

Acceptable use for Students Information Communication Technologies

Students *Guidelines

Definitions

1. Electronic Communications Networks

This term refers to any system capable of linking computers electronically and includes the following: Local Area Networks (School), Wide Area Networks, Bulletin Boards, Electronic Mail Systems, the Internet, the World Wide Web and any other communication device.

2. User

Alphington Grammar School provides computer facilities to allow students and staff to access and use information sources available on a range of electronic communication networks.

3. Cyber bulling

Cyber bullying is commonly defined as the use of information and communication technologies to support *repeated and deliberate* hostile behaviour intended to harm others. It is sometimes used as an extension to other forms of bullying, and can result in the target of bullying experiencing social, psychological and academic difficulties.

Access is conditional on users complying with existing rules and Acceptable Use Guidelines, which are incorporated in this document.

Aims of the Acceptable Use Guidelines

• To allow all users of Alphington Grammar School to access and use the Network and Internet for educational purposes.

This can include: email, resources on the School's network and World Wide Web facilities.

The School activities can cover: individual research/preparation of lessons/project work/homework assignments/communicating with other teachers and students.

- To provide Alphington Grammar School staff and students some protection from websites, information and individuals, which would undermine the principles and aims of the School.
- To provide guidelines which are consistent and in agreement with the Data Protection Act.
- To provide guidelines which are consistent with the acceptable procedures commonly used on Networks and the Internet, including those associated with netiquette.

Conditions and Rules for Use

1. Acceptable Use

• Access to Electronic Communications Networks is to facilitate communications in support of research and education, by providing access to unique resources and an opportunity for collaborative work. To remain eligible as a user, accessing the

School's computer facilities must be in support of and consistent with the educational objectives of Alphington Grammar School.

- Transmission of any material in violation of any School Policies/Guidelines is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyright material, threatening or obscene/sexually explicit material.
- Use for commercial activities is not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or lobbying is also prohibited.
- It is against the law if you publish or spread false information about *Alphington Grammar School*, our reputation might be damaged as a result of this. As such, we do not condone nor accept the practice of defamation.

Execution of software from floppy disk, USBs, CDs/DVDs or the Internet is expressly denied. Only the software provided on the School network by the School, in the form of icons on the computer desktop, in the Windows Delivered Applications or in the 'Start' menu, is permitted to be executed.

2. Privilege

The use of the Internet and the computer network is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use, including any violation of these conditions and rules, may result in cancellation of the privilege.

3. Monitoring

Alphington Grammar School reserves the right to review any computer based material, for example on user accounts or fileserver space, in order to determine whether specific uses of the network are appropriate. In reviewing and monitoring user accounts and fileserver space, the School shall respect the privacy of user accounts. However, inappropriate material may be removed from the network without notification.

4. Network Etiquette

All users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language or graphics. Do not engage in activities which are prohibited.
- Do not reveal your personal address or phone number, or those of students or staff.
- Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the authorities and may also result in the loss of other privileges.
- Promptly tell their supervising teacher if they suspect they have received a computer virus or spam (ie unsolicited email) or if they receive a message that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
- All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.

5. No Warranties

Alphington Grammar School makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. Alphington Grammar School will not be responsible for any damages a user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, no-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by the School or by the user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet/Intranet is at the user's own risk. The School specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services. All users need to consider the source of any information they obtain, and consider how valid that information may be.

6. Security

- Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Users should protect any passwords to ensure system security and their own privilege plus the ability to continue to use the system. It is recommended that passwords contain a mixture of characters and numbers e.g. *1mypass23.* Passwords should not be common names, or words that others are likely to guess.
- If you feel you can identify a security problem on the network, you must notify the Director of Teaching and Learning. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users.
- Do not use another individual's account.
- Do not disable/change any settings on any computer.
- Attempts to log on as a System Administrator may result in cancellation of user privileges. Other penalties may also apply.
- Any user identified as a security risk, through having a history of problems with this or other computer systems may be denied access to the School network and the Internet by Alphington Grammar School.

7. Vandalism and Harassment

- Vandalism and harassment will result in cancellation of user privileges.
- Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm, modify and/or destroy data or hardware of another user of the network. This includes, but is not limited to the uploading or creating of computer viruses.
- Harassment is defined as the persistent annoyance of another user, or interference of another user's work. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, the sending of unwanted mail and/or 'spam' to multiple recipients.

8. Cyber bulling

All users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of social networking.

These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Flaming: Sending angry, rude, vulgar messages about a person to an online group or to that person via email or other text messaging.
- Online harassment: Repeatedly sending offensive messages via email or other text messaging to a person.
- Cyber stalking: Online harassment that includes threats of harm or is excessively intimidating.
- Denigration (put-downs): Sending harmful, untrue, or cruel statements about a person to other people or posting such material online.
- Masquerade: Pretending to be someone else and sending or posting material that makes that person look bad.
- Outing: Sending or posting material about a person that contains sensitive, private, or embarrassing information, including forwarding private messages or images.
- Exclusion: Cruelly excluding someone from an online group.

9. Encounter of Controversial Material

Users may encounter material which is controversial, and which users, parents, teachers or administrators may consider inappropriate or offensive. However, on a global network it is impossible to screen or filter all content. It is the user's responsibility not to initiate access to such material or to distribute such material by copying, storing, printing or email.

10. Copyright

Users will not break copyright law by copying and/or redistributing another's work, and will not use another person's work without correctly acknowledging them.

Consequences for Improper Use:

Students will be aware that:

- They are held responsible for their actions while using internet and online communication services.
- They are held responsible for any breaches caused by them allowing any other person to use their account to access internet and online communication services.
- The misuse of internet and online communication services will result in disciplinary action which includes, but is not limited to, the withdrawal of access to services as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

Any user violating these rules is subject to loss of network privileges and any other of the School's Code of Behaviour/Discipline options.

(NOTE: A copy of this document is available on the students' 'Common Drive'.)



Student *Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the proper use of Alphington Grammar School's email system and make users aware of what Alphington Grammar School deems as acceptable and unacceptable use of its email system. Alphington Grammar School reserves the right to amend these guidelines at its discretion. In case of amendments, users will be informed appropriately.

Legal Risks

Email is a communication tool and users are obliged to use this tool in a responsible, effective and lawful manner. Although by its nature email seems to be less formal than other written communication, the same laws apply. Therefore, it is important that users are aware of the legal risks of e-mail:

- If you send emails with any libellous, defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene remarks, you and Alphington Grammar School can be held liable.
- If you forward emails with any libellous, defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene remarks, you and Alphington Grammar School can be held liable.
- If you unlawfully forward confidential information, you and Alphington Grammar School can be held liable.
- If you unlawfully forward or copy messages without permission, you and Alphington Grammar School can be held liable for copyright infringement.
- If you send an attachment that contains a virus, you and Alphington Grammar School can be held liable.

By following these guidelines, the email user can minimise the legal risks involved in the use of email. If any user disregards the rules set out in this Email Policy, the user will be fully liable and Alphington Grammar School will disassociate itself from the user as far as legally possible.

Legal Requirements

The following rules are required by law and are to be strictly adhered to:

- It is strictly prohibited to send or forward emails containing libellous, defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene remarks. If you receive an e-mail of this nature, you must promptly notify your supervisor.
- Do not forward a message without acquiring permission from the sender first.
- Do not send unsolicited email messages.
- Do not forge or attempt to forge email messages.
- Do not send email messages using another person's email account.
- Do not copy a message or attachment belonging to another user without permission of the originator.
- Do not disguise or attempt to disguise your identity when sending mail.

Best Practices

Alphington Grammar School considers email as an important means of communication and recognises the importance of proper email content and speedy replies in conveying a professional image and delivering good customer service. Therefore Alphington Grammar School wishes users to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Writing emails:

- Write well-structured emails and use short, descriptive subjects
- Alphington Grammar School's email style is informal. This means that sentences can be short and to the point. You can start your email with 'Hi', or 'Dear', and the name of the person. The use of Internet abbreviations and characters such as smileys however, is not encouraged
- Use the spell checker before you send out an email
- Avoid sending unnecessary attachments. Compress attachments larger than 200K before sending them
- Avoid writing emails in capitals.
- If you forward mails, state clearly what action you expect the recipient to take
- Only send emails of which the content could be displayed on a public notice board. If they cannot be displayed publicly in their current state, consider rephrasing the email, using other means of communication, or protecting information by using a password (see confidential)
- Only mark emails as important if they really are important

2. Replying to emails:

- Emails should be answered within at least 3 days, but users must endeavour to answer priority emails within 1 day
- Priority emails are emails from teachers

3. Newsgroups:

• Users need to request permission from their teacher before subscribing to a newsletter or news group

4. Maintenance:

• Delete any email messages that you do not need to have a copy of, and set your email client to automatically empty your 'deleted items' on closing.

Personal Use

Although Alphington Grammar School's email system is meant for business use, Alphington Grammar School allows the reasonable use of email for personal use if certain guidelines are adhered to:

- Personal use of email should not interfere with school work.
- Personal emails must also adhere to the guidelines in this policy
- Personal emails are kept in a separate folder, named 'Private'. The emails in this folder must be deleted weekly so as not to clog up the system
- The forwarding of chain letters, junk mail and executables is strictly forbidden
- Do not send mass mailings
- All messages distributed via the school's email system, even personal emails, are Alphington Grammar School's property.

Confidential Information

Avoid sending confidential information by email. If you do, you must secure the information by including it in a Microsoft Word or Excel file and protecting it with a password. Then provide the recipient with the password by means of other communication, for instance by telephone.

System Monitoring

You must have no expectation of privacy in anything you create, store, send or receive on the school's computer system. Your emails can be monitored without prior notification if Alphington Grammar School deems this necessary. If there is evidence that you are not adhering to these guidelines, Alphington Grammar School reserves the right to take disciplinary action, including suspension, expulsion and/or legal action.

Email Accounts

All email accounts maintained on our email systems are property of Alphington Grammar School. Passwords should not be given to other people and should be changed once a month. Email accounts not used for 60 days will be deactivated and possibly deleted.

Questions

If you have any questions or comments about this Email Policy, please contact the Director of Teaching and Learning. If you do not have any questions Alphington Grammar School presumes that you understand and are aware of the rules and guidelines in this Email Policy and will adhere to them.



Students *Guidelines

<u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure the proper use of Alphington Grammar School's ICT electronic devices and student owned electronic devices. Alphington Grammar School reserves the right to amend these guidelines at its discretion. In case of amendments, users will be informed appropriately.

Specific Guidelines

Taking Care Of Your Device

Students are responsible for the general care of their device as well as the devices owned by Alphington Grammar School. It is the sole responsibility of the student to take care of their device. Devices that are broken or fail to work properly should be fixed as soon as possible to resume daily work or if it is owned by Alphington Grammar School – it should be reported immediately to the Director of Teaching and Learning.

General Precautions

- All devices should be treated with respect and care.
- Only use a clean, soft cloth to clean the screen, no cleansers of any type.
- Cords and cables must be inserted carefully into the device to prevent damage.
- Devices must never be left in a schoolbag or any unsupervised area.
- Students are responsible for keeping the batteries of their personal devices charged for school each day.
- Students must keep their device in the protective casing at all times.

Devices Undergoing Repair

• Devices that are broken or fail to work should be fixed as soon as possible to resume daily work.

Carrying devices

- Be careful in selecting a suitable case for your device. Make sure the case has sufficient padding to protect the device from normal treatment and provide a suitable means for carrying the device within the school. The guidelines below should be followed:
- Devices must always be within the protective case.
- Some carrying cases (i.e. backpacks) can hold other objects (such as folders and workbooks), but these must be kept to a minimum to avoid placing too much pressure and weight on the device screen.

Screen Care

- The device screens can be damaged if subjected to rough treatment. The screens are particularly sensitive to damage from excessive pressure on the screen or the corners of the device.
- Do not lean on the top of the device when it is closed.
- Do not place anything near the device that could put pressure on the screen.
- Do not place anything in the carrying case that will press against the cover.
- Clean the screen with a soft, dry cloth or anti-static cloth. Use of harsh chemicals WILL damage the screen.

• Do not "bump" the device against lockers, walls, car doors, floors, etc. as it will eventually break the screen.

Insurance Coverage

If students or parents wish to carry their own additional personal insurance to protect their personal device in cases of theft, loss, or accidental damage, they should consult their insurance agent for details about their personal coverage of the device.

Using Your Device At School

Electronic devices are intended for use at school each day. Individual teachers may have certain expectations about what they want the students to have on their device and it is their prerogative and the students in their class must comply. Students are responsible for bringing their device to all classes, unless specifically instructed not to do so by their teacher.

Devices Left At Home

If students leave their device at home, they are responsible for getting the work completed as if they had their device present.

Keeping Your Device Secure At School

- When a student or their class is out of the classroom, devices must be locked up in student lockers.
- When students are not using their iPads, they should be stored in a classroom, in the secure storage location designated by their teacher.

Charging Your Device's Battery

- Devices must be brought to school each day in a fully charged condition. Students need to charge their devices each evening.
- In cases where use of the device has caused batteries to become discharged, students may be able to connect their devices to a power outlet in class.

Sound, Music, Pictures, Games Or Programs

- Sound must be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from the teacher. Students may bring headphones to use when a teacher deems it suitable.
- Music is allowed on the device and can be used at the discretion of the teacher. Music with explicit language is not permitted on the device at school and will need to be removed from the device at teachers' request.
- Internet games that are not deemed as educational content are not to be downloaded or played at school. If game apps are installed, it will be with Alphington Grammar School staff approval.
- Inappropriate media may not be used as a screensaver or background photo.
- Apps, Videos and photos must be suitable for PG/G audience relevant to primary/secondary students. This means the content is age appropriate for children of this age. Presence of guns, weapons, pornographic materials, suggestive images, inappropriate language, alcohol, drug, tobacco, and gang related symbols or pictures will result in removal of content and disciplinary actions.

Printing And Internet Access

- Printing may be available with the device on a limited basis.
- Printing at home may require a wireless printer
- All large downloads including game Apps, App updates, music and video need to be completed at home. You may need a wireless router/access point connected to the internet to achieve this.

MANAGING YOUR FILES & SAVING YOUR WORK

Saving To The Device/Backups

Students may save work to the applications on the device. It is also advised that students use cloud storage or sync to a home computer to back up the information on their device. Students will hand in assignments as specified by the individual teacher. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that work is not lost due to mechanical failure or accidental deletion. Device malfunctions are not an acceptable excuse for not submitting work.

Software on devices/Updates

- Students must only use Apps associated with their/their families personal device account. Students cannot share device accounts or apps with other students.
- Students will be require to have the set curriculum apps loaded on their device at all times, these will be determined by the teachers at the start of the year and during the year dependent upon the topics studied. Students will be required to have their operating system updated regularly to keep up with security and new developments.
- Some required Apps may be provided as a portion of the stationary fees at the schools discretion.

Additional Software

- The device may only have content that is G rated at school, this includes applications.
- Students will be asked to delete any apps that contain violence, age specific Social networking (Facebook), sexual content, inappropriate language, etc.

Inspection

- Student's devices must be made available to staff on request to ensure they are compliant.
- Inappropriate content will be removed; students who refuse to remove inappropriate content will not have use of their device at school until it has been removed.

Conditions Of Use

The following outlines the conditions of use of electronic devices at Alphington Grammar School.

- By engaging in this contract, the student agrees to use these devices to enhance their preparation for their education and to assist them in their learning.
- These devices must not be given to another student for use.
- The electronic devices must be used appropriately and safely on the School's network.
- The devices owned by Alphington Grammar School remain the property of Alphington Grammar School and are for the student's use while enrolled at this School.
- The student is expected to exercise reasonable care when using these devices.
- The devices owned by Alphington Grammar School are supplied with software that is used on the School's network.
- Anti-virus software is already loaded on these devices and will be updated automatically.
- If any faults occur, the School's IT staff must be advised as soon as possible in order to identify the problem and decide if warranty conditions apply in the case of School owned devices. The School is not liable for providing a substitute device whilst the device is waiting for or under repair.
- If any faults occur with the student owned device, it is not the responsibility of the School to get it fixed/repaired.

Alphington Grammar School presumes that the student understands and is aware of the rules and guidelines.

Any user violating these rules and guidelines is subject to loss of electronic device privileges and any other of the School's Code of Behaviour/Discipline options.



Students *Guidelines

- 1. Please read this document carefully and should you need clarification or a discussion about any of the aspects of the guidelines, do contact your School.
- 2. Parents are advised to discuss the ICT and Cyber safety Guidelines with their children.

Note: The term 'parent' used throughout this document also refers to legal guardians and caregivers.

Purpose

All guidelines/policies of Alphington Grammar School are based on the School's core values.

The School's computer network, internet access facilities, computers and other School ICT equipment/devices bring great benefits to the teaching and learning programs at Alphington Grammar School, and to the effective operation of the School.

Our School has rigorous cyber safety practices in place, which include cyber safety guidelines for all School staff and students.

General Principles

The School's computer network, Internet access facilities, computers and other School ICT equipment/devices are for educational purposes appropriate to the School environment.

<u>Scope</u>

These guidelines cover all Alphington Grammar School students. Breaches of the Agreement can undermine the values of the School and the safety of the learning environment, specifically when ICT is used to facilitate misconduct. In cases of such breaches, the School's Code of Conduct Policy would be followed.

<u>Agreement</u>

I will only use the ICT facilities at Alphington Grammar School, including internet and email, for learning purposes that are approved by Alphington Grammar School.

As a safe and responsible user of ICT, I will help keep myself and other people safe by following these rules:

Security

I understand that I am responsible for the use of my personal network account.

- I will access the School network only with my username.
- I will not allow anyone else to use my username or password.
- I will not tell anyone else my password.
- I will not try to access another student's account or use their password.

I understand that I must not make any attempt to bypass security, monitoring and filtering that is in place at School.

I understand that I must not download any files such as music, videos, games or programs without the permission of a teacher. This ensures the School complies with the Copyright Act 1968. I also understand that anyone who infringes copyright may be personally liable under this law.

Cyber safety

I will not use ICT resources to:

- Upset, offend, harass, threaten or in any way harm anyone, even if it is meant as a joke.
- Post online comments that are defamatory or offensive against anyone or the School.

I will not use ICT resources to:

- Access, or attempt to access, inappropriate, age restricted, or illegal material.
- Download, save or distribute such material by copying, storing, printing or showing it to other people.
- Involve myself with any ICT material or activity which might put myself or anyone else at risk.

I will not use my personal mobile devices whilst at School to:

- Access, or attempt to access, inappropriate, age restricted, or illegal material.
- Download, save or distribute such material by copying, storing, printing or showing it to other people.
- Involve myself with any ICT material or activity which might put myself or anyone else at risk.
- Use my mobile device to make or receive a voice/Skype/video call.
- Take or attempt to take photos of anyone that is inappropriate or offensive

I understand that I must not access social networking sites or chat or messaging sites or applications eg Facebook, MSN or Skype etc unless given express permission.

I understand that I must not reveal personal information about myself or others through email or via an online site.

I understand that others who may communicate with me online may not be who they say they are. If I feel uncomfortable with any situation such as inappropriate request, or if I receive inappropriate bullying or harassing content I should:

- Not respond to the communication.
- Close the application.
- Report the incident immediately to a parent and staff member.

If I accidentally access inappropriate material, I will:

- Not show other students
- Turn off the screen or minimise the window and
- Report the incident to a staff member immediately.

Code of Conduct

I understand that all of my online activity and personal folders will be monitored and filtered by Alphington Grammar School Staff.

I understand I must not forward confidential messages to persons to whom transmission was never authorised.

I understand I must not pass on chain mail or email addresses inappropriately to disseminate information.

I understand that these rules apply to any privately owned ICT equipment/device (such as a notebook computer, iPad, mobile phone, USB drive). Any images or material on such equipment/devices must be appropriate to the School environment.

I understand that if I break these rules, the School will inform my parent(s). In serious cases the School will take disciplinary action against me following the School's Code of Conduct Policy.

I understand that my family may be charged for repair costs. If illegal material or activities are involved, it may be necessary for the School to inform the Police.

Definitions

- (a) The abbreviation 'ICT' in this document refers to the term 'Information and Communication Technologies'.
- (b) **'Cyber safety'** refers to the safe use of the Internet and ICT equipment/devices, including mobile phones.
- (c) **'School-related activity'** includes, but is not limited to, a field trip, camp, sporting or cultural event, wherever its location.
- (d) **School ICT** refers to the School's computer network, Internet access facilities, computers, and other School ICT equipment/devices as outlined in (e) below.
- (e) The term 'ICT equipment/devices' used in this document, includes but is not limited to, computers (such as desktops, laptops, PDAs), storage devices (such as USB and flash memory devices, CDs, DVDs, floppy disks, iPods, MP3 players), cameras (such as video, digital, webcams), all types of mobile phones, gaming consoles, video and audio players/receivers (such as portable CD and DVD players), and any other, similar, technologies as they come into use.
- (f) **'Objectionable**' in this Agreement means material that deals with matters such as sex, cruelty, or violence in such a manner that it is likely to be injurious to the good of students or incompatible with a School environment.
- (g) **"Unacceptable use"** includes, but is not limited to, acts of a malicious or nuisance nature, invasion of privacy, harassment, bullying, hacking, altering the settings on any ICT device or equipment without authorisation, plagiarism, gaming, impersonation/identity theft, inappropriate use of Email and distribution of unacceptable material, spoofing, gambling, fraud, copyright infringement, or cheating in an examination.



Parental Permission Publication of Student Work & Digital Content (Media Consent)

Students *Guidelines

I give permission for any media format publication of my child to be taken during School activities. This would be for the purpose of educating students, promoting Alphington Grammar School, and/or Australia or promoting education.

Alphington Grammar School or Professional Photographers, engaged by Alphington Grammar School, may record sound and/or vision, including photographs of students and their work whilst at the School or taking part in school-related activities or performances.

I also give permission for the School to publish photographs, videos and in any other media format of my child or samples of my child's work as well allow other third party organisations such as (but not limited to) advertising agencies, news agencies and billboard advertisements. The School may publish photographs of your child and/or samples of work done by your child in a variety of ways. The publications could include, but are not limited to, School newsletters (online and in hard copy), Educational and Training websites or intranet websites, School annual magazines and local newspapers. If published, third parties would be able to view the photographs and work.

Alphington Grammar School understands that students own the intellectual property rights of their work, sound or vision, and that this permission form is not meant to transfer ownership – but simply to give Alphington Grammar School permission to use its students' work for its purposes.

By signing the Policy/Guideline Agreement Form it means that you agree to the following:

- The School is able to publish in any media format of your child and samples of your child's work as many times as it requires in the ways mentioned above.
- Your child's image may be reproduced either in colour or in black and white.
- The School will not use your child's image or samples of your child's work for any purpose other than for the education of students, or for the general promotion of education and the School.
- Any media taken by the school will be kept for no longer than is necessary for the above-mentioned purposes and will be stored and disposed of securely.
- Whilst every effort will be made to protect the identity of your child, the School cannot guarantee that your child will not be able to be identified from the image or work.

I agree, subject to the conditions set out above, to using any media format of my child during School activities, to be used by the School in educating students and promoting the School and education. I also agree to the publication of the media formats or samples of my child's work.

Please note, that it is implied that your permission is given for the entire period of your child's enrolment at Alphington Grammar School.