



**Westminster**

**Primary**

**School**

*Nurturing Minds...  
Inspiring Excellence*

## **E-Security Policy**

**Ratified by trustees: July 2022**

**To Be Reviewed: July 2024**

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## **Statement of intent**

We understand that use of the internet and broadband is important for day-to-day activities and for enhancing the learning of our pupils.

Whilst the internet introduces new, innovative ways to support teaching, it also brings a number of risks, which, if not properly managed, drastically increase the chance of harm to pupils and staff. Improperly managed internet use may lead to the loss of sensitive, confidential personal data and an inability to deliver scheduled teaching as a result of a security breach.

As a result, the school has created this E-security Policy to ensure that appropriate mechanisms of control are put in place to effectively manage risks that arise from internet use.

## 1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to official legislation including, but not limited to, the following:
  - The Human Rights Act 1998
  - The Data Protection Act 1998
  - The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
  - The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
  - The Education and Inspections Act 2006
  - The Computer Misuse Act 1990, amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006
- 1.2. This policy also has due regard to official guidance including, but not limited to, the following:
  - The Education Network 'Managing and maintaining e-security/cyber-security in schools' 2014
- 1.3. The school will implement this policy in conjunction with our:
  - E-safety Policy (including the adult internet and acceptable use policy agreement)

## 2. Types of attack

- 2.1. **Malicious technical attacks:** These are intentional attacks which seek to gain access to a school's system and data. Often, these attacks also attempt to use the school's system to mount further attacks on other systems, or use the system for unauthorised purposes, and can lead to reputational damage.
- 2.2. **Accidental attacks:** These attacks are often as a result of programme errors or viruses in the school's system. Whilst these are not deliberate, they can cause a variety of problems for schools.
- 2.3. **Internal attacks:** These attacks involve both deliberate and accidental actions by users and the introduction of infected devices or storage into the school's system, e.g. USB flash drives.
- 2.4. **Social engineering:** These attacks result from internal weaknesses which expose the school's system, e.g. poor password use.

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

- 3.1. The headteacher is responsible for implementing effective strategies for the management of risks imposed by internet use, and to keep its network services, data and users secure.
- 3.2. The IT Operations Manager (IOM) is responsible for the overall monitoring and management of e-security.

- 3.3. The headteacher is responsible for establishing a procedure for managing and logging incidents.
- 3.4. The Trust Board will hold regular meetings with the headteacher to discuss the effectiveness of e-security, and to review incident logs.
- 3.5. The Trust Board will review and evaluate this E-security Policy on a two-year basis in accordance with the Headteacher and IOM, taking into account any incidents and recent technological developments.
- 3.6. The Headteacher is responsible for making any necessary changes to this policy and communicating these to all members of staff.
- 3.7. All members of staff and pupils are responsible for adhering to the processes outlined in this policy, alongside the school's E-safety Policy and Acceptable Use Policy.

## **4. Secure configuration**

- 4.1. An inventory will be kept of all IT hardware and software currently in use at the school, including mobile phones and other personal devices provided by the school. This is stored in the asset inventory via Parago and a hard copy is accessible from the school office if required. The inventory is audited on an annual basis to ensure it is up-to-date.
- 4.2. Any changes to the IT hardware or software will be documented using the inventory system and will be authorised by the IOM before use.
- 4.3. All systems will be audited on a termly basis to ensure the software is up-to-date. Any new versions of software or new security patches will be added to systems, ensuring that they do not affect network security, and will be recorded on the inventory.
- 4.4. Any software that is out-of-date or reaches 'end of life' will be removed from systems, i.e. when suppliers end their support for outdated products, such that any security issues will not be rectified by suppliers.
- 4.5. All hardware, software and operating systems will require passwords for individual users before use. Passwords will be changed in accordance with NIST/NCSC guidelines to prevent access to facilities which could compromise network security.
- 4.6. The school believes that locking down hardware, such as through strong passwords and access control is an effective way to prevent access to facilities by unauthorised users. This is detailed in section 6 of this policy.

## **5. Network security**

- 5.1. The school will employ firewalls in order to prevent unauthorised access to the systems.

- 5.2. The school's firewall will be deployed as a:
- **Centralised deployment:** the broadband service connects to a firewall that is located within a data centre or other major network location.
- 5.3. As the school's firewall is managed by EXA Networks a third party, the firewall management service will be thoroughly investigated by the IOM, to ensure that:
- Any changes and updates that are logged by authorised users within the school, are undertaken efficiently by the provider to maintain operational effectiveness.
- 5.4. The school may consider installing additional firewalls on the servers in addition to the third-party service as a means of extra network protection. This decision will be made by the Headteacher, taking into account the level of security currently provided and any incidents that have occurred.

## 6. Managing user privileges

- 6.1. The school understands that controlling what users have access to is important for promoting network security. User privileges will be differentiated, i.e. pupils will have different access to data and the network than members of staff.
- 6.2. The Headteacher will clearly define what users have access to and will communicate this to the IOM, ensuring that a written record is kept.
- 6.3. The IOM will ensure that user accounts are set up appropriately such that users can access the facilities required, in line with the Headteacher's instructions, whilst minimising the potential for deliberate or accidental attacks on the network.
- 6.4. Websites are filtered for inappropriate and malicious content. Any member of staff or pupil that has accessed inappropriate or malicious content will be recorded in accordance with the monitoring process in section 7 of this policy. The IOM will liaise with EXA Networks about any websites that have not been filtered to make sure they are.
- 6.5. All users will be required to change their passwords on a 90-day basis and must use upper and lowercase letters, as well as numbers, to ensure that passwords are strong. Users will also be required to change their password if this becomes known to other individuals.
- 6.6. Pupils are responsible for remembering their passwords; however, the IOM will have an up-to-date record of all usernames and passwords and will be able to reset them if necessary.
- 6.7. Pupils in key stage 1 will not have individual logins and class logins will be used instead. If it is appropriate for a pupil to have their individual login, the IOM will set up their individual user account, ensuring appropriate access and that their username and password is recorded.

- 6.8. The 'master user' password used by the IOM will be made available to the Headteacher, or any other nominated senior leader, and will be kept in a secure place, namely the school safe.
- 6.9. A multi-user account will be created for visitors to the school, such as volunteers, and access will be filtered as per the Headteacher's instructions. Usernames and passwords for this account will be changed on a termly basis, and will be provided as required.
- 6.10. Automated user provisioning systems will be employed in order to automatically delete inactive users or users who have left the school. The IOM will manage this provision to ensure that all users that should be deleted are, and that they do not have access to the system.

## **7. Monitoring usage**

- 7.1. Monitoring user activity is important for early detection of attacks and incidents, as well as inappropriate usage by pupils or staff.
- 7.2. The school will inform all pupils and staff that their usage will be monitored, in accordance with the school's E-safety Policy (incorporating the internet and acceptable user policy agreement).
- 7.3. An alert will be sent to the SLT when monitoring usage, if the user accesses inappropriate content or a threat is detected. Alerts will also be sent for unauthorised and accidental usage.
- 7.4. Alerts will identify the user, the activity that prompted the alert and the information or service the user was attempting to access.
- 7.5. The ICT lead will record any alerts using an incident log and will report this to the Headteacher. All incidents will be responded to in accordance with section 11 of this policy, and as outlined in the E-safety Policy.
- 7.6. All data gathered by monitoring usage will be kept in a secure location by Link2ICT, for easy access when required. This data may be used as a method of evidence for supporting a not yet discovered breach of network security.

## **8. Removable media controls and home working**

- 8.1. The school understands that pupils and staff may need to access the school network from areas other than on the premises. Effective security management will be established to prevent access to, or leakage of, data, as well as any possible risk of malware.
- 8.2. The IOM will encrypt all school-owned devices for personal use, such as laptops, USB sticks, mobile phones and tablets, to ensure that they are password protected. If any portable devices are lost, this will prevent unauthorised access to personal data.

- 8.3. Pupils and staff are not permitted to use their personal devices where the school shall provide alternatives, such as work laptops, tablets and USB sticks, unless instructed otherwise by the Headteacher.
- 8.4. If pupils and staff are instructed that they are able to use their personal devices, they will ensure that they have an appropriate level of security and firewall to prevent any compromise of the school's network security. This will be checked by the IOM.
- 8.5. When using laptops, tablets and other portable devices, the Headteacher will determine the limitations for access to the network, as described in section 6 of this policy.
- 8.6. Staff who use school-owned laptops, tablets and other portable devices will use them for work purposes, whether on or off of the school premises. Personal use including online browsing is permitted on the condition that no irreputable or inappropriate content is ever accessed. All activity is monitored via the policy central safeguarding software.
- 8.7. The IOM will use Policy Central to filter the use of websites on these devices, in order to prevent inappropriate use and external threats which may compromise the network security when bringing the device back onto the premises.
- 8.8. All data will be held on systems centrally in order to reduce the need for the creation of multiple copies, and/or the need to transfer data using removable media controls.
- 8.9. The Wi-Fi network at the school will be password protected and will only be given out as required. Staff and pupils are not permitted to use the Wi-Fi for their personal devices, such as mobile phones or tablets, unless instructed otherwise.

## **9. Malware prevention**

- 9.1. The school understands that malware can be damaging for network security and may enter the network through a variety of means, such as email attachments, social media, malicious websites or removable media controls.
- 9.2. The IOM will ensure that all school devices have secure malware protection, including regular malware scans.
- 9.3. The IOM will update malware protection on a termly basis to ensure they are up-to-date and can react to changing threats.
- 9.4. Malware protection will also be updated in the event of any attacks to the school's hardware and software.
- 9.5. Filtering of websites, as detailed in section 6 of this policy, will ensure that access to websites with known malware is blocked immediately and reported to the IOM.



- 9.6. The school will use mail security technology, which will detect and block any malware that is transmitted by email. This will also detect any spam or other messages which are designed to exploit users.
- 9.7. The IOM will review the mail security technology on a termly basis to ensure it is kept up-to-date and is effective.

## **10. User training and awareness**

- 10.1. The IOM and Headteacher will arrange training for pupils and staff to ensure they are aware of how to use the network appropriately in accordance with the E-safety Policy.
- 10.2. Training will also be conducted around any attacks that occur and any recent updates in technology or the network.
- 10.3. All staff will receive training as part of their induction programme, as well as any new pupils that join the school.
- 10.4. All users will be made aware of the disciplinary procedures for the misuse of the network leading to malicious attacks, in accordance with the process detailed in the E-safety Policy.

## **11. Incidents**

- 11.1. In the event of an internal attack or any incident which has been reported to the IOM, this will be recorded using an incident log and by identifying the user and the website or service they were trying to access.
- 11.2. All incidents will be reported to the Headteacher, who will issue disciplinary sanctions to the pupil or member of staff, in accordance with the processes outlined in the E-safety Policy.
- 11.3. In the event of any external or internal attack, the IOM will record this using an incident log and will contact the third-party provider to ensure the attack does not compromise any other schools' network security.
- 11.4. The IOM will work with the third-party provider to provide an appropriate response to the attack, including any in-house changes.
- 11.5. If necessary, the management of e-security at the school will be reviewed to ensure effectiveness and minimise any further incidents.

## **12. Monitoring and review**

- 12.1. This policy will be reviewed on a two-yearly basis by the Trust Board in conjunction with the IOM and Headteacher, who will then communicate any changes to all members of staff and pupils.

## **13. Security**

- 13.1. iPads are locked in secure cabinets overnight and during the day when not in use and the IOM and office have the key to the cabinets.

