



SPARKEN HILL
ACADEMY

Acceptable Use of Technology Code of Conduct

REVIEWED	JULY 2025	RTL
REVIEW DATE	JULY 2027	

ICT in its many forms – internet, email, mobile devices etc. – are now part of our daily lives. It is our duty to ensure that they are used safely and responsibly. All staff at Sparken Hill Academy are aware of the following responsibilities:

- All Staff, Governors and visitors understand that ICT includes a wide range of systems, including mobile phones, digital cameras, laptops and tablets.
- All staff, Governors and visitors understand that it is a disciplinary offence to use the school ICT equipment for any purpose not permitted by its owner.
- No staff, Governors or visitors will disclose any passwords provided to them by the school.
- All staff, Governors and visitors understand that they are responsible for all activity carried out under their username.
- Staff, Governors and visitors will not install any hardware or software on any school owned device without the principal's permission.
- All staff, Governors and visitors understand that their use of the internet may be monitored and anything concerning could be logged and used in line with any disciplinary procedures. This includes all school owned devices. If an E-safety incident should occur, staff will report it to the Designated Safeguarding Professional (DSO) as soon as possible.
- All staff, Governors and visitors will only use the school's email / internet etc. and any related technologies for uses permitted by the Principal or Governing Body. If anyone is unsure about an intended use, they should speak to the principal beforehand.
- All staff, Governors and visitors will ensure that data is kept secure and is used appropriately as authorized by the Principal or Governing Body. No passwords should be divulged and memory sticks should also be encrypted.
- Personal devices must only be used in the context of school business with the explicit permission of the principal. Personal mobile phones or digital cameras must NEVER be used for taking any photographs related to school business. (See mobile phone policy)
Any Academy owned digital cameras have been purchased specifically for Academy business. These school cameras must NEVER be used for personal use.
- All staff, Governors and visitors using school equipment will not browse, download, upload or distribute any material that could be considered offensive, illegal or discriminatory.
- All staff, Governors and visitors will only use the approved email system (office 365) for school business.
- Images will only be taken, stored and used for purposes within school unless there is parental permission for alternative use. At the start of each year, our parents are asked to sign if they agree to their children's images being used in any school literature or in the local press. If a parent does not agree to this, we ensure that their child's photograph is not used. Filming and photography by parents and the wider community at school events, such as sports days and school productions, are allowed with the caveat that they are for personal use only and not for distribution on social media. When possible, staff members will take photographs of children for distribution to parents, for example in their play costumes. These will then be made available to parents.
- All staff, Governors and visitors will make every effort to comply with copyright and intellectual property rights.
- All staff, Governors and visitors will report any incidents of concern regarding staff use of technology and/or children's safety to the Principal or DSO in line with our school's Safeguarding Policy.

Sparken Hill Academy School Acceptable Use Agreement/Code of Conduct: Staff, Governors and Visitors

ICT and the related technologies such as email, the internet and mobile devices are an expected part of our daily working life in school. This policy is designed to ensure that all staff are aware of their professional responsibilities when using any form of ICT. All staff are expected to sign this policy and adhere at all times to its contents. Any concerns or clarification should be discussed with Diane Moore (school eSafety coordinator).

Deliberate access to inappropriate materials by any user will lead to the incident being logged by the eSafety co-ordinator, depending on the seriousness of the offence; investigation by the Principal/ LA, immediate suspension, possibly leading to dismissal and involvement of police for very serious offences

- I will only use the school's email / Internet and any related technologies for professional purposes or for uses deemed 'reasonable' by the Principal or Governing Body.
- I will comply with the ICT system security and not disclose any passwords provided to me by the school or other related authorities.
- I will ensure that all electronic communications with pupils and staff are compatible with my professional role.
- I will not give out my own personal details, such as mobile phone number and personal email address, to pupils.
- I will only use the approved, secure email system(s) for any school business.
- I will ensure that personal data (such as data held on SIMS) is kept secure and is used appropriately, whether in school, taken off the school premises or accessed remotely. Personal data can only be taken out of school or accessed remotely when authorized by the Principal or Governing Body.
- I will not install any hardware or software without seeking permission from the principal.
- I will not browse, download, upload or distribute any material that could be considered offensive, illegal or discriminatory.
- Images of pupils and/ or staff will only be taken, stored and used for professional purposes in line with school policy and with written consent of the parent, carer or staff member. Images will not be distributed outside the school network without the permission of the parent/ carer, member of staff or Principal.
- I understand that all my use of the Internet and other related technologies can be monitored and logged and can be made available, on request, to my Line Manager or Principal.
- I will respect copyright and intellectual property rights.
- I will ensure that my online activity, both in school and outside school, will not bring my professional role into disrepute.
- I will support and promote the school's e-Safety policy and help pupils to be safe and responsible in their use of ICT and related technologies.

User Signature

I agree to follow this code of conduct and to support the safe use of ICT throughout the school

Signature Date

Full Name(printed) Job title

Sparken Hill Academy School

Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement / eSafety Rules

- I will only use ICT in school for school purposes.
- I will only use the school email address when emailing.
- I will only open email attachments from people I know, or who my teacher has approved.
- I will not tell other people my ICT passwords.
- I will only open/delete my own files.
- I will make sure that all ICT contact with other children and adults is responsible, polite and sensible.
- I will not deliberately look for, save or send anything that could be unpleasant or nasty. If I accidentally find anything like this I will tell my teacher immediately.
- I will not give out my own details such as my name, phone number or home address. I will not arrange to meet someone.
- I will be responsible for my behaviour when using ICT because I know that these rules are to keep me safe.
- I know that my use of ICT can be checked and that my parent/ carer contacted if a member of school staff is concerned about my eSafety.



Sparken Hill Academy

Dear Parent/ Carer

ICT including the internet, email and mobile technologies, etc. is an important part of learning at Sparken Hill Academy. We expect all children to be safe and responsible when using any ICT.

Please read and discuss these eSafety rules with your child and return the slip at the bottom of this page. If you have any concerns or would like some explanation please contact Mrs Moore (Vice Principal)

Parent/ carer signature

We have discussed this and(child name) agrees to follow the eSafety rules and to support the safe use of ICT at Sparken Hill Academy.

Parent/ Carer Signature Class

Date.....

Sparken Hill Academy

Dear Parent/ Carer

ICT including the internet, email and mobile technologies, etc. has become an important part of learning in our school. We expect all children to be safe and responsible when using any ICT.

Please read and discuss these e-Safety rules with your child and return the slip at the bottom of this page. If you have any concerns or would like some explanation please contact Mrs. Moore (Vice Principal)

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We have discussed this and(child name) agrees to follow the eSafety rules and to support the safe use of ICT at Sparken Hill Academy.

Parent/ Carer Signature Class

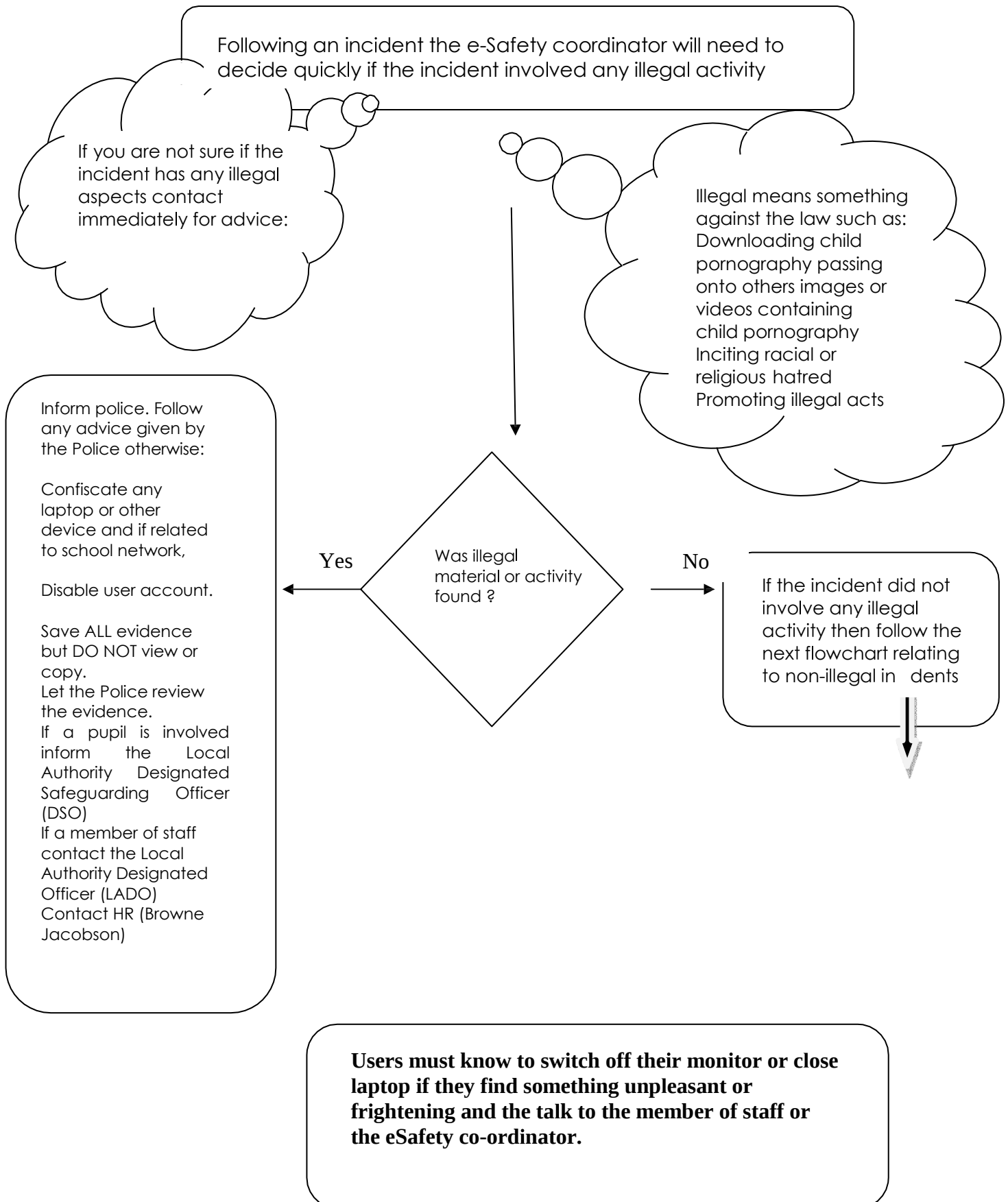
Date.....

Sparken Hill Academy e-Safety Incident Log

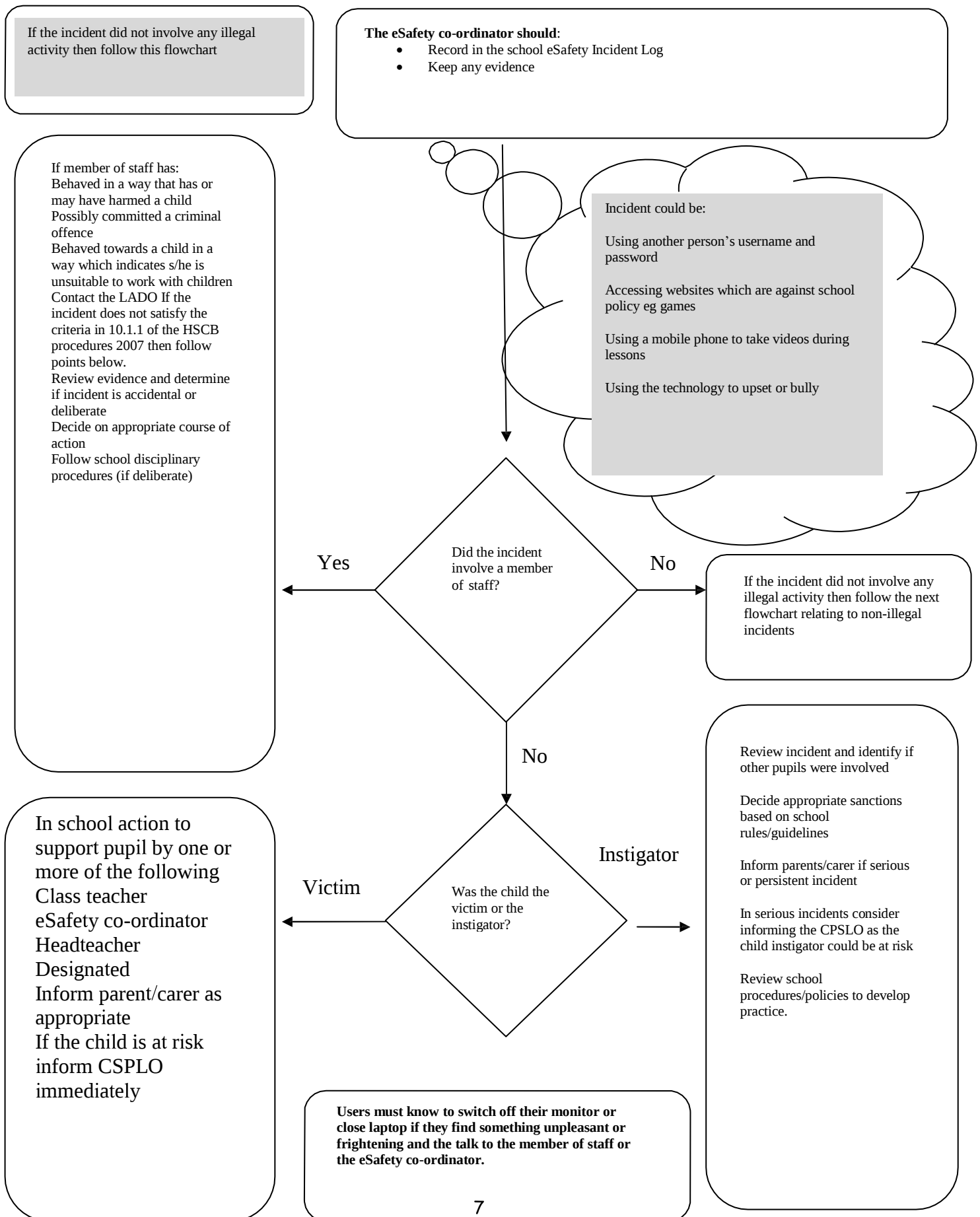
Details of ALL e Safety incidents to be recorded by the e-Safety coordinator. This incident log will be monitored by the Principal teacher.

[illegible]

Flowchart for Managing an e-Safety Incident



Flowchart for Managing an eSafety Incident



Smile and Stay Safe Poster

E-Safety Rules to be displayed next to all PCs in school



and stay safe

Staying safe means keeping your personal details private, such as full name, phone number, home address, photos or school. Never reply to ASL (age, sex, location)

Meeting up with someone you have met online can be dangerous. Only meet up if you have first told your parent or carer and they can be with you.

Information online can be untrue, biased or just inaccurate. Someone online may not be telling the truth about who they are - they may not be a 'friend'

Let a parent, carer, teacher or trusted adult know if you ever feel worried, uncomfortable or frightened about something online or someone you have met or who has contacted you online.

Emails, downloads, IM messages, photos and anything from someone you do not know or trust may contain a virus or unpleasant message. So do not open or reply.

Current Legislation

Acts relating to monitoring of staff email

Data Protection Act 1998

The Act requires anyone who handles personal information to comply with important data protection principles when treating personal data relating to any living individual. The Act grants individuals rights of access to their personal data, compensation and prevention of processing.

<http://www.hms0.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/19980029.htm>

The Telecommunications (Lawful Business Practice) (Interception of Communications) Regulations 2000

<http://www.hms0.gov.uk/si/si2000/20002699.htm>

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Regulating the interception of communications and making it an offence to intercept or monitor communications without the consent of the parties involved in the communication. The RIP was enacted to comply with the Human Rights Act 1998. The Telecommunications (Lawful Business Practice) (Interception of Communications) Regulations 2000, however, permit a degree of monitoring and record keeping, for example, to ensure communications are relevant to school activity or to investigate or detect unauthorised use of the network. Nevertheless, any monitoring is subject to informed consent, which means steps must have been taken to ensure that everyone who may use the system is informed that communications may be monitored. Covert monitoring without informing users that surveillance is taking place risks breaching data protection and privacy legislation.

<http://www.hms0.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/20000023.htm>

Human Rights Act 1998

<http://www.hms0.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/19980042.htm>

Other Acts relating to eSafety

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006

It is a criminal offence to threaten people because of their faith, or to stir up religious hatred by displaying, publishing or distributing written material which is threatening. Other laws already protect people from threats based on their race, nationality or ethnic background.

Sexual Offences Act 2003

The new grooming offence is committed if you are over 18 and have communicated with a child under 16 at least twice (including by phone or using the Internet) it is an offence to meet them or travel to meet them anywhere in the world with the intention of committing a sexual offence. Causing a child under 16 to watch a sexual act is illegal, including looking at images such as videos, photos or webcams, for your own gratification. It is also an offence for a person in a position of trust to engage in sexual activity with any person under 18, with whom they are in a position of trust.

Schools should already have a copy of "Children & Families: Safer from Sexual Crime" document as part of their child protection packs.

For more information

www.teachernet.gov.uk

Communications Act 2003 (section 127)

Sending by means of the Internet a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character; or sending a false message by means of or persistently making use of the Internet for the purpose

Appendix

of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety is guilty of an offence liable, on conviction, to imprisonment. This wording is important because an offence is complete as soon as the message has been sent: there is no need to prove any intent or purpose.

The Computer Misuse Act 1990 (sections 1 – 3)

Regardless of an individual's motivation, the Act makes it a criminal offence to gain:

- access to computer files or software without permission (for example using another person's password to access files)
- unauthorised access, as above, in order to commit a further criminal act (such as fraud)
- impair the operation of a computer or program

UK citizens or residents may be extradited to another country if they are suspected of committing any of the above offences.

Malicious Communications Act 1988 (section 1)

This legislation makes it a criminal offence to send an electronic message (e-mail) that conveys indecent, grossly offensive, threatening material or information that is false; or is of an indecent or grossly offensive nature if the purpose was to cause a recipient to suffer distress or anxiety.

Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988

Copyright is the right to prevent others from copying or using work without permission. Works such as text, music, sound, film and programs all qualify for copyright protection. The author of the work is usually the copyright owner, but if it was created during the course of employment it belongs to the employer. Copyright infringement is to copy all or a substantial part of anyone's work without obtaining their author's permission. Usually a licence associated with the work will allow a user to copy or use it for limited purposes. It is advisable always to read the terms of a licence before you copy or use someone else's material. It is also illegal to adapt or use software without a licence or in ways prohibited by the terms of the software licence.

Public Order Act 1986 (sections 17 – 29)

This Act makes it a criminal offence to stir up racial hatred by displaying, publishing or distributing written material which is threatening. Like the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 it also makes the possession of inflammatory material with a view of releasing it a criminal offence.

Protection of Children Act 1978 (Section 1)

It is an offence to take, permit to be taken, make, possess, show, distribute or advertise indecent images of children in the United Kingdom. A child for these purposes is anyone under the age of 18. Viewing an indecent image of a child on your computer means that you have made a digital image. An image of a child also covers pseudo-photographs (digitally collated or otherwise). A person convicted of such an offence may face up to 10 years in prison.

Obscene Publications Act 1959 and 1964

Publishing an "obscene" article is a criminal offence. Publishing includes electronic transmission.

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

A person must not pursue a course of conduct, which amounts to harassment of another, and which he knows or ought to know amounts to harassment of the other.

A person whose course of conduct causes another to fear, on at least two occasions, that violence will be used against him is guilty of an offence if he knows or ought to know that his course of conduct will cause the other so to fear on each of those occasions.

Full Name _

Signature _

Date _