

# Online Safety Policy



## The Inspire Multi Academy Trust (South West)

March 2026



## The Inspire Multi Academy Online Safety Policy

**This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

This Online Safety policy has been developed by the Online Safety Group made up of: Mrs Emma Phillips, Miss Sally Riseborough & Miss Nicola Cardew, Mr. Aaron Meredith, Miss. Coral Cox, Miss. Sandi-Jane Wood and Limbtec LTD.

### Our Beliefs and Principles




At TIMAT, we provide a rich and engaging curriculum that supports every pupil in becoming an effective learner, ready to achieve their ambitions. Our curriculum is carefully designed around individual learning needs, ensuring all pupils can succeed and progress. In a rapidly evolving 21st-century world, pupils must be prepared to embrace new technologies and adapt to change. We aim to develop confident, independent learners who are well-equipped to become responsible citizens of the future. Computing plays a vital role within the National Curriculum and understanding how computer systems work is an essential life skill. In today's digital landscape, a wide range of tools and technologies enables communication, collaboration, creativity, and the production of digital content. At TIMAT, we are committed to delivering a broad and balanced computing education. Our structured and progressive approach ensures pupils develop a strong understanding of computer systems, gain practical IT skills, and build the digital literacy needed to thrive in the modern world.

'A high-quality computing education equips pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world.' Computing programme of Study, DfE, 2013.




### Introduction

TIMAT follows NCCE Teach Computing. This a structured programme designed to help teachers confidently teach computing from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2. It's part of a wider national initiative funded by the UK government to improve computing education. TIMAT aims to cover the curriculum under three strands:




#### **Computer Science**

-  To enable children to become confident coders on a range of devices.
-  To create opportunities for collaborative and independent learning.
-  To develop children's understanding of technology and how it is constantly evolving.

#### **Digital Literacy**




-  To enable a safe computing environment through appropriate computing behaviours.
-  To allow children to explore a range of digital devices.
-  To promote pupils' moral, social and cultural development.

#### **Information Technology**

-  To develop ICT as a cross-curricular tool to enhance and enrich learning and progression.
-  To promote learning through the development of thinking skills.
-  To enable children to understand and appreciate their place in the modern world.

The resources used by pupils are carefully chosen by the teacher and determined by our Curriculum Policy. Use of digital technologies, by their nature, will provide access to information, which has sometimes not been selected by the teacher. Whilst pupils will often be directed to sites which provide reviewed and evaluated sources, at times they will be able to move beyond these sites unfamiliar to the teacher. There is therefore the possibility that a pupil may access unsuitable material either accidentally or deliberately.

The purpose of this policy is to:

-  Establish the ground rules we have in school for using the internet and digital devices.
-  Describe how these fit into the wider context of our behaviour and SMSC policies.
-  Demonstrate the methods used to protect the children from sites containing unsuitable material.






TIMAT believes that the benefits to pupils from access to the internet and other digital resources far exceed the disadvantages. Ultimately the responsibility for setting and conveying the standards that children are expected to follow, when using media and information resources, is one we share with Parents/Carers. We feel that the best recipe for success lies in a combination of site-filtering, of supervision and by fostering a responsible attitude in our pupils in partnership with Parents/Carers.

Parents/Carers are sent an explanatory letter, which form our Acceptable Use Agreement (Attached to the end of this document). This forms part of our welcome pack. We will also aim to disseminate any relevant published materials to parents.








## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Why is internet use important?**







We use the internet for a number of reasons:

-  Internet use is part of the statutory curriculum and a necessary tool for learning.
-  The internet is a part of everyday life for education, business and social interaction.
-  The school has a duty to provide students with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience.
-  Pupils use the internet widely outside of school and need to learn how to evaluate internet information and to take care of their own personal safety and security whilst online.
-  The purpose of internet use in school is to raise educational standards, to promote pupil achievement, to support the professional work of staff and to enhance the TIMAT management functions.


### **What are the benefits to internet in education?**


-  Educational and cultural exchanges between pupils worldwide.
-  Access to experts in many fields for pupils and staff.
-  Professional development for staff through access to national developments, educational materials and effective curriculum practice.
-  Collaboration across networks of schools, support services and professional associations.
-  Improved access to technical support including remote management of networks and automatic system updates.
-  Exchange of curriculum and administration data with Local Authority and DFE.
-  Access to learning wherever and whenever convenient.

### **How can internet use enhance learning?**

-  Internet access will be designed to enhance and extend education.
-  Pupils will be taught what internet use is acceptable and what is not and given clear objectives for Internet use.
-  We ensure that the copying and subsequent use of internet derived materials by staff and pupils complies with copyright law. Access levels will be reviewed to reflect the curriculum requirements and age of pupils.
-  Staff should guide pupils to online activities that will support the learning outcomes planned for the pupils' age and maturity.
-  Pupils will be educated in the effective use of the internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation.
-  Pupils will be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using Internet material in their own work.

### **How will pupils learn how to evaluate internet content?**

-  Because the quality of information received via radio, newspaper and telephone is variable and information received via the Internet, email or text message requires even better information handling and digital literacy skills.


 In particular it may be difficult to determine origin, intent and accuracy, as the contextual clues may be missing or difficult to read. Pupils should be made aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.


 The evaluation of online materials is a part of teaching and learning in every subject.


## **Managing Information Systems**


TIMAT is responsible for ensuring that the academy infrastructure / network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible and that policies and procedures approved within this policy are implemented. It will also need to ensure that the relevant people named in the above sections will be effective in carrying out their online safety responsibilities.


### **How will information systems security be maintained?**


 Virus protection will be updated regularly.

 Personal data sent over the Internet will be encrypted.

 Portable media may not be used without specific permission followed by a virus check.

 Unapproved software will not be allowed in pupils' work areas or attached to email.


 There will be regular reviews and audits of the safety and security of academy technical systems.


 Servers, wireless systems and cabling must be securely located and physical access restricted.


 All users will have clearly defined access rights to academy technical systems and devices.


### **How will email be managed?**

 Pupils may only use approved email or blogging accounts.

 Pupils must immediately tell a teacher if they receive offensive emails or complete an Online Safety concern form (found at the end of this document).


 Pupils must not reveal personal details of themselves or others in email communication or arrange to meet anyone without specific permission from an adult.

 The forwarding of chain messages is not permitted.


 All users (Year 1 upwards) will be provided with a username and secure password by Limbtec LTD who will keep an up-to-date record of users and their usernames.


### **How will published content be managed?**


 We have created a website that inspires pupils to publish work of a high standard.

 We use it to celebrate pupil's work, promote the school and publish resources for projects.

 Publication of information should be considered from a personal and school security viewpoint.

 The contact details on the website should be the main school address, email and telephone number. Staff or pupil's personal information must not be published.

 The Headteacher and Social Media Manager will take overall editorial responsibility and ensure that content is accurate and appropriate and editorial guidance will help reflect the school's requirements for accuracy and good presentation. This includes the use of Facebook.

 The website will comply with current guidelines for publications including respect for intellectual property rights and copyright.

### **Can pupil's images or work be published?**

- 📱 When using digital images, staff should inform and educate students / pupils about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images. They should recognise the risks attached to publishing their own images on the internet e.g. on social networking sites.
- 📱 Written permission from Parents/Carers will be obtained before photographs of students / pupils are published on the school website / social media / local press.
- 📱 Still and moving images and sounds add liveliness and interest to a website, particularly when pupils can be included. Nevertheless, the security of staff and pupils is paramount.
- 📱 Images of a pupil will not be published unless Parents/Carers have granted permission. Pupils also need to be taught the reasons for caution in publishing personal information and images online.

### **How will social networking, social media and personal publishing be managed?**

- 📱 Parents and teachers need to be aware that the Internet has emerging online spaces and social networks which allow individuals to publish unmediated content.
- 📱 Social networking sites can connect people with similar or even very different interests. Users can be invited to view personal spaces and leave comments, over which there may be limited control.
- 📱 Although primary age pupils should not use Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat or similar sites, pupils should be encouraged to think about the ease of uploading personal information, the associated dangers and the difficulty of removing an inappropriate image or information once published.
- 📱 No member of staff should use social networking sites or personal publishing sites to communicate with students, past or present. This message is shared annually with staff during an INSET session.
- 📱 Staff need to be aware of the importance of considering the material they post, ensuring profiles are secured and how publishing unsuitable material may affect their professional status. Examples include: blogs, wikis, social networking, forums, bulletin boards, multiplayer online gaming, chatrooms, instant messenger and many others.
- 📱 Teachers cannot under any circumstances mention any references to their working lives on any social media.
- 📱 TIMAT will control access to social media and social networking sites.
- 📱 TIMAT uses Facebook as a source of engagement with our community.
- 📱 Pupils will be advised never to give out personal details of any kind which may identify them and / or their location. Examples would include real name, address, mobile or landline phone numbers, school attended, IM and email addresses, full names of friends/family, specific interests and clubs etc.
- 📱 Pupils will be advised not to place personal photos on any social network space. They should consider how public the information is and consider using private areas. Advice should be given regarding background detail in a photograph which could identify the student or his/her location.
- 📱 Staff are advised not to run social network spaces for pupil use on a personal basis.
- 📱 Pupils are advised not to publish specific and detailed private thoughts, especially those that may be considered threatening, hurtful or defamatory.

### **How will filtering be managed?**

- 📱 TIMAT will work with SWGfL/Netsweeper to ensure that systems to protect pupils are reviewed and improved.
- 📱 TIMAT has agreed to follow 'Plymouth Inter-agency Online Safety pledge' to show our commitment to ensuring that young people are safeguarded while online. (See the pledge at the end of this document)
- 📱 If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL must be reported to the Computing co-ordinator or a senior member of staff.
- 📱 TIMAT'S access includes filtering appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils. Senior staff will ensure that regular checks are made to ensure that the filtering methods selected are appropriate, effective and reasonable.

- 📖 Internet access is filtered for all users. Illegal content (child sexual abuse images) is filtered by the broadband or filtering provider by actively employing the Internet Watch Foundation CAIC list. Content lists are regularly updated and internet use is logged and regularly monitored. There is a clear process in place to deal with requests for filtering changes
- 📖 Internet filtering should ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet.
- 📖 Any material that staff believe is illegal must be reported to the Headteacher who will inform the appropriate agencies.
- 📖 We keep up to date with new technologies, including those relating to mobile phones and handheld devices, and are ready to develop appropriate strategies.
- 📖 There are dangers for staff however if personal phones are used to contact pupils or families and therefore this will only be done when authorised by a senior member of staff.
- 📖 Abusive messages should be dealt with under the Tor Bridge Primary School Positive Behaviour and AntiBullying Policies.
- 📖 Emerging technologies will be examined for educational benefit and the Headteacher in consultation with staff will give permission for appropriate use.
- 📖 Mobile phones will not be used during lessons or formal school time. The sending of abusive or inappropriate text, picture or video messages is forbidden.
- 📖 Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones into Tor Bridge Primary School. Under certain circumstances exceptions can be discussed with the Headteacher, so that pupil mobile phones can be kept in the school office turned off.





### **How should personal data be protected?**

- 📖 The quantity and variety of data held on pupils, families and on staff is expanding quickly. While this data can be very useful in improving services, data could be mishandled, stolen or misused. The Data Protection Act 1998 ("the Act") gives individuals the right to know what information is held about them and provides a framework to ensure that personal information is handled properly.
- 📖 Personal data cannot be sent over the internet or taken off the school site unless safely encrypted or otherwise secured.
- 📖 It promotes openness in the use of personal information. Under the Act every organisation that processes personal information (personal data) must notify the Information Commissioner's Office, unless they are exempt.
- 📖 The Data Protection Act 1998 applies to anyone who handles or has access to information concerning individuals. Everyone in the workplace has a legal duty to protect the privacy of information relating to individuals.

The Act sets standards (eight data protection principles), which must be satisfied when processing personal data (information that will identify a living individual). The Act also gives rights to the people the information is about i.e. subject access rights let individuals find out what information is held about them.

The eight principles are that personal data must be:








- 📖 Processed fairly and lawfully
- 📖 Processed for specified purposes
- 📖 Adequate, relevant and not excessive
- 📖 Accurate and up to date

- -  Held no longer than is necessary
  -  Processed in line with individual's rights
  -  Kept secure
  -  Transferred only to other countries with suitable security measures.

This section is a reminder that all data from which people can be identified is protected. Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available according to the Data Protection Act 1998.

## **Policy Decisions**

### **How will Internet access be authorised?**

-  We allocate Internet access for staff and pupils based on educational need. It should be clear who has internet access and who has not.
-  Authorisation is as individuals and usage is fully supervised. Normally all pupils will be granted Internet access.
-  Parental permission is required for internet access in all cases.
-  All staff must read and sign the Code of Conduct before using any school ICT resource.
-  At Reception and Key Stage 1, access to the internet will be by adult demonstration with occasional directly supervised access to specific, approved online materials.
-  Parents/Carers will be asked to sign and return consent form for pupil access.
-  Parents/Carers will be informed that pupils will be provided with supervised Internet access.

### **How will risks be assessed?**

TIMAT will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users access only appropriate material. However, due to the global and connected nature of internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that access to unsuitable material will never occur via a school computer.

The use of computer systems without permission or for inappropriate purposes could constitute a criminal offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990. Methods to identify, assess and minimise risks will be reviewed regularly and after every breach of this policy.

### **How will e–Safety complaints be handled?**

Complaints of internet misuse will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure. Any complaint about staff misuse must be referred to the Headteacher. If the complaint is about the Headteacher this should be reported to the Chair of Governors.

All e–Safety complaints and incidents will be recorded, including any actions taken. Pupils and parents will be informed of the Complaints Procedure. Parents and pupils will work in partnership with staff to resolve issues. Discussions will be held with the local Children’s Safeguarding Board to establish procedures for handling potentially illegal issues. Any issues (including sanctions) will be dealt with according to the disciplinary and child protection procedures.



### **How is the internet used across the community?**

We recognise that children can access the internet outside of our setting and offer support and advice to parents on internet safety through regular information sent home with children and through advice on our website. We will be sensitive to Internet related issues experienced by pupils out of school, e.g. social networking sites, and offer appropriate advice. We also hold an Online Safety event for Parents/Carers yearly as well as sessions for children of all ages and a Staff INSET.





### **How will Cyberbullying be managed?**

Cyberbullying is defined as “The use of Information Communication Technology, particularly mobile phones and the internet to deliberately hurt or upset someone” DCSF 2007. It is essential that pupils, Tor Bridge Primary School staff and Parents/Carers understand how cyberbullying is different from other forms of bullying, how it can affect people and how to respond and combat misuse. Promoting a culture of confident users will support innovation and safety. DfE and Childnet have produced resources and guidance that will be used to give practical advice and guidance on cyberbullying: <http://www.digizen.org/cyberbullying>  
Cyberbullying (along with all forms of bullying) will not be tolerated. All incidents of cyberbullying will be recorded.

There are clear procedures in place to investigate incidents or allegations of bullying:





-  Pupils, staff and Parents/Carers will be advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence.
-  Steps will be taken to identify bullying behaviour, where appropriate, such as examining system logs, identifying and interviewing possible witnesses, and contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.

Sanctions for those involved in Cyberbullying may include:

-  The perpetrator will be asked to remove any material deemed to be inappropriate or offensive.
-  A service provider may be contacted to remove content.
-  Internet access may be suspended at school for the user for a period of time.
-  Parent/Carers will be informed, and the police will be contacted if a criminal offence is suspected.

### **Other Online Safety Issues**

**In the event of suspicion, all steps in this procedure should be followed:**

-  Have more than one senior member of staff / volunteer involved in this process. This is vital to protect individuals if accusations are subsequently reported.
-  Conduct the procedure using a designated computer that will not be used by young people and if necessary, can be taken off site by the police should the need arise. Use the same computer for the duration of the procedure.
-  It is important to ensure that the relevant staff should have appropriate internet access to conduct the procedure, but also that the sites and content visited are closely monitored and recorded (to provide further protection).
-  Record the URL of any site containing the alleged misuse and describe the nature of the content causing concern. It may also be necessary to record and store screenshots of the content on the machine being

used for investigation. These may be printed, signed and attached to the form (except in the case of images of child sexual abuse – see below)

🔗 Once this has been completed and fully investigated the group will need to judge whether this concern has substance or not. If it does then appropriate action will be required and could include the following:

- Internal response or discipline procedures
- Involvement by Local Authority / Academy Group or national / local organisation (as relevant).
- Police involvement and/or action

**If content being reviewed includes images of child abuse, then the monitoring should be halted and referred to the police immediately. Other instances to report to the police would include**

- 🔗 ○ Incidents of ‘grooming’ behaviour.
- The sending of obscene materials to a child.
- Adult material which potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act.
- Criminally racist material.
- Promotion of terrorism or extremism.
- Other criminal conduct, activity or materials.

**Isolate the computer in question as best you can. Any change to its state may hinder a later police investigation.**

**Sexting** – Children in Year 5 and 6 will be informed about the implications of sexting and how, once a picture has been sent, this image can never fully be removed from the World Wide Web.

**Pornography** – many children will come across some type of pornographic content when searching the Internet. Children are taught about what to do if they come across this type of material and who to speak to.

**Any concerns with content may be recorded and dealt with in the following ways:**

- 🔗 The user will be asked to remove any material deemed to be inappropriate or offensive.
- 🔗 The material will be removed by the site administrator if the user does not comply.
- 🔗 Access to the computers for the user may be suspended.
- 🔗 The user will need to discuss the issues with a member of SLT before reinstatement.
- 🔗 A pupil’s Parent/Carer may be informed.

## **Communication Policy**

**How will the policy be introduced to pupils?**

- 🔗 We teach e–Safety throughout Computing Lessons and as part of every subject whenever pupils are using the internet.
- 🔗 All users are informed that network and Internet use will be monitored.
- 🔗 Pupil instruction in responsible and safe use should precede Internet access every time they go online.
- 🔗 Safe and responsible use of the internet and technology will be reinforced across the curriculum. Attention will be given where pupils are considered to be vulnerable.
- 🔗 Children are reminded that if they have any Online Safety concerns, they can refer to the flow chart on display which clearly shows them different options. (An example is at the end of this document).

We use some of following Online Safety programmes:

**Think U Know:** [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

**Childnet:** [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

**Kidsmart:** [www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)

**Safe Social Networking:** [www.safesocialnetworking.com](http://www.safesocialnetworking.com)

### **How will the policy be discussed with staff?**

The Online Safety Policy will be formally provided to and discussed with all members of staff and published on our school's websites.

To protect all staff and pupils, the school will implement Acceptable Use Policy. Staff should be aware that Internet traffic can be monitored and traced to the individual user; discretion and professional conduct is essential.

Staff training in safe and responsible Internet use both professionally and personally will be provided, both internally and externally, annually. Staff will sign to say they have attended this training.

### **How will Parents/Carers support be enlisted?**

Parents' attention will be drawn to our Online Safety Policy through our Facebook pages, website and through regular talks.

A partnership approach with Parents/Carers will be encouraged. This will include Parent/Carer meetings with demonstrations and suggestions for safe home Internet use.

Parents/Carers will be requested to sign an e-Safety/internet agreement as part of the entry procedure. Information and guidance for Parents/Carers on Online Safety will be made available to them in a variety of formats.

Advice on filtering systems and educational and leisure activities that include responsible use of the Internet will be made available to Parents/Carers.

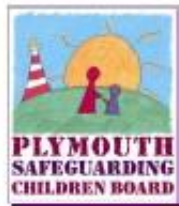
### **Policy Management**

This policy is linked to the following mandatory school/centre policies: Child Protection and Safeguarding, Whistle Blowing, Health and Safety, Anti-Bullying, Home School Agreements, Computing and PHSE Policies.

### **Who will review the policy?**

Due to the ever-changing nature of digital technologies, it is best practice to review the Online Safety Policy annually and, if necessary, more frequently in response to any significant new developments in the use of technologies, new threats to online safety or incidents that may have taken place.

The Online Safety policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Online Safety Officer, Headteacher and Governors. Our Online Safety Policy has been written by the school, building on Local Authority advice and DfE guidance.



## Plymouth Inter-agency E-safety Pledge

The Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board and our partner agencies are committed to ensuring that children and young people are safeguarded while using Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

To ensure this commitment **We Pledge** the following:

1. The advantages and positive aspects of using ICT will be continually promoted among children and young people.
2. Our agency will have its own Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), which will be kept up to date as technology, and its use, develops and which will be promoted among the agency's staff.
3. Our agency will have a member of staff designated as an E-safety Officer, who is fully conversant with children and young people's safe use of ICT and responsible for ensuring that all necessary policies and procedures and safeguarding measures are in place.
4. The AUP will be promoted and made available to children and young people using ICT and their parents/carers.
5. Electronic safeguards, appropriate to the setting, will be put in place, in line with guidance from the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board ([www.plymouthscb.org.uk](http://www.plymouthscb.org.uk)) and the United Kingdom Council for Child Internet Safety, and will be updated regularly. Reports generated from these will be used to confirm adherence to AUPs.
6. Children and young people using ICT within agencies will be made aware of their on-line rights, and the potential risks and dangers.
7. Children and young people will be equipped with the knowledge and encouraged to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe whilst using ICT, in line with the agency's Acceptable Use Policy.
8. Our agency will promote Peer Mentoring as a method for children and young people to keep each other safe on-line.
9. Relevant members of staff will be made aware of safeguarding issues for children and young people using ICT and key staff, including those who supervise the use of ICT, will be fully informed about its safe use.
10. Procedures will be in place to ensure that action will be taken when there are concerns that the ICT equipment has been used by users, staff or members of the public to abuse others.
11. Young people, parents/carers and members of the public will be made aware of how to report concerns/whom to speak to if they feel worried about, or are aware of, the use of ICT to abuse others.
12. Young people will be consulted about, and involved in, the implementation of our Pledge.

**Signed**

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**Agency**  
(name and  
address)

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## Appendix 2: Home School Acceptable Use Agreement

Dear Parents/Carers,

We allow your children to use our school ICT systems and equipment which have a variety of different programs and apps for them to use. It also allows your child to access the internet. We trust your children to use these programs, apps and the internet safely and sensibly.

We recognise the important contribution and value that such resources play in promoting children's learning and development; however, we also recognise there are potential risks involved. We therefore have rigorous online safety policies and procedures in place.

Some of the Computing and ICT equipment your children will have access to is detailed below:

- *Computers/Laptops (which are protected by the school's monitoring software)*
- *Tablets*
- *iPads*
- *iPods*
- *Internet (which is protected by the school's online safety and monitoring software)*
- *Email*
- *Games Consoles*
- *Digital Cameras*
- *Copying and printing facilities*
- *Recorders and Dictaphones*

In order to support us further in developing your child's knowledge and understanding about online safety, please read the following rules with your child. We then ask that you and your child 'sign' and return the attached slip. We feel it is good practice to involve them as much as possible in the decision-making process, and believe a shared commitment is the most successful partnership.

Full details of the Acceptable Use Policy and Online Safety Policy are available on request or via our website.

Hopefully, you will also find these rules provide you with an opportunity for further conversation between you and your child about safe and appropriate use of the online and digital technologies.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A Meredith  
CEO & Executive Headteacher

Appendix 3: Child Friendly Acceptable Use Agreement

The Inspire  
Acceptable Use Agreement

School can see the internet sites we visit.

We keep our personal information private.

We keep our passwords safe and private.

We search safely online.

We will look after each other and our devices.

We know how to report bad images or websites.

We will not use social networking sites in school.

We will tell a trusted adult if anything worries us.

## Appendix 4: Social Media Permission Form

### Photograph Consent Letter for Tor Bridge Primary School/Ernesettle Community School

Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter explains why we will need to ask you for your consent before we are able to take photographs of your child during their time at Tor Bridge Primary School. Generally, photographs are a source of celebration and pride. We believe that the taking and use of photographs can enhance the self-esteem of children and their families and therefore is something to be welcomed and appreciated.

We may take photographs for several reasons whilst your child is with us, including to:

- document what they enjoy doing
- record their learning and development progress
- display in online learning journeys (Reception only), exercise books and/or children's learning
- record special events and achievements
- celebrate achievements with external agencies.

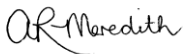
We will also encourage children to be active learners, and to become involved in using cameras themselves by taking photos of their surroundings, activities and of each other. We do, however, recognise that with the increased use of technologies, particularly digitally and online, the potential for misuse has become greater and we understand that this can give rise to concern. We will therefore endeavour to put effective safeguards in place to protect children and young people by minimising risk. We will seek to protect children's identity and to limit opportunities for misuse.

We have policies in place which you are welcome to view on our website or take a copy of at any time.

We are mindful of the fact that for some families there may be reasons why protecting a child's identity is a matter of particular anxiety, and if you have special circumstances either now or at any time in the future which would affect or change your position regarding consent, please let us know immediately in writing. If your child is old enough to express their own view, you may want to consult with them about categories of consent, and we invite you to use this letter to explore their feelings about being photographed.

Please read and complete the form on the reverse of this letter and do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A Meredith  
CEO & Executive Headteacher

**Child Agreement**

Image Consent Agreement Return Form:

Child's Name:.....

- I understand the agreement for using the digital cameras safely and responsibly.
- I know the adults looking after me will help me to stay safe and check that I am using the resources to help me with my work.

Child's Signature:.....

Date:.....

**Parent/Carer Agreement**

Image Consent Agreement Return Form:

- I have read and discussed the agreement with my child and confirm that we understand what the rules mean.

I confirm that:

**Please tick each box as appropriate and delete photographs/videos/name of my child as appropriate.**

**Due to the nature of group work/classroom activities, photos could involve the children being photographed individually, in small/whole class groups or in the background of other activities.**

I/we give permission for my/our child to have photos (which on occasions, could be accompanied with their first name) taken in school for the purposes of their work and display around school.

I/we give permission for external agencies (such as the Evening Herald) to take photos (which on occasions, could be accompanied with their first name and surname) which may be published externally.

I/we give permission for photographs/videos/name of my/our child to be put on the school website (where appropriate).

I/we give permission for photographs/videos/name of my/our child to be used on the school's social media page on Facebook.

I/we give permission for examples of my/our child's learning (which on occasions, could be accompanied with their first name) to be published on the school's social media platforms/pages (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc).

Parent/Carer Signature: .....

## Appendix 5: Staff and Volunteer Acceptable Use Agreement

### The Inspire Multi-Academy Trust (South West)

#### Staff and Volunteer Acceptable Use Agreement 2025-2026

##### Completed by Headteacher

This policy is reviewed annually, or as new information becomes available. It is vital that this policy is read and understood.

This Acceptable Use Policy is intended to ensure:

- that staff and volunteers will be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other communications technologies for educational, personal and recreational use.
- that school systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk.
- that staff are protected from potential risk in their use of technology in their everyday work.

The school will try to ensure that staff and volunteers will have good access to digital technology to enhance their work, to enhance learning opportunities for children's learning and will, in return, expect staff and volunteers to agree to be responsible users.

#### Acceptable Use Policy Agreement

I understand that I must use school systems in a responsible way, to ensure that there is no risk to my safety or to the safety and security of the systems and other users. I recognise the value of the use of digital technology for enhancing learning and will ensure that children receive opportunities to gain from the use of digital technology. I will, where possible, educate the young people in my care in the safe use of digital technology and embed online safety in my work with young people.

For my professional and personal safety:

- I understand that TIMAT will monitor my use of the school digital technology and communications systems.
- I will not bring TIMAT setting into disrepute.
- I will consider how my online conduct may be perceived by others and how this could affect my own reputation and that of TIMAT.
- I understand that the rules set out in this agreement also apply to use of these technologies (e.g. laptops, email, VLE, SharePoint etc.) out of school, and to the transfer of personal data (digital or paper based) out of school. Please refer to Online Safety Policy.
- I understand that the school digital technology systems are primarily intended for educational use and that I will only use the systems for personal or recreational use within the policies and rules set down by the school. Please refer to Online Safety Policy.
- I will not disclose my username or password to anyone else, nor will I try to use any other person's username and password. I understand that I should not write down or store a password where it is possible that someone may steal it.
- I will immediately report any illegal, inappropriate or harmful material or incident, I become aware of, to the appropriate person.
- I am aware of Phishing emails and what to do in the event I receive one.

I will be professional in my communications and actions when using TIMAT's ICT systems:

- I will not access, copy, remove or otherwise alter any other user's files, without their express permission.
- I understand that any devices provided for me to use remain the property of TIMAT and should only be used for appropriate activities and tasks.

- I will communicate with others in a professional manner, I will not use aggressive or inappropriate language and I appreciate that others may have different opinions.
- I will ensure that when I take and / or publish images of others I will do so with their permission and in accordance with the school's policy on the use of digital / video images. I will not use my personal equipment to record these images, unless I have permission to do so. Where these images are published (e.g. on the school website / SharePoint systems) it will not be possible to identify by name, or other personal information, those who are featured.
- I will only use social networking sites in school in accordance with the school's policies.
- I will only communicate with children and their Parents/Carers using official school systems. Any such communication will be professional in tone and manner.
- I will not engage in any on-line activity that may compromise my professional responsibilities.

The school and the Local Authority have the responsibility to provide safe and secure access to technologies and ensure the smooth running of TIMAT:

- When I use my mobile devices (laptops / tablets / mobile phones / USB devices etc) in school, I will follow the rules set out in this agreement, in the same way as if I was using TIMAT Equipment. I will ensure that any such devices are protected by up to date anti-virus software and are free from viruses. If using a removable device, I will ensure that this encrypted with password protection.
- I will not open any hyperlinks in emails or any attachments to emails, unless the source is known and trusted, or if I have any concerns about the validity of the email (due to the risk of the attachment containing viruses or other harmful programs).
- I will ensure that my data is regularly backed up, in accordance with relevant policy. See Online Safety Policy.
- I will not try to upload, download or access any materials which are illegal (child sexual abuse images, criminally racist material, adult pornography covered by the Obscene Publications Act or inappropriate or may cause harm or distress to others. I will not try to use any programs or software that might allow me to bypass the filtering / security systems in place to prevent access to such materials. This is a criminal offence.
- I will only transport, hold, disclose or share personal information about myself or others, as outlined in the school Data Policy (or other relevant policy). Where Digital Personal Data is transferred outside the secure local network, it must be encrypted. Paper based 'Protected and Restricted' data must be held in lockable storage.
- I understand that data protection policy requires that any staff or student / pupil data to which I have access, will be kept private and confidential, except when it is deemed necessary that I am required by law or by school policy to disclose such information to an appropriate authority.
- I will immediately report any damage or faults involving equipment or software, however this may have happened.

Sensitive Data Includes:

- Pupil Reports
- SEN Records
- Letters to Parents
- Class Based Assessments
- Exam/Test Results
- Whole School Data
- Medical Information
- Information relating to staff members

When using the internet in my professional capacity or for school sanctioned personal use:

- I will ensure that I have permission to use the original work of others in my own work.
- Where work is protected by copyright, I will not download or distribute copies (including music and videos).

## Social Networking Sites and Applications:

- Social networking applications include, but are not limited to: blogs, online discussion forums, collaborative spaces, media sharing services, 'Microblogging' applications. Examples include Twitter, Facebook, Messenger and YouTube.

## Staff Conduct in the use of Social Networking:

- In general terms, TIMAT expects that the conduct of its employees is such that no justifiable complaint can be made by parents, pupils, colleagues, Governors, other bodies or agencies or members of the community in relation to conduct and behaviour of TIMAT staff. This principle applies to the use of social networking sites.
- The way in which TIMAT staff present and conduct themselves on social networking sites can have an impact on the public perception of the school and influence the way in which those staff members are perceived by pupils and parents. In their use of social networking sites, staff should be aware that their online behaviour could affect their professional standing, dignity and perception of their integrity.
- It is recommended that staff take adequate precautions when using social networking sites and applications, both in vetting material that could be connected to them (through their own profile and information added about them) and through the use of appropriate security settings.
- It is recommended that TIMAT employees do not identify our school on social networking sites as this could directly link their behaviour outside of work with the reputation of the school. They are however welcomed to like and share posts where applicable but must refrain from commenting via personal profiles.
- I understand that as per KCSIE 2022, TIMAT will complete a social media sweep before appointment to any position.

## I understand that I am responsible for my actions in and out of the school:

- I understand that this Acceptable Use Policy applies not only to my work and use of school digital technology equipment in school, but also applies to my use of school systems and equipment off the premises and my use of personal equipment on the premises or in situations related to my employment by the school.
- I understand that if I fail to comply with this Acceptable Use Policy Agreement, I could be subject to disciplinary action. This could include a warning, a suspension, referral to Governors / Directors and / or the Local Authority and in the event of illegal activities the involvement of the police.
- Breach of these disciplinary rules in relation to social networking or any inappropriate use of social networking sites and applications by staff will be dealt with through the school's Disciplinary Procedure.
- I understand that if I do not adhere to any of the rules outlined in this policy, my network access may be suspended immediately, any devices removed and that other disciplinary consequences may follow.

I have read and understand the above and agree to use the school digital technology systems (both in and out of school) and my own devices (in school and when carrying out communications related to the school) within these guidelines.

Staff / Volunteer Name:

Signed:

Date:

