download Content Keeper to be able to access the school’s student WIFI network. It is not possible to compile a complete set of rules about what is, and what is not, acceptable; however, the above should be a guide and in cases of dispute the decision of the Head of School will be final.

Student agreement:

I will ensure that I do not use the camera on mobile phones or similar devices, either to photograph/film/record any member of the school community, do any form of live streaming or to show to others the photos/videos/audio recordings already on the phone or similar device.

*I agree to follow the school rules on the use of school network resources and mobile electronic devices. I will use the network and all mobile electronic devices in a responsible way and observe all of the conditions explained in both the Online Safety Policy and this Acceptable Use Policy. I understand and accept the consequences of breaking these rules.*

Print student name.....

Student Signature.....Date.....

**Parent/Guardian agreement:**

***I understand that my child has agreed to accept the terms of the Online Safety and Student AUP Policy and I confirm that I accept the terms of the agreement. If my child brings any personal electronic devices to school, I understand that the student is responsible for its safekeeping and appropriate usage while in transit to and from and on campus.***

*I have read and understood the Online Safety Policy and agree to check any updates, which are made available on the Parent Portal.*

Print Parent/Guardian name.....

Parent/Guardian Signature..... Date.....

### Appendix 3 - Acceptable Use of ICT Sign-off form for all faculty and staff at TASIS England

To ensure that members of faculty and staff are fully aware of their professional responsibilities when using information systems and when communicating with students, they are asked to sign this code of conduct. Members of staff should consult the school's Online Safety Policy and ICT Acceptable Use Policy for further information and clarification. You must not use any ICT on-site until you have signed this Code of Conduct document and logged it with HR.

- I will respect all ICT equipment/facilities at TASIS England and will report any faults that I find or any damage that I accidentally cause.
- I agree to abide by this policy in respect of any of my own ICT equipment or mobile devices that I bring on site. If any ICT device (personal or school-issued) is being used inappropriately or illegally on site (or inappropriately in the presence of students), the Division Head may request that the device be monitored. Failure to comply with the monitoring could result in informing the appropriate authorities.
- I understand that no photographs of students may be taken with or stored on my personal electronic devices, including cameras, iPads, mobile phones, or personal computers.
- Photos of students should not be uploaded to personal social media accounts
- I am familiar with the school's Data Protection Policy and I agree I am responsible for the security of all personal data in my possession. I agree that all personal data that relates to an identifiable person and is stored or carried by me on a removable memory device will be encrypted or contained within password-protected files to prevent unauthorised access.
- I am responsible for my use of my own log-in details and if I suspect that my log-in details have become known to others then I will immediately ask for these details to be changed.
- I agree that my use of TASIS England ICT equipment/facilities will be monitored and may be recorded at all times. I understand that the results of such monitoring and recording may be shared with other parties if I break the terms of this Acceptable Use Policy.
- I will not deliberately attempt to access any unsuitable websites, services, files or other resources when on-site or using TASIS England equipment/facilities. I understand that I may temporarily access blocked websites, services and other online resources using only tools that are provided by TASIS England. I agree not to display blocked websites, services and other resources to others until I have fully assessed the materials and have found them to be entirely suitable for the intended audience.
- I agree that the provision of TASIS England ICT equipment/facilities including the email and Internet system are for educational purposes, although limited personal use is permitted provided that this is not done during normal working time and does not contravene any of the other clauses in this document.
- I am aware that downloading copyright materials, including music and video files without paying the appropriate licence fee is often a criminal act. I am aware that any involvement in criminal acts relating to the use of ICT on-site or using TASIS England equipment/facilities may result in disciplinary or legal action. I will not deliberately engage in these acts.
- I will not deliberately view, send, upload or download any material that is unsuitable for the school environment whilst I am in that environment or using any ICT equipment/facilities belonging to TASIS England. If I accidentally encounter any such material then I will immediately close, but not delete in the case of emails, the material and immediately report it to the Online Safety Officer or to a senior member of staff. I will not be penalised if I view unsuitable material accidentally and by reporting such incidents I will help to improve Online Safety. If I am in any doubt about the suitability of any material, or if a colleague raises any doubts, then I will not (re)access the material without the agreement of the Online Safety Officer. I will not access any material that the Online Safety Officer has rated as unsuitable.
- Unless specifically authorised to do so, I will not disclose any of my personal details, other than those that identify me professionally, nor log any such details on websites whilst using TASIS England equipment or facilities. If I disclose any additional personal details contrary to this instruction, then I agree that these details can be recorded and that I will not hold TASIS England responsible for maintaining the security of the details I have disclosed.
- I agree that professional standards of communication will be maintained at all times. I recognise that staff should not communicate with students through personal electronic devices or methods such as social networking sites, blogging, chat rooms, text messaging, messenger applications or private email. Instead, only the school email system may be used.
- Staff are expected to enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for the Google Workspace and Axiom/LMS.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Appendix 4 – Mobile and Smart Technology Policy, including taking and storing images of students**

**Legal Status:** This policy was prepared with reference to KCSIE (DfE: September 2022), Ofsted advice on the use of mobile phones for the Early Years, the Department for Education’s published guidance on the use of mobile phones and UK law governing the use of mobile phones while driving.

**Applies to:**

- The whole school including the Early Years, out of school care, the afterschool clubs, the holiday club and all other activities provided by the school, inclusive of those outside of the normal school hours.
- All staff (teaching and support staff), students on placement, the Board of Directors and volunteers working in the school.

**Related documents ([available on the school website](#)):**

- Safeguarding Children Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Management, Discipline and Sanctions Policy
- Anti-Bullying (Countering Bullying) Policy

**Availability:** This policy is made available to parents, faculty, staff and students in the following ways: via the school website, parent portal and on request, a copy may be obtained from the Office.

**Monitoring and Review:**

- This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Head of School.
- The Head of School undertakes a formal review of this policy for the purpose of monitoring and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than one year from the date shown below, or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed:

Date:

Head of School

**Introduction:** Whilst we welcome the use of mobile phones and cameras for educational purposes and the convenience they offer and recognise that learning to use digital technology is an important part of the ICT and wider curriculum, equally we have to ensure the safeguarding needs of the students are met and staff, parents and volunteers are not distracted from their care of students. Mobile phones, alongside other technologies aim to change the way we communicate. This speed of communication will often provide security and reassurance; however, as with any other form of technology there are associated risks. Students and young people must be encouraged to understand such risks, to enable them to develop the appropriate strategies which will keep them safe.

Acceptable use and management of mobile phones is therefore to be agreed by all service users. There is to be a clear expectation that the personal use of mobile phones is to be limited to specific times and uses as to be agreed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Safe and secure storage facilities are to be made available to store personal belongings as necessary.

**Aims:** The aim of the Mobile Phone Policy is to protect students and young people from harm, by ensuring the appropriate management and use of mobile phones by all individuals who work or visit our school. Students and young people are also to be empowered with the skills to manage the changes in technology in a safe and appropriate way; and to be alert to the potential risks of such use. This is to be achieved through balancing protection and potential misuse. It is therefore to be recognised that alongside the potential risks, mobile phones continue to be effective communication tools. This in turn is to contribute to safeguarding practice and protection.

**Scope:** The Mobile Phone Policy will apply to all individuals who are to have access to and or be users of personal and/ or work-related mobile phones within the broadest context of the setting environment. This will include students and young people, parents and carers, early years teachers and their co-ordinators, volunteers, students, committee members, visitors, contractors and community users. This list is not to be considered exhaustive.

**Policy statement:** It is to be recognised that it is the enhanced functions of many mobile phones that will give the most cause for concern; and which should be considered the most susceptible to potential misuse. Examples of misuse are to include the taking and distribution of indecent images, exploitation and cyberbullying. It must be understood that should mobile phones be misused, there will be a negative impact on an individual's safety, dignity, privacy and right to confidentiality. Such concerns are not to be considered exclusive to students and young people, so the needs and vulnerabilities of all must be respected and protected.

Mobile phones will also cause an unnecessary distraction during the working day and are often to be considered intrusive when used in the company of others. It will often be very difficult to detect when mobile phones are present or being used. The use of all mobile phones needs to be effectively managed to ensure the potential for misuse is to be minimised.

**Code of conduct:** A code of conduct is to be promoted with the aim of creating an informed workforce, who will work together to safeguard and promote positive outcomes for the students and young people in their care. It is to be ensured that all teachers and their co-ordinators will:

- Be aware of the need to protect students from harm.
- Have a clear understanding of what constitutes misuse.
- Know how to minimise risk.
- Be vigilant and alert to potential warning signs of misuse.
- Avoid putting themselves into compromising situations which could be misinterpreted and lead to potential allegations.
- Understand the need for professional boundaries and clear guidance regarding acceptable use.
- Be responsible for the self-moderation of their own behaviours.
- Be aware of the importance of reporting concerns immediately.

It is to be recognised that studies consistently indicate that imposing rigid regulations and/or 'bans' on the actions of others are counterproductive and should be avoided. Such imposition will lead to a culture of suspicion, uncertainty and secrecy. An agreement of trust is therefore to be promoted regarding the carrying and use of mobile phones within the school. This is to

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be agreed by all service users, including all students, young people and adults who are to come into contact with the school setting.

**Guidance on Use of Mobile Phones by Teaching Staff Including those in the Early Years:** The following points apply to all staff and volunteers at our school including those who teach in the Early Years Foundation Stage and apply to the use of all mobile devices to ensure the quality of supervision and care of the students, as well as the safeguarding of students, staff, parents and volunteers in the school.

TASIS England allows staff to bring in mobile phones for their own personal use. However, they must be kept away in closed drawers or their bags at all times and are not allowed to be used in the presence of students (this includes not using them on silent mode while students are in the classroom, i.e., during a test or quiz). They may be used during working hours in a designated break away from the students. Staff are not permitted to use recording equipment on their personal mobile phones to take photos or videos of students. If staff fail to follow this guidance, disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with TASIS England Disciplinary Policy. During outings nominated staff will be permitted to have access to their own mobile phones, which are to be used for emergency contact only. During off-campus activities, i.e., field trips and overnight excursions, trip leaders will be provided with a school-issued mobile phone in good working condition.

Any other member of staff working within Early Years must ensure that they do not bring any other personal devices into classes. In the Early Years setting, school ICT (i.e., iPads, iPods and digital camera) will be used to evidence the students' personnel and learning development for the student.

There are iPads with access to Wi-Fi owned by the school for the specific education purposes.

If staff need to make an emergency call, (such as summoning medical help or reporting an intruder on the premises) they must do so irrespective of where they are, via their own mobile phone or a school phone. Staff should provide the school number to members of the family and next of kin so in an emergency the member of staff can be contacted on the school phone.

There are film and digital cameras available for staff to use. Faculty/staff must ensure that there is no inappropriate or illegal content on their phones or mobile devices. Should any member of staff become aware of inappropriate or non-essential use of a mobile phone, this should be reported to a member of the Senior Leadership Team and may be subject to disciplinary action.

**Early Years Portfolios:** Photographs taken for the purpose of recording a child or group of students participating in activities or celebrating their achievements is an effective form of recording their progression in the Early Years Foundation Stage and other areas of the school. However, it is essential that photographs are taken and stored appropriately to safeguard the students in our care. When students join our school we ask parents to sign consent for photographs and videos to be taken for such purposes.

All teachers are responsible for the storage of school cameras, which should be locked away securely when not in use. Images taken and stored on school cameras should be downloaded onto their school-issued computer and deleted from the cameras. Staff are not to use their own equipment to take photos of students. Under no circumstances must cameras of any kind be taken into the toilets (this includes any device with photographic or video capabilities). In the Early Years, photographs are sometimes distributed to members of key workers to record in students' profiles. Staff are not permitted to make extra copies of the photographs in any format.

Photographs are also taken at group events and activities and displayed around the child's room and in photograph albums for all the students to look back on and to talk about with their friends and teachers about the events that have happened in the Early Year. For this we need to have written parental permission for photo release that is requested upon enrolment. Every parent has the right to refuse this request, in which case the child must not be photographed by any member of staff, by a parent, or by any outsider without the express permission for that occasion of the parent with whom the Early Years has a contract.

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**Storage and Review of Images:** Images of students are stored securely. Digital photographs and videos are reviewed annually and are deleted when no longer required. We regularly check and update our web site, when expired material is deleted.

**TASIS England School Website and Facebook Page:** Photographs and videos may only be uploaded to the school's website or Facebook (business page) with the Head of School's approval. Student's surnames are never used on our website, Facebook page or social media outlets. When students join TASIS England, we ask parents to sign consent for photographs and videos to be taken for such purposes. If consent is withheld such photographs/videos are not published of the individual child concerned. Failure to adhere to the contents of this policy will lead to disciplinary procedures being followed.

**External Photographers:** Professional photographs are taken throughout the year at school shows, by local media and Professional School Portraits. The Head of School ensures that professional photographers are DBS checked and that they have their own stringent regulations, which ensure safeguarding of students from inappropriate use of images.

**Appropriate use of a Mobile Phone During the School Day (Including Social Networking):** School-issued mobile phones have a place on outings or in school buildings, which do not have access to a school landline. In these cases, they are often the only means of contact available and can be helpful in ensuring students are kept safe. Ideally staff should use school mobile phones in these circumstances but, if required to use a personal phone, should input 141 to ensure their own number is hidden.

When leaving the school building with students (e.g., for sport, or on school trips), the school issued mobile phones must be switched on and turned to loud to ensure that staff can be contacted by the school. Contact numbers for all members of staff accompanying the students must be left at Reception and a list of contact telephone numbers for all students should be with the leader of the off-site activity (although these must be kept confidential).

Faculty/staff must not post anything onto social networking sites such as Facebook that could be construed to have any impact on the organisation's reputation. (We advise all our staff to carefully restrict their Facebook profiles to ensure they cannot be contacted by parents and students; this could involve removing their last name from their page). We explain to staff that although they are able to accept friendship requests from friends who may also be parents of students at the school, staff must be aware of the potential issues this could cause. Faculty/staff must not post anything onto social networking sites that would offend any other member of staff or parent using the setting. If any of the above points are found to be happening, then the member of staff involved will face disciplinary action, which could result in dismissal. Where email contact is initiated by students who have graduated from TASIS England, TASIS England employees may reply from a TASIS England email address only with blind copies to line managers **and** the DSL.

We advise faculty and staff not to accept friend requests from students until graduates have been out of school for three years.

**Students and Mobile Phones (3G, 4G and 5G access):** TASIS England recognises that by using devices which have access to 3G, 4G and 5G mobile phone networks, this can result in children having unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet, which could lead to some children, whilst at school or college, sexually harassing their peers via their mobile and smart technology, sharing indecent images: consensually and non-consensually (often via large chat groups), and viewing and sharing pornography and other harmful content. The school takes precautions to ensure that students limit access to their personal mobile devices during the school day and reserves the right to confiscate and monitor personal devices when deemed necessary for safeguarding concerns. In school, students' mobile phones should be turned off and should remain in students' bags or kept with the class teacher for students under the age of 10. Within the Middle and Upper school, student's mobile devices should be switched off and kept securely in lockers or in their rooms or in their school bag unless permission has been given by the classroom teacher, such as for use in note taking or data collection. In the event of a mobile phone being used in a lesson without permission from the teacher, the phone should be confiscated and given to the Division/Section Office.

In the boarding houses, mobile phones are permitted during free time, although their use is prohibited after lights out. Phones can be collected from younger students (up to Grade 10) and this provision can be extended to students who persistently use

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their phones at inappropriate times. Mobile devices must not be used to directly take photographs, video or sound clips of any person who is unaware of the action and who has not given their permission. Students and staff are informed about the statutory framework regarding the sharing and publishing of photographs and videos, regardless of the media chosen. Staff must adhere to the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and Staff Code of Conduct. TASIS England acknowledge that due to the international nature of the school and the student body that it is acceptable for some students to contact family members, after lights out, where time zones do not align with GMT or BST.

Any use of mobile technology to intimidate, bully, harass, threaten or attempt to radicalise others or breach copyright laws will be counted as an infringement of network use and breach of discipline and will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behaviour Management Discipline and Sanctions Policy. This may result in disconnection from the school network, confiscation of the mobile technology and/or legal or civil disciplinary action. Uploading images and sound is only permissible if the subject involved gives permission and if in doing so, school and statutory guidelines are not breached.

Students are reminded that sending or sharing photos, videos or live streams of young people who are under the age of 18 that include nude or nearly nude images and/or sexual acts, also referred to as 'youth produced sexual imagery' or 'sexting' is strictly prohibited by the school and may constitute a criminal offence. The school will treat incidences of this activity (both sending and receiving) as a safeguarding issue and students concerned about images that they have received, sent or forwarded should speak to any member of staff for advice. Please see [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes Non-statutory guidance](#) for more detail.

**The school has the right to confiscate and search any mobile electronic device (personal or school-issued) if it suspects that a student or staff member is in danger or has misused a device. This will be done in accordance with the school's policy on searching and confiscation as set out in the Behaviour and Discipline Policy. This is in line with the statutory guidance as set out in the [DfE Guidance on Searching Screening and Confiscation](#)** which provides details on what staff can/cannot view on children's devices.

**Use of images, displays etc:** We will only use images of our students for the following purposes:

- Internal displays (including clips of moving images and yearbooks) on digital and conventional notice boards within school premises.
- Communications with TASIS England community (parents, students, staff), for example newsletters.
- Marketing TASIS England both digitally by website, by prospectus [which includes a DVD and YouTube channel], by displays at educational fairs and other marketing functions [both inside the UK and overseas] and by other means.

**Images that we use in displays and on our web site:** The images that we use for displays and communications purposes never identify an individual student. Instead, they name the event, the term and year that the photograph was taken (for example, 'Sports Day, Summer Term 2021'). We only use images of school activities, such as plays, concerts, sporting fixtures, prize-giving, school trips etc. in their proper context. We never use any image that might embarrass or humiliate a student. Students are always properly supervised when professional photographers visit TASIS England. Parents are given the opportunity to purchase copies of these photographs.

The students take part in various events throughout the year, such as assemblies, sporting events, drama and musical productions, field trips, the international festival, etc. Parents present often take photographs of these memorable events, which may include groups of students. If a child takes part in the events, the parents are consenting to their child possibly being photographed or included in a group photograph by other parents.

**Media coverage:** We will always aim to notify parents in advance when we expect the press to attend an event in which our students are participating and will make every effort to ensure that images including students whose parents or guardians have refused permission for such images of their students to be used are not used. We will always complain to the Press Complaints Council (PCC) if the media fails to follow the appropriate code of practice for the protection of young people, including the students of celebrities.

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**Staff induction:** All new teaching and office staff are given guidance on the school's policy on taking, using and storing images of students.

**Use of Mobile Phones for Volunteers and Visitors:** Upon their initial visit volunteers and visitors are given information informing them they are not permitted to use mobile phones on the premises in the presence of students. If faculty/staff observe that parents are using their mobile phones whilst in school, we will politely remind visitors as to why we do not permit the use of mobile phones in school. The exception to this would be at an organised event. Faculty/staff should remind parents regularly of school policy with regard to mobile phone use with the following statement on weekly emails, when announcing events: "You are welcome to photograph your child at this event providing the images are for personal use only (e.g., a family album) and so are exempt from the Data Protection Act 2018. Please be aware these images (which may include other students) must not be shared on social networking sites or other web-based forums since we regard this as 'making the image public'. Sharing images, or uploading them into a 'public space', is likely to be in breach of the Act." If they wish to make or take an emergency call they may use the office and the school phone.

**Parental use of mobile phones/cameras within the school buildings:** The growth of hand-held mobile technology and interconnectivity has implications for the safety of students, so in order to reflect the policy on safeguarding and child protection, it is essential parents do not use their mobile phones/cameras in the school building, apart from circumstances as outlined below. Parents must ensure mobile phones/cameras are not on display (switched off or silent mode) while in the presence of students or in public areas of the school such as during meetings and school events.

The school records images of students, both through moving pictures and stills, for assessment and reporting of progress, as well as celebration of their activities. It goes to some lengths to photograph events and performances, which are available on request (or through purchasing), particularly in order to avoid distraction of students while performing and disturbance within the audience.

**Other mobile technology:** At TASIS England, we recognise the value of mobile technology within our curriculum and our students' accommodation. Within the upper school, students are required to bring their own devices to support their studies. Any personal device that students bring to the school must be used appropriately in line with the Students' Acceptable Use Policy and must be kept securely. Where a student is found to be misusing a school or personal device, or accessing inappropriate content, the device may be confiscated by the school and appropriate action taken. When accessing the school Wi-Fi, staff, students and parents (for guest Wi-Fi access) must adhere to their ICT Acceptable Use Policy (which includes downloading and running Content and o). Staff, students, volunteers and parents are responsible for their own mobile devices and the school is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage.

**Driving and the law:** The use of hand-held phones while driving, whether to make or receive a call, is prohibited. The only exception to this will be in the event of a genuine emergency call to 999 or 112, if it would be unsafe for the driver to stop. Hand-held mobile phones used with an earphone and microphone are covered under the ban, as they still require the user to hold the phone to press buttons or to read a message on the phone's screen.

The Board and employees of the school will not require any employee to receive or make calls on a mobile phone while driving. Mobile phones must instead be directed to the message/voicemail service while driving.

The Head of School will not assist in the payment of any fine levied against anyone using a hand-held mobile phone while driving. An employee will be regarded as driving if the engine is running, even if the vehicle is stationary. Notification of any contravention of these requirements may be regarded as a disciplinary matter.

## Appendix 5: Online Safety FAQs

### How will the policy be introduced to Students?

- Rules for Internet access will be posted in all rooms where computers are used
- Students will be informed that Internet use will be monitored
- Instruction in responsible and safe use should precede Internet access
- A module on responsible Internet use will be included in the PSHE programme covering both home and school use.
- Students will be informed that network and Internet use will be monitored and appropriately followed up.
- Students will be made aware of the acceptable use of technology and sign upon enrolment

### How will ICT system security be maintained?

- The school ICT systems will be reviewed regularly with regard to security
- Security strategies will be discussed at staff meetings.
- Virus protection will be installed and updated regularly.
- Personal data sent over the Internet will be encrypted or otherwise secured.
- Use of portable media such as USB sticks, SD Cards and Hard Drives to carry work should be kept confidential by staff and not used in public computers.
- Files held on the school network will be regularly checked
- All network system and administration passwords are to be recorded by the IT Department and kept in a secure place with regular updates

### How will faculty/staff be consulted and made aware of this policy?

- All faculty/staff must accept the terms of the 'Responsible Internet Use' statement included in the faculty handbook before using any Internet resource in school.
- All new faculty/staff will be taken through the key parts of this policy as part of their induction.
- All faculty/staff including teachers, learning support assistants and support staff will be provided with the School Online Safety Policy and have its importance explained as part of the child protection training requirement.
- Faculty/staff will be informed that network and Internet traffic can be monitored and traced to the individual user.
- Faculty/staff development in safe and responsible Internet use, and on the school Internet policy will be provided as required.
- Breaching this Online Safety policy may result in disciplinary action being taken and access to ICT being restricted or removed.
- Faculty/staff will read and sign *Staff Code of Conduct for ICT* prior to using school ICT equipment in the school
- Faculty/staff will always use a child friendly safe search engine when accessing the web with students.

### How will complaints regarding Internet use be handled?

- Responsibility for handling complaints that have progressed to Stage 2 will be delegated to a relevant member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- Complaints of Internet misuse will be dealt with by the Head of the School.
- Any complaint about staff misuse must be referred to the Head of School.
- Complaints of a child protection nature must be dealt with in accordance with our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and procedures.
- Students and parents will be informed of the complaint procedure which is available on the TASIS England website.
- Parents and Students will need to work in partnership with staff to resolve issues.
- As with drug issues, there may be occasions when the police must be contacted. Early contact could be made to establish the legal position and discuss strategies.

### How will parents' support be enlisted?

- Parents' attention will be drawn to the responsible Internet use policy in newsletters, the parent portal and on the school website.

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- Internet issues will be handled sensitively to inform parents without undue alarm.
- A partnership approach will be encouraged with parents and could include information booklets, practical sessions and suggestions for safe Internet use at home.
- Advice on filtering systems and educational and leisure activities that include responsible use of the Internet will be made available to parents.
- We will maintain a list of Online Safety resources for parents.
- Parents will be invited to attend an Online Safety workshop annually.

**Why is the use of Internet and ICT important?** Not only is familiarity with the use of ICT equipment a core requirement, but the efficient use of the equipment and available resources is also considered key – for example, the use of email for efficient communication and the correct use of the Internet for research. Staff across the school are making increased use of ICT, which benefits not only the quality of teaching and support services but also their professional development. It is equally important that staff are properly equipped and supported to make the most efficient use of ICT resources. In particular, ICT is extremely beneficial in engaging our students, who have learning and physical disabilities. It can also help them to access parts of the curriculum, which they might not otherwise be able to engage with.

All students deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential; in our modern society this should incorporate the use of “Appropriate and Safe” ICT facilities including online resources and services. Internet use is a part of the statutory curriculum and a necessary tool for staff and Students. The school has a duty to provide Students with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience. In order for the school to maintain such an environment for learners (students and adults) everybody must be aware of the need to ensure on-line protection (Online Safety) and subsequently understand the principles of this policy and the expectations of school practice as documented below.

**How is the Safe Use of ICT and the Internet Promoted?** TASIS England takes very seriously the importance of teaching students (and staff) to use ICT - and especially the Internet - in a safe and responsible manner. This will have a positive impact on not only the use of ICT in school, but also outside school in the wider community. TASIS England has in place an Internet firewall, Internet content filtering and antivirus software, and various IT security policies, which help to ameliorate the risk of accessing inappropriate and unauthorised material. However, no system is 100% safe and TASIS England will further promote safe use of ICT and the Internet by educating students and staff about the risks and the ways they can be mitigated by acting sensibly and responsibly. The school will ensure that the use of Internet derived materials by staff and Students complies with copyright law. TASIS England will help students to understand the risks posed by adults or young people, who use the Internet and social media to bully, groom, abuse or radicalise other people, especially students, young people and vulnerable adults. Internet safety is integral to the school’s ICT curriculum and is also embedded in our PSHEE, RSE and SMSC provision. The latest resources promoted by the DfE can be found at:

- The UK Safer Internet Centre ([www.saferInternet.org.uk](http://www.saferInternet.org.uk))
- CEOP’s Thinkuknow website ([www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk))

#### **How does the Internet and use of ICT benefit education in our school?**

- Students learn effective ways to use ICT and the Internet including safe and responsible use.
- Access to worldwide educational resources including museums and art galleries.
- Educational and cultural exchanges between Students worldwide.
- Access to experts in many fields for students, faculty and staff.
- Staff professional development through access to national developments, educational materials and good curriculum practice.
- Communication with support services, professional associations and colleagues.
- Improved access to technical support.
- Exchange of curriculum and administration data with LA and DfE
- Support of the wider curriculum through the use of word processing, spreadsheet and presentation tools, specialist applications, and the use of the Internet for research purposes.

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**How will Students learn to evaluate Internet content?**

- Students will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location, evaluation and retrieval.
- Students will be taught what Internet use is acceptable and what is not and given clear guidelines for Internet use.
- If staff or Students discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address) and content must be reported to the teacher, Online Safety Officer or IT Department.
- Staff and Students should ensure that their use of Internet derived materials complies with copyright law
- Students should be taught to be critically aware of the materials they read and show how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.
- Students will be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright.

**How is Filtering Managed?** Having Internet access enables students to explore thousands of global libraries, databases and bulletin boards. They are also able to exchange messages with other learners and teachers throughout the world. All unsuitable websites will be filtered and automatically blocked by our security systems (ContentKeeper) and will not be made accessible to students. In addition, students' usage of our network will be continuously monitored and repeated attempts to access unsuitable sites will alert our IT Department. The IT Department will tailor the filtering to suit the individual needs of subjects and the school generally appropriate to the age of students. Although this filtering uses the latest security technology, parents/guardians will wish to be aware that some students may find ways to access material that is inaccurate, defamatory, illegal or potentially offensive to some people.

However, at TASIS England we believe that the benefits to students having access to the Internet in the form of information, resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed any disadvantages. However, as with any other area, parents and guardians of minors along with TASIS England share the responsibility for setting and conveying the standards that students should follow when accessing and using these media information sources at school and/or at home. During school time, teachers will guide students towards appropriate material on the Internet. Outside school, families bear the same responsibility for guidance as they exercise with other information, sources such as television, telephones, films and radio.

Steps for managing filtering:

- The school will work in partnership with parents/guardians, the Local Authority (LA) and Department for Education (DfE) to ensure systems to protect students are reviewed and improved.
- If staff or students come across unsuitable on-line materials, they must report it to the ICT Coordinator immediately.
- The school will take every step to ensure that appropriate filtering systems are in place to protect students from unsuitable material and the methods used will be reviewed regularly.
- Any material that the school believes is illegal must be referred to the Internet Watch Foundation (<https://www.iwf.org.uk/>).

**How are Emerging Technologies Managed?** ICT in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century has an all-encompassing role within the lives of students and adults. New technologies are enhancing communication and the sharing of information. Current and emerging technologies used in school and, more importantly in many cases, used outside of school by students may include:

- The Internet
- E-mail
- Instant messaging (<http://www.msn.com>), often using simple web cams
- Social media
- Blogs (an on-line interactive diary)
- Podcasting (radio / audio broadcasts downloaded to computer or MP3/4 player)
- Social networking sites (Popular [Instagram](#) / [Snapchat](#) / [TikTok](#) / <http://www.hi5.com> / <http://www.facebook.com>, [Twitter](#))
- Video broadcasting sites (Popular: <http://www.youtube.com/>)

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- Chat Rooms – For more information see the [Child Exploitation and Online Protection](#) website.
- Gaming Sites (Popular [www.neopets.com](http://www.neopets.com), <http://www.miniclip.com/games/en/>, <http://www.runescape.com/>)
- Music download sites (Popular <http://www.apple.com/itunes/> <http://www.napster.co.uk/>)
- Mobile phones with camera and video functionality
- Mobile technology (e.g., games consoles) that are 'Internet ready'.
- Smart phones with e-mail, web functionality and cut down 'Office' applications.

#### How to React to Misuse by Students and Young People:

- **Step 1:** Should it be considered that a child or young person has deliberately misused ICT, a letter will be sent to the parent or carer outlining the issue. The child or young person may be temporarily suspended from a particular activity.
- **Step 2:** If there are to be further incidents of misuse, the child or young person will be suspended from using the Internet or other relevant technology for an increased period of time. The parent or carer will be invited to discuss the incident in more detail with a senior administrator and the most appropriate course of action will be agreed.
- **Step 3:** The sanctions for misuse can be escalated at any stage, should it be considered necessary. In the event that misuse is deemed to be of a serious nature, steps 1 and 2 can be omitted. Should a child or young person be considered to be at risk of significant harm, the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy must also be applied. Allegations of serious misuse will be reported to the most appropriate agency, for example, the Police or Children's Social Care.

In the event that a child or young person should accidentally access inappropriate material, it must be reported to an adult immediately. Appropriate action is to be taken to hide or minimise the window. The computer will not be switched off nor will the page be closed, as it may be necessary to refer to the site during investigations to allow effective filters to be put in place to prevent further inadvertent access.

**How is Printing Managed?** The use of the ICT printers may be monitored on an individual basis to encourage careful use of printing resources. As well as being a significant capital cost, the consumables (ink, laser printer toner and drums, and paper) associated with printing represent one of the most expensive ongoing costs associated with ICT. Whilst the school would not wish to discourage the proper use of printers, it is important to ensure that printing facilities are used efficiently and effectively. Students and staff are asked to take care not to waste printing resources, for example by using "Print Preview" to check work before sending it to the printer and by using colour print only when necessary.

**What are the categories of Cyber-Bullying?** Seven categories of cyber-bullying have been identified:

- **Text message bullying** involves sending unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort;
- **Picture/video-clip bullying via mobile phone cameras** is used to make the person being bullied feel threatened or embarrassed, with images usually sent to other people. 'Happy slapping' involves filming and sharing physical attacks;
- **Phone call bullying via mobile phone** uses silent calls or abusive messages. Sometimes the bullied person's phone is stolen and used to harass others, who then think the phone owner is responsible. As with all mobile phone bullying, the perpetrators often disguise their numbers, sometimes using someone else's phone to avoid being identified;
- **Email bullying** uses email to send bullying or threatening messages, often using a pseudonym for anonymity or using someone else's name to pin the blame on them.
- **Online grooming, Chat room and Social Networking Site abuse** involves sending menacing or upsetting responses to students or young people or posting inappropriate material in a public digital locale.
- **Bullying through instant messaging (IM)** is an Internet-based form of bullying where students and young people are sent unpleasant messages as they conduct real-time conversations online.
- **Bullying via websites** includes the use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal polling sites. There has also been a significant increase in social networking sites for young people, which can provide new opportunities for cyber-bullying.

**General Housekeeping:** The ICT equipment used by the school represents a considerable financial investment. It makes sense to treat it well so that it will remain in good working order. In addition, the ICT resource is finite e.g., computers can run out of disk space; users should be encouraged to think about the amount of file storage they use and the need to keep it well

organised. The school does not currently operate a quota system for disk space or mailboxes but will consider doing so should the need arise.

The following will apply:

- Treat ICT equipment with respect and keep areas around ICT equipment clean and tidy.
- Normal school rules and consideration of others applies.
- Keep the amount of storage you use to a minimum. Clear out old and unused files regularly.

#### **What are the Student Rules?**

- Do not use ICT without permission.
- Food and drink must not be consumed near any computer equipment anywhere in the school.
- Do not move about the room while seated on a chair.
- Any person found defacing or wilfully damaging ICT equipment will be required to correct the damage caused or pay for replacement.
- Computer faults should be promptly reported to the ICT Co-ordinator. Please do not attempt to repair them yourself.
- Be aware of correct posture. Always ensure that your chair is at the optimum height for you and that you are sitting correctly at the workstation.
- At the end of a session:
- Log off/shut down according to instructions.
- Replace laptops as directed.
- Wind up and put away any headsets.

**What has Research into Cyber Bullying Found?** Because of the anonymity that new communications technologies offer, anyone with a mobile phone or Internet connection can be a target for cyber-bullying. Furthermore, bullies can reach much larger numbers within a peer group than they can with conventional bullying. Vindictive comments posted on a website, for instance, can be seen by a large audience, as can video clips sent by mobile phone. Most cyber-bullying is done by students in the same class or year group and although it leaves no visible scars, cyber-bullying of all types can be extremely destructive.

- Between a fifth and a quarter of students have been cyber-bullied at least once over the previous few months.
- Phone calls, text messages and email are the most common forms of cyber-bullying.
- There is more cyber-bullying outside school than in.
- Girls are more likely than boys to be involved in cyber-bullying in school, usually by phone.
- For boys, text messaging is the most usual form of cyber-bullying, followed by picture/video clip or website bullying.
- Picture/video clip and phone call bullying are perceived as the most harmful forms of cyber-bullying.
- Website and text bullying are equated in impact to other forms of bullying.
- Around a third of those being cyber-bullied tell no one about the bullying.

**What is the impact on a child of ICT based sexual abuse?** The impact on a child of ICT based sexual abuse is similar to that for all sexually abused students. However, it has an additional dimension in that there is a visual record of the abuse. ICT based sexual abuse of a child constitutes significant harm through sexual and emotional abuse. Recognition and response are recognising a situation where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer a degree of physical, sexual and/or emotional harm (through abuse or neglect) which is so harmful that there needs to be compulsory intervention by child protection agencies into the life of the child and their family.

#### **How do I stay secure on the Internet?**

- Do not type any personal details (including your name or email address) into a web site unless you are absolutely sure of the authenticity and trustworthiness of the associated company.
- The use of chat rooms is prohibited.
- The use of Instant Messaging is prohibited.
- The use of Internet-based email or newsgroups is prohibited except with the prior written approval of the Head.

**Why is promoting safe use of ICT important?** TASIS England takes very seriously the importance of teaching students (and staff) to use ICT - and especially the Internet - in a safe and responsible manner. This will have a positive impact on not only the use of ICT in school, but also outside school in the wider community.

**What does the school's Mobile Phone Policy include?**

- The commitment to keep the students safe.
- How we manage the use of mobile phones at TASIS England taking into consideration faculty, staff, students on placement, volunteers, other professionals, trustees, visitors and parents/carers.
- How we inform parents/carers, visitors and other professional of our procedures.
- What type of mobile phones will be used on educational visits and learning outside the classroom.
- The consequences of any breaches of this policy.
- Reference to other policies, such as Whistleblowing and Safeguarding Children-Child Protection Policies.

**Prevent – Top ten FAQs:** We are receiving a number of queries to the support@isi.net inbox concerning inspection expectations in relation to the *Prevent* strategy so it may be useful if we address the most frequently asked issues.

**Where can we learn more about *Prevent*?** There are two key source documents for the *Prevent* strategy:

- Statutory guidance (Home Office) – see paras 1-27 generally and 57-76 for sector specific guidance for schools
- Advice for schools (Department for Education)

**What do we have to do?** The over-arching legal duty is to “**have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism**” and, in so doing, have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. In summary, the national statutory guidance from the Home Office, and sector-specific advice from the Department for Education places the following expectations on schools:

- **Demonstrate effective leadership:** display an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in your area and institution; communicate and promote the importance of the Prevent duty to staff; ensure staff implement the Prevent duty effectively.
- **Train faculty/staff:** ensure faculty/staff understand what radicalisation and extremism mean and why people may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism; ensure faculty/staff have the knowledge and confidence to identify students at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups; ensure staff know where and how to refer students and young people for further help.
- **Work in partnership with other agencies:** co-operate productively, in particular, with local Prevent co-ordinators, the police and local authorities, and existing multi-agency forums, for example Community Safety Partnerships; ensure that safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB).
- **Share information appropriately:** ensure information is shared between organisations to ensure, for example, that people at risk of radicalisation receive appropriate support.
- **Risk assess:** assess the risk of students being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This should be based on an understanding, shared with partners, of the potential risk in the local area or your school's particular circumstances. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting students and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify students who may be at risk and what to do to support them.
- **Build resilience to radicalisation:** promote fundamental British values through the curriculum and through social, moral, spiritual and cultural education; equip students with knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society; ensure your school is a safe place to discuss sensitive issues, while securing balanced presentation of views and avoiding political indoctrination.
- **Safeguard and promote the welfare of students:** put in place robust safeguarding policies to identify students at risk and intervene as appropriate by making referrals as necessary to Channel or Children's Social Care, for example.
- **Ensure suitability of visiting speakers:** operate clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers, whether invited by staff or by students themselves, are suitable and appropriately supervised. See Safeguarding Child Protection Policy.

TASIS England is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and expects all faculty, staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all students fulfil their potential.



**IT policies:** ensure students are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the Internet in school, including by ensuring suitable filtering is in place. The DfE advises that Internet safety will usually be integral to the ICT curriculum and can also be embedded in PSHEE, for example. Every teacher needs to be aware of the risks posed by online activity of extremist and terrorist groups. It is for schools to use their own judgement to fill in operational detail about how best to implement the duty in the context of the level of risk in their locality as advised by their Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) or other local agencies and the assessed risks to their own students. The role of inspectors is to raise awareness of the duty and consider whether the measures schools have in place appear effective in each school's particular context. In particular, inspectors will check that schools know how to respond to students who may be targeted or influenced to participate in radicalism or terrorism.

**Do we have to have a separate *Prevent* policy?** The Prevent duties can largely be implemented through schools' existing safeguarding duties using, for example, current reporting lines and training processes. It is not a requirement to create a separate dedicated *Prevent* Policy. However, the Home Office statutory guidance introduces a new requirement that policies "set out clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers – whether invited by faculty, staff or by students themselves – are suitable and appropriately supervised." This protocol can be a standalone document or be part of another policy or document.

**What IT filtering systems must we have?** No technical guidance has been prescribed concerning the levels of filtering which are to be considered appropriate. This means that schools have discretion as to how they approach this aspect of the prevent duty. Inspectors will assess and challenge on the basis of whether what is in place appears effective in practice to ensure students are kept safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the Internet in school. Keeping safe on-line is as much about educating students to think critically and about appropriate behaviour on-line as technical solutions.

**What is the definition of a visiting speaker?** There is no definition of a visiting speaker. Schools should exercise their own reasonable judgement to determine who is a visiting speaker.

**Do we have to check all our visiting speakers?** Schools must ensure all visiting speakers are suitable. There is scope for local discretion as to how. For example, a school could choose to check all speakers or to check all those who risk assessment indicates warrant closer attention. The over-arching strategy should be recorded in the written protocol mentioned in 3 above. When it comes to inspection, the burden is on the school to demonstrate to inspectors how they meet the duty. Inspectors will expect verbal assurances from schools to be backed up by documentary and other evidence that protocols are put into practice on the ground.

**What checks must we run on visiting speakers?** Our safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy, in line with KCSIE (currently in force) sets out the arrangements for individuals coming onto the premises, which includes an assessment of the educational value, the age appropriateness of what is going to be delivered and whether relevant checks will be required. Schools need not confine their approach to the usual formal checks; Internet searches, for example, may sometimes be more instructive than formal vetting checks. The school will ensure that any information or content that a visiting speaker will present to staff or students is agreed beforehand, to check its suitability. The school will decide which, formal checks are required, in accordance regulatory compliance, as appropriate by reference to the usual considerations such as role, frequency, supervision, payment (as not all visiting speakers are volunteers), whether speakers are employed by another organisation.

**What training must we have?** As a minimum, schools should ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting students from the risk of radicalisation. Schools should consider and arrange further training in the light of their assessment of risks.

**What are the potential legal consequences if we do not take the *Prevent* duty seriously?** Where the Secretary of State is satisfied that a school has failed to discharge the duty under the Prevent strategy to have regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, the Secretary of State may give directions to the school to enforce performance of the duty. A direction can be enforced by court order.

**What are the rules for publishing content online?**

- Faculty/staff or Student personal contact information will not be published on the school website. The only contact details given on our website will be the school address and telephone number.
- Student's full names will not be used anywhere on the school website or other on-line space.
- We may use photographs of students or their work when communicating with parents and the wider community, in newsletters and in the school prospectus.
- Photographs will be checked to ensure that they are suitable (photos of students in swimwear would be unsuitable).

### **Appendix 6 – Parents, volunteers and visitors photographing students**

TASIS England provides an environment in which students, parents and staff are safe from images being recorded and inappropriately used. The growth of hand-held mobile technology and interconnectivity has implications for the safety of students, so in order to reflect the policy on safeguarding and child protection, upon their initial visit, parents, volunteers and visitors are given information informing them they are not permitted to use mobile phones on the premises in the presence of students, or to take photographs of students apart from circumstances as outlined below. This includes where students are on school trips or residential. Neither are volunteers or visitors permitted to take photographs or recordings of the students. Parents must ensure mobile phones/cameras are not on display (switched off or silent mode) while in the presence of students. If staff observe that parents are using their mobile phones whilst in school, we will politely remind visitors as to why we do not permit the use of mobile phones in school.

**Parental use of mobile phones/cameras whilst on the school grounds:** TASIS England allows parents to take photos of their own children at organised events such as a school performance, sporting event or celebration of learning. We will remind audiences of this at the start of each event, where practicable. Staff will also remind parents regularly of school policy with regard to mobile phone use with the following statement when announcing events: “You are welcome to photograph your child at this event providing the images are for personal use only (e.g. a family album) and so are exempt from the Data Protection Act 2018. Please be aware these images (which may include other students) must not be shared on social networking sites or other web-based forums since we regard this as ‘making the image public’. Sharing images, or uploading them into a ‘public space’, is likely to be in breach of the Act.” If parents wish to make or take an emergency call whilst on school grounds, they may use the office and the school phone.

Parents are welcome to take photographs of their own students taking part in sporting and outdoor events. When an event is held indoors, such as a play or a concert, parents should be mindful of the need to use their cameras and recording devices with consideration and courtesy for the comfort of others. Flash photography can disturb others in the audience, or even cause distress for those with medical conditions; we therefore ask that it is not used at indoor events. Parents are also reminded that copyright issues may prevent us from permitting the filming or recording of some plays and concerts. We always print a reminder in the programme of events where issues of copyright apply. Additionally, the school records images of students, both through moving pictures and stills, for assessment and reporting of progress, as well as celebration of their activities. It goes to some lengths to photograph professionally events and performances, which are available on request (or through purchasing), particularly in order to avoid distraction of students while performing and disturbance within the audience.

When students join TASIS England, we ask parents to sign consent for photographs and videos to be taken for such purposes. If consent is withheld, this must be made clear when the consent form is returned to school so that photographs/videos are not published of the individual child concerned. The students take part in various events throughout the year, such as assemblies, sporting events, drama and musical productions, field trips, the international festival, etc. Parents are welcome to take photographs of these memorable events, which may include groups of students. If a child takes part in the events, the parents are consenting to their child possibly being photographed or included in a group photograph by other parents. Wherever possible, parents who take photographs of groups of children who are in the care of the school should gain consent first, ensuring that once any photographs are taken, they are stored safely and not posted to social media. The school recognises that it cannot police parents taking photographs of students who are outside school grounds and not in the school’s care, however posting such pictures online may be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018 without consent of all people within the photograph.

### Image Release Consent Form

TASIS England wishes to share photographs and videos of your child(ren) to:

- Celebrate their learning, service, and accomplishments, and
- Illustrate all that our school can offer to prospective students and families.

We never identify students by their full name. Any names used in text or captions would, at most, be first name and initial of surname only.

TASIS England can lawfully process and use such images, subject to receiving consent to do so. As indicated in our *Privacy Notice for Parents and Students* (see Appendix 1 of TASIS England's [Data Protection Policy](#)), the final decision regarding consent rests with you, as parents/carers. A child, if over the age of 13, may give or withdraw consent themselves. However, we are requesting **your** consent to use images of your child(ren) for the purposes described below.

**If you choose to withhold consent, please discuss your wishes with your child(ren) so that they will understand why they must be excluded from group photos and videos.** Your consent can be given or withdrawn at any time by emailing [communications@tasisengland.org](mailto:communications@tasisengland.org).

#### Internal Distribution

I give permission for my child(ren)'s image (photographs and/or video) to be used:

- In school publications, such as yearbooks, class or team photographs, theatre and concert programs, etc.
- In and around the school, including on bulletin boards, displays, and information screens that may be viewed by classmates, teachers, and visitors to the school; and
- In communications to members of the school community, such as newsletters to parents, faculty, staff, and alumni.

- Agree  
 Disagree

#### External Distribution

I give permission for my child(ren)'s image (photographs and/or video) to be used for the school's wider marketing and promotional purposes such as:

- in the prospectus, brochures, parent handbooks, etc.;
- on the website;
- on the social media channels;
- in newsletters to prospective families and TASIS England partners (e.g., education consultants);
- In advertising (print and digital); and
- other such external-facing communications and publications.

- Agree  
 Disagree

### **Acceptable Use of Mobile Phones and 3G/4G/5G compatible devices**

It is our intention to provide within this policy an environment in which children, parents, and staff are safe from images being recorded and inappropriately used, in turn eliminating the potential use to interfere with the dignity and privacy of all individuals and thus compromise the confidentiality of the children in our care.

#### **Purpose:**

- The widespread ownership of Mobile phones and 3G/4G/5G compatible devices (referred to throughout this document as mobile devices) among young people requires that school administrators, teachers, students, parents and carers take steps to ensure that these devices are used safely and responsibly at school. This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile devices can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that they can provide can continue to be enjoyed by our students.
- TASIS England has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile devices that provides teachers, students, parents and carers guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of these devices during the time students are under the care of TASIS England, inclusive of the academic day, the boarding program, on campus and all educational visits.
- Students, their parents or carers must read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy as a condition upon which permission is given to bring mobile devices to school.

#### **Rationale:**

- The school recognizes that personal communication through mobile devices such as mobile technologies is an accepted part of everyday life, therefore such technologies are to be used responsibly and in accordance to the TASIS England Acceptable Use Policy.
- TASIS England accepts that parents/carers give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently.

#### **Responsibility:**

- It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile devices to school to follow the guidelines outlined in this document.
- The decision to provide any mobile devices to their children should be made by parents or carers. It is important that parents understand the capabilities of these devices and the potential uses or misuses of those capabilities. If needed, guidance to this information can be signposted by the school.
- Parents/carers should be aware that if their child brings any device, including a mobile phone to school, the school does not accept responsibility for any loss, damage or costs.
- Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached in a relevant and appropriate way. Parents/carers are requested that in cases of emergency they contact the school first so we are aware of any potential issue and may make any necessary arrangements.

#### **Acceptable Uses:**

- Mobile phones should be switched off and kept out of sight during classroom lessons in order to minimize disruption or distraction.
- Mobile phones should not be used in any manner or place that could be disruptive to the normal routine of the school.
- The school recognizes the importance of emerging technologies present in modern mobile devices e.g. phones, camera and video recording, internet access, MP3 and MP4 playback, blogging, etc. Teachers may wish to utilize these functions to aid teaching and learning and students may have the opportunity to use their mobile phones or mobile devices in the classroom. On these occasions students may use their mobile phones in the classroom when express permission has been given by the teacher. The use of personal mobile phones in one lesson for a specific purpose does not mean blanket usage is then acceptable.

TASIS England is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and expects all faculty, staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all students fulfil their potential.

- Headphones/earphones should only be used during private study or travelling to and from school with permission from the teacher.

**Unacceptable Uses:**

- In order to protect one's privacy and respect to others, unless express permission is granted, mobile phones, laptops and mobile devices should not be used to make calls, send messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application during school lessons, other educational activities such as assemblies, or in the TASIS England Dining Halls.
- Mobile devices should not disrupt classroom lessons with ring tones, music or beeping. They should be turned off during lesson times in order to respect the learning environment. Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable. Cyber bullying will not be tolerated. In some cases, it can constitute criminal behaviour. If the use of technology humiliates, embarrasses or causes offence it is unacceptable regardless of whether 'consent' was given. (Please refer to the [Anti-bullying and Online Safety and IT Policies](#).)
- Mobile phones are not to be used in changing rooms or toilets or used in any situation that may cause embarrassment or discomfort to their fellow students, staff or visitors to the school.
- Disruption to lessons caused by a mobile phone or any mobile device may lead to disciplinary consequences as outlined in the .
- Safeguarding, privacy and respect are paramount at TASIS England. To this end, it is prohibited to take a picture of or record a member of staff without their permission. If this happens the student will be asked and expected to delete those images and may be requested to turn over the device to the Head of School and/or the TASIS England Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- For safety reasons, headphones/earphones should not be used whilst moving around campus during the school day, whilst waiting for or during lessons and assemblies, or in the TASIS England dining halls.

**Theft or damage:**

- Mobile phones or any mobile devices that are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to the front office reception or TASIS England Security.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged devices.
- The school accepts no responsibility for damage to or loss of mobile phones or mobile devices while travelling to and from school.
- It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorized phone calls cannot be made on their phones or other mobile devices. Students must keep their password/pin numbers confidential.

**Inappropriate conduct:**

- Under exam regulations, mobile phones are prohibited from all examinations. Students **MUST** give phones to invigilators before entering the exam hall. Any student found in possession of a mobile phone during an examination will have that paper disqualified. Such an incident may result in all other exam papers being disqualified.
- Any student who uses vulgar, derogatory, or obscene language while using a mobile phone may face disciplinary action.
- Academic Study Hall time is an extremely important part of the TASIS England education. In order to ensure all boarders study time is respected, boarding students **MUST** not use their mobile phones or mobile devices during evening study hall hours unless explicitly required by their teacher for a specific assignment.
- TASIS England values the health and wellbeing of every student. To this end, boarding students **MUST** not use their mobile phones or mobile devices after evening checks are made in the Houses or after evening "lights out".
- Students with mobile phones may not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person using messages, taking/sending photos or objectionable images, and phone calls. Students using mobile phones to bully other students will face disciplinary action. (It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the police). Please refer to our Online Safety and the [Upper School Behaviour Guidelines](#) for further information.
- Students must ensure that files stored on their phones do not contain violent, degrading, racist or pornographic images. The transmission of such images is a criminal offence, and the school is obliged to report any findings of this nature to the police and local authority.

- Similarly, sending nude or semi-nude images is also a criminal offence, which obliges the school to report to the police and local authority.

**Measures:** The following measures may be used in consultation and conjunction with the Anti-bullying , Child Protection and Safeguarding, Online Safety and IT Policies. The TASIS England Online Safety Coordinator and DSL must be consulted when inappropriate conduct requires a mobile phone to be confiscated and searched.

- Students who violate the rules set out in this document could face having their phones and/or mobile devices held by teachers, House Parents, Deputy House Parents or House Tutors until the end of the class period or study session. If the device is being used inappropriately the student must give it to the supervising adult if requested.
- Violation of the rules set out in this document are subject to the disciplinary measures set out in the Behaviour Management Policy, which can be found on the policy section of the TASIS England Website.

I have read and understand this policy:

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parents: Informed via email communication