



## Acceptable use of ICT Facilities Policy

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## 1. Introduction

This document defines the Thomas hardye Schools policy in respect of the acceptable use of its information and communications technology (ICT) facilities.

## 2. Purpose

ICTSS is responsible, on behalf of the School, for minimising and containing potential risks to the School and its members, both operational and legal, from the consequences of the misuse of its ICT facilities. The purpose of this policy is therefore to state clearly both users' obligations in using these facilities and ICTSS responsibility and authority in taking action to safeguard them.

## 3. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, students, contractors, consultants, authorised guests and other personnel at the Thomas Hardye School and includes Acceptable Use, Personal Use and Prohibited Use of the University's ICT facilities, which encompass (but are not restricted to):

- network infrastructure, including (but not exclusively) the physical infrastructure whether cable or wireless, together with network servers, firewall, connections, switches and routers
- network services, including (but not exclusively) internet access, web services, email, wireless, messaging, telephony and fax services
- computing hardware, both fixed and portable, including (but not exclusively) personal computers, workstations, laptops, PDAs, servers, printers, scanners, disc drives, monitors, keyboards, tablets and pointing devices
- software and databases, including (but not exclusively) applications and information systems, virtual learning and videoconferencing environments, language laboratories, software tools, information services, electronic journals & ebooks

## 4. Responsible Authorities

The term **ICTSS**" used in this policy means the ICT System Support Officers and their authorised delegates This policy is issued under the authority of the Schools Senior Management who as an Officers of the school are responsible for enforcing sanctions where necessary to safeguard the School and its members. The IT Infrastructure is managed by the ICT Systems Support Officers who are responsible responsible for the prevention and detection of ICT misuse. This policy is managed by the ICT Systems Support Officers who are responsible for investigating incidents of ICT misuse.

## 5. Policy Statements

### 5.1 General

It is the policy of the School:

- to provide a working environment that encourages access to knowledge and sharing of information
- to maintain ICT facilities for academic and administrative purposes which provide access to its community for local, national and international sources of information

- that ICT facilities will be used by members of its community with respect for the public trust through which they have been provided, and in accordance with prevailing laws and such regulations and policies established from time to time by the School and other bodies.
- To ensure that the School is protected by holding users responsible for safeguarding passwords and access identities. Passwords and identities must not be shared.

## 5.2 Acceptable Use

It is the policy of the School:

- that the Schools ICT facilities are provided in support of the Schools teaching, learning, research, enterprise, and administrative activities
- that they may be used for any purpose that is in accordance with the aims and policies of the School (as defined in the ICTSS regulations) and the Acceptable Use Policy, including interworking with other organisations
- that only registered users (i.e. those holding valid THS usernames and passwords) or those given permission by the designated authority are permitted to use the Schools ICT facilities.
- that users are expected to:
  - be prepared to show THS staff their ID card as proof of identity. This must be shown when requesting any changes to a network account.
  - respect the published times of access to the facilities
  - respect the rights of others, and conduct themselves in a quiet orderly manner when using the open access facilities
  - comply with all valid regulations and legislation covering the use of Copyright and licensed material, including software, whether those regulations are made by law, or the originator of the material, or the distributor of the material or the School, or by any other legitimate authority
  - make all reasonable efforts to send data that is 'Virus Free', and to protect themselves from viruses and hacking attempts when connected to the Schools network either on or off Campus. The School will not be held responsible for any damage to users' systems or information that occurs through such virus or hacking attacks.
  - conform to all other appropriate policies and guidelines from ICTSS (including netiquette guidelines), the School (including web page design guidelines), and external.

## 5.3 Personal Use

The School accepts that a member's Personal Use of the Schools Facilities is within the scope of Acceptable Use, subject to the provisos within this document. It is the policy of the School:

- that provided that personal use is occasional and reasonable and does not interfere with , nor detract from an individual's everyday workload and commitments, nor with the effective functioning of the School or any part of it , and that it complies with all other terms of this Acceptable Use Policy then it will normally be tolerated
- to reserve the right to withdraw access to ICT facilities for this category of use at any time.

## 5.4 Unacceptable Use

It is the policy of the School to prohibit the use of its ICT facilities when used or attempted to be used intentionally in contravention of the general principles outlined in 5.1 above. The activities prohibited under this policy include (but are not restricted to) those listed below. Users must not:

- i. cause the good name & reputation of the School or any part of it to be damaged or undermined;
- ii. create or transmit (other than in the course of properly supervised academic research where this aspect of the research has the explicit approval of the Schools official processes for dealing with academic ethical issues) any offensive, obscene or indecent images, data or other material, or any data capable of being resolved into obscene or indecent images or material;
- iii. access, create, change, store, download or transmit material which the School may deem to be threatening, defamatory, abusive, indecent, obscene, racist or otherwise offensive;
- iv. place links to websites which have links to, or displays pornographic and inappropriate material, facilitate illegal or improper use, or to bulletin board which are likely to publish defamatory materials or discriminatory statements; or where copyright protected works such as computer software or music are unlawfully distributed ;
- v. generate excessive noise, cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety to, or to violate the privacy of, anyone else;
- vi. allow the ICT facilities to be damaged or contaminated by food, drink or smoking materials;
- vii. interfere with the legitimate use by others of the ICT facilities, or interfere with or remove computer printout or media belonging to others;
- viii. send unwanted, e-mail, chain letters, hoax virus warnings, pyramid letters or similar schemes using the Schools e-mail system;
- ix. falsify E-mails to make them appear to have been originated from someone else;
- x. make use and possess, distribute, sell, hire or otherwise deal with any unauthorised copies of computer software for any purpose without the license of its owner;
- xi. install any software that is not licensed to the School and /or install without authorisation software licensed to the School on any of the Schools computer systems under any circumstances;
- xii. transmit unsolicited unauthorised commercial or advertising material;
- xiii. use the ICT facilities for commercial , social or group distribution activities unless permission has been formally granted by the ICTSS;
- xiv. gain unauthorised personal commercial benefit;
- xv. gain unauthorised access to facilities or services via the School network;
- xvi. allow others to gain such unauthorised access, either wilfully by disclosing user names or passwords or neglectfully by failing to log out of the system, thereby permitting unauthorised use of a School account;
- xvii. disseminate any material which may incite or encourage others to carry out unauthorised access to or unauthorised modification of the Schools or others' computer facilities or materials;
- xviii. introduce and transmit material (including, but not restricted to, computer viruses, Trojan horses and worms) designed to be destructive to the correct functioning of computer systems, software, networks and data storage, or attempt to circumvent any precautions taken or prescribed to prevent this;

- xix. attempt to circumvent the Schools firewall systems, or use file-sharing systems (sometimes known as P2P or peer-to-peer)
- xx. change, damage, dismantle, corrupt, or destroy (or cause to be changed, damaged, dismantled, corrupted or destroyed) any network component, equipment, software or data, or its functions or settings, which is the property of the School, its partners, staff, students, visitors, or anyone else, without the express permission of the ICTSS Officers.
- xxi. cause any of the Schools ICT services to be overloaded, impaired, disrupted, curtailed or denied (other than in compliance with the direct instruction of the ICTSS);
- xxii. connect any non approved computer network equipment (including wireless access points) to the School network without first gaining the written permission of the ICTSS (this excludes normal and reasonable use of computer equipment connected to the Schools Wireless access for student campaign
- xiii. set up any network services (eg web servers, e-mail services etc) unless formally sanctioned by the ICTSS
- xiv. register any domain name which includes the name of the School or any name which may mislead the public into believing that the domain name refers to the School;
- xxv. use equipment (including mains leads) which has not first been PAT Safety tested (Portable Application Tested) by School approved staff; the equipment must display an up to date PAT label;
- xvi. continue to use any item of networked hardware or software after a ICTSS Officer authority has requested that use ceases because of its causing disruption to the correct functioning of the School ICT facilities, or for any other instance of Unacceptable Use;
- xxvii. fail to comply with any action directed by ICTSS Officer to prevent or respond to any threats to the correct functioning of the Schools ICT facilities;
- xxviii. contravene the local rules for School ICT facilities outside THS;
- xix. create or transmit material that infringes the copyright of another person or institution, or infringe the Copyright laws of the UK and other countries;
- xx. interfere with the legitimate activities of other users covered within the principles outlined in Section 5.2 of Acceptable Use;
- xxi. otherwise act against the aims and purposes of the School as specified in its rules, regulations, policies, and procedures adopted from time to time
- xxii. contravene applicable laws and prevailing regulations and policies applied by bodies external to the School.

## 5.5 Prevention, Detection & Investigation of Misuse

Monitoring may take place periodically within the guidelines set down by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000.

The School retains the right under the RIPA Act to access all information held on its information and communications facilities to monitor or intercept any system logs, web pages, E-mail messages, network account or any other data on any computers system owned by the School. This will be for the purposes of preventing, detecting or investigating crime or misuse, ascertaining compliance with regulatory standards and School policies, or to secure effective system operation

The School reserves the right to inspect and validate any items of School owned computer equipment connected to the network. Any other computer equipment connected to the Schools network can be removed if it is deemed to be interfering with the operation of the network.

It is the policy of the School:

- to publish its Acceptable Use Policy and to promote this to all users of the School Network
- to provide advice to staff and students, on request, on matters relating to acceptable use
- to take swift and effective action within existing disciplinary and / or legislative frameworks against anyone found to be intentionally misusing the information and communications facilities.

In all cases where there is the potential for the Schools ICT facilities to be misused, it is the Schools policy to:

- record the identity of the individual using the specific facility at any given time
- retain these records for not less than three calendar months, and shall make them available to those senior managers appointed by the School to investigate complaints of misuse
- destroy these records after twelve calendar months unless required in connection with a specific investigation.

## 6. Legislation

### 6.1 Computer Misuse Act 1990

It is a criminal offence (Computer Misuse Act 1990) to gain unauthorised access to a computer system to make any unauthorised modification of computer material (including the introduction of a computer virus) or to interfere with any computing system provided in the interests of health and safety. For more information see [http://www.hms0.gov.uk/acts/acts1990/Ukpga\\_19900018\\_en\\_1.htm](http://www.hms0.gov.uk/acts/acts1990/Ukpga_19900018_en_1.htm)

### 6.2 Data Protection Act 1998

The Data Protection Act 1998 regulates the storage of personal information (i.e. any information that can be identified as relating to a particular person or person(s) on computer systems. Before storing any such information on the University computer system, you must notify the University Data Protection Officer in writing. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that any such information complies with the law. For more information regarding Data Protection see <http://www.dataprotection.gov.uk>

### 6.3 Libel

Libel is a civil wrong, which in proven cases, may incur substantial compensation. It is very complicated and therefore one of the easiest laws to contravene through ignorance. Facts concerning individuals or organisations must be accurate, verifiable and views or opinions must not portray their subjects in any way that could damage their reputation. Check with the University Legal Office before publicly displaying any contentious material. Web pages and E-mail messages are regarded as published material.

## 6.4 Copyright

The Copyright laws of the UK and other countries must not be infringed. Downloading material from the Internet carries the risk of infringing copyright. This applies to files, music, films, TV programmes, documents and software, which must be licensed. Material illegally copied in this country or elsewhere and then transmitted to another country via the Internet, will also infringe the copyright laws of the country receiving it.

Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1998 is applicable to all types of creations, including text, graphics and sounds by an author or artist. This will include any that are accessible through the University's computer systems.

Any uploading or downloading of information through on-line technologies which is not authorised by the copyright owner will be deemed to be an infringement of her/his rights.

Users must not make, transmit or store an electronic copy of copyright material on the Schools computing services without the permission of the owner. For more information see: [http://www.copyrightservice.co.uk/copyright/p01\\_uk\\_copyright\\_law](http://www.copyrightservice.co.uk/copyright/p01_uk_copyright_law)

## 7. Sanctions

Where misuse of ICT facilities has been identified, the matter will be investigated under the Schools appropriate disciplinary procedure. As an officer of the School, the Head Master or his / her nominee has the authority to investigate cases of alleged misuse and where applicable to apply sanctions directly, or to refer individuals to their faculty / school / division for disciplinary action.

Any misuse which is in contravention of the law and/or which involves the intentional access, creation, storage or transmission of material which may be considered indecent or obscene (other than in the course of academic research where this aspect of the research has the explicit approval of the schools official processes for dealing with academic ethical issues) will be regarded as an act of gross misconduct.

Students may be expelled for gross misconduct under the Schools student disciplinary procedures and staff may be dismissed under the Schools staff disciplinary procedures.

Where there is evidence of a criminal offence, the issue will be reported to the Police for them to take action. The School will co-operate with the Police and other appropriate external agencies in the investigation of alleged offences.

## 8. Other References

Users are bound by the Law of England and Wales when using the Schools facilities e.g. The Telecommunications (Lawful Business Practice) (Interception of Communications) Regulations 2000 at:

<http://www.hmso.gov.uk/si/si2000/20002699.htm>