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Acceptable Use Policy (AUP):

Parents and Carers Acceptable Use Agreement

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Responsible for this policy	Shannon Kelly Computing Lead

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What is an AUP?

We ask all children, young people and adults involved in the life of St Michael's to sign an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), which is a document that outlines how we expect them to behave when they are online, and/or using school networks, connections, internet connectivity and devices, cloud platforms and social media (both when on the school site and outside of school).

Your child also signs an AUP which you need to discuss with them before they sign.

Why do we need an AUP?

The internet has become an integral part of our daily lives, offering numerous benefits and opportunities for learning and connection. However, it is crucial for parents to be aware of potential risks and take proactive steps to ensure their children's online safety.

School systems and users are protected and monitored by security and filtering services to provide safe access to digital technologies. This means anything on a school device or using school networks/platforms/internet may be viewed by one of the staff members who are here to keep your children safe.

We tell your children that they should not behave any differently when they are out of school or using their own device or home network. What we tell pupils about behaviour and respect applies to all members of the school community:

"Treat yourself and others with respect at all times; treat people in the same way when you are online or on a device as you would face to face."

Here are some essential guidelines to help you promote a safe and responsible online environment for your children:

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1. ## Open Communication:
- Establish open and honest communication with your children regarding their online activities.
- Encourage them to share their online experiences, concerns, and questions with you.
- Create a supportive and non-judgmental atmosphere, so they feel comfortable discussing any issues they encounter.

2. ## Set Clear Rules and Boundaries:
- Establish age-appropriate guidelines for internet usage, including time limits and permitted activities.
- Discuss and agree upon the rules with your children, emphasising the importance of responsible online behaviour.
- Ensure they understand the consequences of violating these rules.

3. ## Educate Yourself:
- Stay informed about the latest online platforms, apps, and trends popular among children. (https://www.internetmatters.org/)
- Familiarise yourself with the privacy settings, safety features, and reporting mechanisms available on the platforms your children use.
- Educate yourself about potential online risks, such as cyberbullying and inappropriate content.

4. ## Explore Parental Controls:
- Utilise parental control software or built-in device features to filter and block inappropriate content.
- Activate restrictions and privacy settings on devices, applications, and web browsers to enhance safety.
- Regularly review and update these controls as your child's needs and internet usage patterns change.

5. ## Monitor Online Activities:
- Regularly monitor your child's online activities, especially for younger children.

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- Keep the computer or device in a common area of the house to facilitate supervision.
- Be aware of the websites they visit, apps they use, and people they interact with online.

6. <u>Teach Responsible Digital Citizenship:</u>
- Emphasise the importance of being kind, respectful, and responsible while interacting online.
- Teach your children about the potential consequences of sharing personal information and the importance of privacy.
- Encourage them to think critically, question information, and verify sources before accepting them as true.

7. <u>Address Cyberbullying:</u>
- Educate your children about cyberbullying and the importance of not engaging in or supporting such behavior.
- Teach them to report any instances of cyberbullying, whether they experience it personally or witness it happening to others.
- Support and guide your child if they become victims of cyberbullying, involving school authorities or appropriate online platforms when necessary.

8. <u>Foster Healthy Online Habits:</u>
- Encourage a balanced approach to technology and online activities, promoting physical activity, face-to-face interactions, and other hobbies.
- Help your children develop critical thinking skills to evaluate the credibility and reliability of online information.
- Encourage creativity, learning, and exploration of educational resources online.

9. Be a Role Model:
- Set a positive example by practising responsible online behaviour yourself.

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- Limit your own screen time and avoid excessive use of devices during family time.
- Show interest in your child's online experiences and engage in conversations about their interests and challenges.
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10.   Stay Informed and Seek Help:

- Stay updated about internet safety guidelines, resources, and best practices.
- If you have concerns or need advice about a specific online issue, seek guidance from trusted sources such as teachers, school leaders, or online safety organisations such as (https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers, https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/)
- The impact of social media use is often felt strongly in schools, which is why we expect certain behaviours from pupils when using social media. I will support the school's social media guidance and not encourage my child to join any platform where they are below the minimum age. (see pages 30-32 of the school's Online Safety Policy)
- I will follow the school's Digital Images Consent Policy, which outlines when I can capture and/or share images/videos. I will not share images of other people's children on social media without permission and understand that there may be cultural or legal reasons why this would be inappropriate or even dangerous. The school sometimes uses images/video of my child for internal purposes such as recording attainment, but it will only do so publicly if I have given my consent on the relevant form. (see pages 29-30 of the school's Online Safety Policy)
- *I* can find out more about online safety at St Michael's by reading the full Online Safety Policy here Policies – St Michael's School (stmichaelsn6.com) and can talk to my child's class teacher or Ms Kelly, if I have any concerns about my child/ren's use of technology, or about that of others in the community, or if I have questions about online safety or technology use in school.

Remember, promoting online safety is an ongoing process that requires continuous attention and communication. By implementing these

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guidelines and maintaining an open dialogue with your children, you can help them navigate the online world confidently and responsibly.

I/we have read, understood and agreed to this policy.

Signature/s: _____

Name/s of parent / guardian: _____

Parent / guardian of: _____

Date: _____

Please note that parents may also be interested in the school's approach to the following matters, which are all covered as sections within the overall school Online Safety Policy:

- Roles and responsibilities of members of the school community
- Education and curriculum
- Handling online-safety concerns and incidents
- Actions where there are concerns about a child
  - Sexting and upskirting
  - Bullying
  - Sexual violence and harassment
  - Misuse of school technology (devices, systems, networks or platforms)
  - Social media incidents
- Data protection and data security
- Appropriate filtering and monitoring
- Electronic communications / Email
- School website / Cloud platforms / Social media
- Digital images and video
- Device usage

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