ORIEL ACADEMY
Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for PARENTS / CARERS

Version control	
August 2026	Reviewed, significant changes made inline with KCSiE 2026
Acceptable Use Policy – Parents/Carers [2024-09-11]	Reviewed and no changes made
Acceptable Use Policy – Parents/Carers [2023-09-12]	Reviewed and updated. Ref to online learning and lockdowns removed -Sentence added at end about parents calling mobile phones
Acceptable Use Policy – Parents/Carers [2022-09-22]	-New point #4 clarifying to parents which members of staff will interact with their child online and how, as suggested in KCSIE 2022 - Additional references to resources to support parents
Acceptable Use Policy – Parents/Carers [2021-04-19]	Reviewed and updated previous version to align with new DPO appointment.

Date of next review:	**September 2028**	**Owner:**	**Trust Safeguarding Lead**
Type of policy:	**Outline template**	**Approving Body:**	**EOB**

Background

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

We tell your children that **they should not behave any differently when they are out of school or using their own device or home network.** What we tell pupils about behaviour and respect applies to all members of the school community, whether they are at home or school:

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

Where can I find out more?

You can read Oriel Academy's full Online Safety Policy (available on our website) for more detail on our approach to online safety and links to other relevant policies (e.g. Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Policy, etc). If you have any questions about this AUP or our approach to online safety, please speak to Rebecca Thomson in the school office (Monday and Tuesday)

What am I agreeing to?

1. I understand that Oriel Academy uses technology as part of the daily life of the academy when it is appropriate to support teaching & learning and the smooth running of the academy and to help prepare the children and young people in our care for their future lives.
2. I understand that the academy takes every reasonable precaution to keep pupils safe and to prevent pupils from accessing inappropriate materials, including behaviour policies and agreements, physical and technical monitoring, education and support and web filtering. However, the academy cannot be held responsible for the nature and content of materials accessed through the internet and mobile technologies, which can sometimes be upsetting.
3. I understand that internet and device use in school, and use of academy-owned devices, networks and cloud platforms out of school may be subject to filtering and monitoring. These should be used in the same manner as when in school.
4. I understand that my child might be contacted online on Google classroom or Tapestry (Nursery only) by their class teacher. If they are contacted by someone else or these staff ask them to use a different app to chat, they will tell their class teacher or a member of SLT.
5. I will promote positive online safety and model safe, responsible and positive behaviours in my own use of technology, including on social media: not sharing other's images or details without permission and refraining from posting negative, threatening or violent comments about others, including the academy staff, volunteers, governors, contractors, pupils or other parents/carers.
6. The impact of social media use is often felt strongly in schools, which is why we expect certain behaviours from pupils when using social media. I will support the academy's social media policy and not encourage my child to join any platform where they are below the minimum age.
7. I will follow the academy's digital images and video policy, which outlines when I can capture and/or share images/videos. I will not share images of other people's children on social media and understand that there may be cultural or legal reasons why this would be inappropriate or even dangerous. The academy sometimes uses images/video of my child for internal purposes such as recording attainment, but it will only do so publicly if I have given my consent on the Home school agreement and / or Arbor.
8. I understand that for my child to grow up safe online, s/he will need positive input from school and home, so I will talk to my child about online safety and refer to guidance sent by the academy, the NOS platform and parentsafe.lgfl.net for advice and support on safe settings, parental controls, apps and games, talking to them about life online, screentime and relevant topics from bullying to accessing pornography, extremism and gangs, sharing inappropriate content etc.
9. If my child has online tuition I will refer to the Online Tutors – Keeping children Safe poster, I will undertake necessary checks where I have arranged this privately to ensure they are registered/safe and reliable, and for any tuition remain in the room where possible, and ensure my child knows that tutors should not arrange new sessions or online chats directly with them.
10. I understand that whilst home networks are much less secure than school ones, I can apply child safety settings to my home internet. Internet Matters provides guides to help parents do this easily for all the main internet service providers in the UK. There are also child-safe search engines e.g. swiggle.org.uk and YouTube Kids is an alternative to YouTube with age appropriate content.
11. I understand that it can be hard to stop using technology sometimes, and I will talk about this to my children, and refer to the principles of the Digital 5 A Day: childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/our-work/digital/5-a-day/
12. I understand and support the commitments made by my child in the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) which s/he has signed and I understand that s/he will be subject to sanctions if s/he does not follow these rules.
13. I can find out more about online safety at Oriel Academy by reading the full Online Safety Policy and can talk to my child's class teacher or member of the school leadership team If I have any

concerns about my child/ren's use of technology, or about that of others in the community, or if I have questions about online safety or technology use in school.

Introduction

Technology is an essential part of daily life and learning. At Oriel Academy, your child's safety and wellbeing are our utmost priority. We expect pupils to act with equal respect and care whether they are online or face-to-face, inside or outside of school.

We ask parents and carers to sign this policy to help reinforce these safe behaviours. Your child has signed a matching age-appropriate AUP. If you have any questions, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Mr Hogan - or a member of the safeguarding team.

Oriel Academy uses technology as part of the daily life of the school when it is appropriate to support teaching & learning and the smooth running of the school, and to help prepare the children in our care for their future lives. We take every reasonable precaution to keep pupils safe online as outlined in the government's guidance.

1. DEVICES IN SCHOOL

- **Filtering & Monitoring:** I understand the school uses filtering (website blocking) and monitoring to protect pupils. While school network protections are safer than most home networks, no system is 100% risk-free. The school aims to teach safe and responsible use, rather than 'overblocking' educational content.
- **Mobile Phones & Personal Devices:** I will support the school's policy regarding personal devices brought to school. I will not call or text my child during the school day; urgent messages must always go through the school office.
- **Tracking Devices:** I will not attempt to track my child during the school day or on school trips using Apple AirTags or similar devices. Doing so violates product terms, can broadcast locations to strangers, and causes unnecessary distress during routine route adjustments.
- **School Communications:** Staff will only contact my child regarding learning or wellbeing through approved systems – telephone or e-mail. I will report any unusual or external app contact requests immediately via the school office.

2. AT HOME & REMOTE LEARNING

- **Filtering:** I understand that any school-owned devices and cloud platforms that are used out of school are subject to filtering and monitoring.
- **Safe Environment:** I will help my child maintain safe habits at home and during remote learning.
- **Video Call Etiquette:** During school video calls, I will ensure my child is fully dressed (not in bed) and that their camera points away from personal spaces or uses a blurred background.
- **Private Online Tutors:** If I arrange private online tuition, I will verify their safety credentials using the *Online Tutors – Keeping Children Safe* guidelines and ensure sessions happen in a shared family room.
- **Home Protections & Boundaries:** I will utilise parental controls, home filtering, and child-safe search tools like swiggle.org.uk or YouTube Kids . I will promote a healthy balance using the *Digital 5 A Day* framework. Parental guidance is available at parentsafe.lgfl.net.
- **Regular Dialogue:** To help understand what my child does online and ensure they are confident to talk to me should something go wrong, I will regularly talk to my child about their life online. Parental guidance is available at parentsafe.lgfl.net.

3. IN THE COMMUNITY & SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Modelling Digital Respect:** I will model safe, positive online behaviours. I will refrain from sharing images or details without permission or posting negative, threatening, or abusive comments

about school staff, governors, pupils, or other parents on social media. The school will request the prompt deletion of abusive posts and contact the police if an offence occurs.

- **Age Restrictions & Group Chats:** The impact of social media use is often felt strongly in schools. I will support age restrictions and will not encourage my child to join platforms where they are below the minimum age (under 13 currently for most social media platforms). I will actively monitor my child's out-of-school digital interactions, such as WhatsApp or gaming group chats, to help prevent child-on-child abuse from spilling into school.
- **Privacy & Covert Recording:** Taking secret photos, videos, or recordings of teachers or pupils (including remotely or via wearable technology) is strictly forbidden. Personal recording devices like smart glasses are prohibited without written permission from Mrs Carter, Principal.
- **Visiting School Premises:** I will keep my personal technology in my pocket when visiting the school. I will never share photos or videos of other people's children on social media and understand that there may be cultural or legal reasons why this would be inappropriate or even dangerous. The school will only use my child's image publicly with my explicit consent.

4. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & REPORTING

- **Generative AI Risks:** I will talk to my child about the risks of Artificial Intelligence, which is now embedded in many mainstream apps. I will discuss the specific dangers of AI chatbots, image creators, and "nudifying" apps that create inappropriate or illegal content.
- **Reporting Without Fear:** I understand that my child may be subject to school sanctions if they break online rules. However, I will reassure my child that they can always tell a trusted adult at home or at school if something goes wrong or upsets them online, without fear of immediate device confiscation or punishment.
- **Further Support:** For comprehensive support on parental controls, safe settings, gaming, apps, and sensitive topics (including cyberbullying, radicalisation, or inappropriate content), please utilise parentsafe.lgfl.net.

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

Signature/s: _____

Name/s of parent / guardian: _____

Parent / guardian of: _____

Date: _____