

The background features a light cream color with abstract blue geometric elements. A large, semi-transparent blue circle is positioned in the upper center. Below it and to the right is a smaller, 3D-rendered blue sphere with a metallic rim. In the bottom right corner, there is a large, solid light-blue circle. Two thin blue lines intersect diagonally across the page, one from the top left and another from the top right.

# **IT Usage Policy**

Rudyard Kipling Primary School

**September 2025**

**Review: September 2026**

# **Rudyard Kipling Primary School and Nursery IT Usage Policy**

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## **Introduction**

ICT and the Internet open up a vast source of information and learning opportunities previously unavailable to children and staff.

At Rudyard Kipling we encourage children to make the best possible use of all ICT resources, including enabling them to further their own learning using the Internet.

We believe that ICT skills are a major factor in enabling children to be confident, creative and independent learners. We focus on developing the skills necessary for children to be able to use information in a discriminating and effective way.

## **Enquiries**

Information about the school's IT Usage Policy is available from the School Office and the school website. Information about the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) can be obtained from the Information Commissioner's Office (Helpline **0303 123 1113** or **01625 545745**, website <http://www.ico.gov.uk> ). Our Data Protection Policy details how we comply with the GDPR.

## **Purpose of this Policy**

To establish rules and guidelines for staff, children and parents on the safe use of ICT in the school and to explain and demonstrate the systems in place for the management of access to the Internet.

## **Staff responsibilities**

Every member of staff is given a set of user names and password to log-in to the various parts of the school system. These details should never be shared.

Staff members are provided with logins for the following systems where required to perform their job functions:

- School Network
- Arbor
- Email/Microsoft 365/OneDrive
- CPOMS (system for monitoring child Protection, safeguarding, SEND, attendance, behaviour etc).
- Google Classrooms (to create documents, activities and discussions for use in Computing lessons and for home learning.)
- Sumdog

Guest log-in details are available at the school office for supply staff as part of a 'Supply Pack'.

Our classroom computers run the Windows 11 operating system and are updated regularly to ensure they have the latest security patches. We use Sophos antivirus software to scan files and manage external drives/cameras and Internet access is filtered using the 'Smoothwall' proxy server system.

It is all staff members responsibility to ensure that the data on our systems remains secure. Passwords should never be shared.

All computers should be locked when they are left unattended. This can be done by pressing the 'Windows' key and the 'L' key simultaneously. As a backup, all computers will automatically lock after ten minutes.

# Rudyard Kipling Primary School and Nursery

## IT Usage Policy

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### Memory Sticks/OneDrive

All are set up with a 'OneDrive' account. This can be used to store and transport files and resources from computer to computer. It also allows for Microsoft Office to be created/edited/shared online. The account is password protected and can be accessed on a wide variety of electronic devices. We encourage staff to use OneDrive instead of this method. Visitors to our school who bring resources on memory sticks (for example a visiting speaker for assembly) will be able to access the resources on their USB drives by presenting them to the school's IT assistant who will access the files using the one machine in the school which allows for general USB device access.

### Laptops.

A few staff may need to use school laptops at home. These machines will be set up with password protected VPN software which will allow them to access their school resources at home. No documents should be saved on the laptop itself.

### Home computers.

Staff's own home computers may be used to work at home but should not be used for the storage of any personal data regarding children or staff of the school. Any references to children on lesson plans etc. should include no more than the child's initials. Documents which include any personal data should be created and edited within the OneDrive system and should not be downloaded to home computers. A shared area has been created in OneDrive to enable sharing of resources between staff. Chromebook laptops are available to loaned to staff for home working - these are only able to be used within the OneDrive environment.

### Cameras

Each class is provided with a digital camera. EYFS are provided with iPads to enable the recording of Foundation Stage profile evidence. There are also two mini video cameras and six iPad Minis which can be booked out for use by staff. In addition to this, our forty Nexus Tablets and 60 Chromebook laptops are equipped with front facing cameras which can take still images or video footage. Staff may take photographs of children and their work to keep as evidence of learning and for displays in the school. Photos of children for inclusion on the school website, reception display screen, prospectus or in local newspapers can only be used if their parents have given explicit written consent or this has been gathered using a secure electronic means (such as a form created in the 'SchoolPing' or Office365 system). See the Use of Images policy for further information.

### Email

All staff are provided with a Microsoft 365 Email account. This should be used for all school business. The email system can be accessed from any internet-enabled computer including most mobile devices. In most cases the Email system will be accessed through an Internet browser. On mobile devices it can also be accessed using an App. In these cases an extra level of setting up will be required to ensure the device is encrypted and sufficiently secure. This can be arranged by contacting B&H ICT support via the school business manager. All email accounts are now subject to 2FA procedures. All personal and sensitive information should be encrypted whenever it is sent to anyone outside the school 365 email environment

**N.B. ONLY B&HCC Primary Schools use the 365 email environment.**

Red and Amber data should only be sent by email if it is encrypted by typing [**encrypt**] in the subject title or body of text

**Red data** (those that contain very personal details)

# Rudyard Kipling Primary School and Nursery

## IT Usage Policy

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- EHCPs
- Education Psychologist reports
- Education Welfare Officer reports
- Medical records
- Personnel records
- SEN registers

**Amber data** (data that contains personal data that if lost could identify individuals)

- Names and Addresses
- Parental contacts
- Child reports
- Exam results

**Green data** can be sent by email (data that does not identify individuals)

- Lesson plans
- Class lists (only showing initials and forenames)
- Curriculum plans
- General marking

### Home Learning

Google Classroom allows for assignments to be set for whole classes or individual children by their teachers. Teachers are able to 'feed back' on individual assignments using the inbuilt 'private message' system on each assignment. Children are able to reply to these messages and are also able to instigate dialog using this system themselves. These online conversations should be treated as the equivalent of verbal or written feedback in class. Occasionally parents may instigate conversations using this system. Teachers should only discuss the activity or assignment this way and should refer them to the usual channels of communication. Each online 'class' will be set up with the class teacher, their year group partner, the Head Teacher and the Deputy Head teacher as 'owners' of the class to provide overview of these kind of communications. In the event of a 'lockdown' being in place where it is necessary for learning to take place at home, the expectation is that online work feedback will comply with the school's assessment policy.

### Child Access

Children are able to access locally installed applications, World Wide Web pages and other approved Internet resources using the computers in our Computing Suite (running on the Windows 11 operating system) or iPads. Children's access to online resources is limited and made safe through use of 'Smoothwall' managed firewall software. The majority of computer access is via our ICT suite which will be converted to Chromebooks software in Autumn 2025. The school also have 30 Chromebooks which are used in classroom based learning.

Children are given Google email addresses to allow access to the 'Google Classrooms' learning platform. Using these logins children are taught to use Email and other online resources responsibly. Children's use of email is limited to communicating with other children within their year group. Children cannot send or receive emails to or from individuals from outside of the school's domain. The Use of Google Classrooms also allows children to create and collaborate on word processor documents, spreadsheets, presentations and artwork online. Children are also given logins for 'Sumdog' and Times Tables Rockstars online mathematics programmes which allows children to play games which include maths questions tailored to their ability level. In addition to this, children have individual accounts for 'Spelling Shed' which is used to provide children with online spelling support at their current level.

# Rudyard Kipling Primary School and Nursery

## IT Usage Policy

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Staff are responsible for explaining the risks carried by inappropriate use of the Internet and the expectations of children when using the Internet in school, as well as highlighting safety precautions for Internet use outside of school.

E-safety advice and information is taught to all year groups throughout the year and is built in to our Computing and PSHE curricula. The school is to monitor the use and devolvement of AI and ChatGPT and seek expert advice from schools ICT when appropriate or if concerns arise.

Teachers will have access to children' Google Classroom pages and communication. Any inappropriate or bullying behaviour will be reported to senior management.

Teachers are also expected to be aware which children are not permitted to have their images published on the website or elsewhere. This information can be checked by using the 'Class Lists' spreadsheet which can be found in the 'Staff Shortcuts' folder the computer desktop.

### **Video Conferencing**

We increasingly use video conferencing applications to hold meetings within the school community and with outside agencies. We use Zoom, Microsoft Teams and occasionally Google Meet to carry these meetings out. Access to these applications within school is protected by the use of secure network logins and passwords.

### **Conduct**

Senders of emails, instant messages and other forms of messaging (messages) are responsible for their content; recipients are responsible for their subsequent use.

All messages entering and exiting the school are processed through the company's spam filters and are archived for statutory and commercial purposes. This also applies to private messages sent to business accounts and contacts.

School messages must not be forwarded to private accounts.

No one may use another person's email or other messaging account to send a message.

Any deliberate or intentional use of the Internet and/or an email or messaging account that could impair the school's interests is prohibited. This applies primarily to:

Accessing (including the opening of websites) or spreading/forwarding content in violation of laws governing data protection, personal rights and copyright,

Accessing (including the opening of websites) or spreading/forwarding of insulting, seditious, racist or sexist content, or content that extols violence or contains pornographic material,

Spreading confidential information about the company or its business partners and customers.