مدرسة ذا أبل انترناشيونال كوميونيتي
The Apple International Community School

CYBER SAFETY POLICY

2025 – 2026

POLICY INFORMATION

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APPROVED BY	PRINCIPAL- PRETTY KHOSLA

LEAMS EDUCATION

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01- Mission and Vision

The Apple International Community School (AICS) is a multicultural and diverse learning organization dedicated to empowering students, staff, and the community to maximize their personal, creative, academic, and athletic potential. We are committed to fostering high self-esteem, respect for others, and the pursuit of lifelong learning in a safe and supportive environment.

02- Introduction

AICS School Dubai prioritizes the safety and well-being of its students, staff, and community members in both physical and digital environments. With the increasing use of internet and Information Communication Technologies (ICT) in education, the school recognizes the need to address issues such as social media defamation, cyberbullying, and cyber addiction. This policy outlines how the school will manage these issues in compliance with UAE laws, including the UAE Cybercrime Law No. 5 of 2012.

03- Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, and authorized users of AICS School Dubai's ICT resources, including school-owned and privately owned devices used on the school premises or during school-related activities. The policy aims to foster a safe and responsible use of ICT in line with educational and professional standards. This policy also outlines the appropriate use of mobile phones within the school environment to ensure a safe, secure, and productive learning atmosphere. It aligns with KHDA regulations and prioritizes student safety, respect for diversity, and responsible digital behaviour.

04- DEFINITIONS

Cyber Safety: The safe and responsible use of the internet and ICT devices, including mobile phones, computers, and other digital technologies.

Social Media Defamation: Posting false or harmful statements on social media that damage an individual's reputation, punishable under UAE law.

Cyberbullying: The use of digital platforms to harass, threaten, or intimidate individuals, considered a criminal offense in the UAE.

Cyber Addiction: Excessive use of digital devices or the internet, leading to negative impacts on daily life and responsibilities.

05-GUIDELINES

1. Safe Environment: The school is dedicated to creating a cyber-safe environment by implementing management procedures, practices, electronic systems, and educational programs that promote responsible digital behavior.

2. User Agreements: All users of the school's ICT resources must sign a user agreement outlining the appropriate use of these resources. This agreement extends to both school-owned and privately owned devices used within the school environment or during school-related activities. Mobile phones are not permitted for use during school hours unless explicitly allowed by a teacher for educational purposes. Students who need to bring mobile phones to school must ensure the phone is switched off and hand it over to the section head upon arrival. The phone can only be collected at the end of the school day. The school is not responsible for any loss, theft, or damage to mobile devices brought onto the premises.

3. Monitoring and Auditing: AICS School Dubai reserves the right to monitor and review all ICT use, including personal communications conducted on school devices and networks. The school may audit any material on both school-owned and privately owned devices used on school premises. Mobile phone use is subject to strict supervision to protect students from cyber threats, inappropriate content, and other risks

4. Education and Training: Regular education and training will be provided to students and staff on the safe and responsible use of ICT, including awareness of the legal implications of social media defamation, cyberbullying, and the risks of cyber addiction. Any violations of this policy will be addressed in accordance with the school's behaviour management procedures. Please refer to the Behaviour Policy.

Handling Specific Issues:

Social Media Defamation

Identification and Reporting: Any instance of social media defamation will be taken seriously. Students and staff are encouraged to report any defamatory content that targets them or others.

Investigation: The school will conduct a thorough investigation to ascertain the facts. This may involve reviewing digital evidence, interviewing involved parties, and consulting legal guidance if necessary.

Consequences: Students or staff found responsible for social media defamation will face disciplinary actions as per school guidelines, which may include suspension, loss of ICT privileges, and in severe cases, legal action in accordance with UAE laws.

Cyberbullying

Support and Reporting: Victims of cyberbullying are encouraged to report incidents to school authorities immediately. The school will provide support to affected individuals, including counseling and guidance.

Zero Tolerance Policy: Cyberbullying will not be tolerated at AICS School Dubai. All reported incidents will be investigated promptly, and perpetrators will face disciplinary actions, which may include suspension, expulsion, or legal action based on the severity of the offense.

Restorative Practices: Where appropriate, the school will facilitate restorative practices to repair harm and rebuild trust within the school community.

Cyber Addiction

Awareness and Prevention: The school will implement awareness programs to educate students, staff, and parents about the risks of cyber addiction and promote balanced use of technology.

Monitoring and Intervention: The school will monitor signs of cyber addiction, such as excessive use of devices, and intervene where necessary. This may include discussions with the affected individuals, parental involvement, and providing resources or counseling support.

Guidance and Support: For individuals showing signs of cyber addiction, the school will offer guidance on managing screen time and developing healthy digital habits, with additional support from school counselors if needed.

Confidentiality and Data Protection:

The school will ensure the confidentiality of student and staff information, including secure storage and handling of personal data in compliance with relevant UAE regulations.

Mobile Usage

Emergency Communication: Parents or guardians needing to contact their children during school hours must do so through the school's designated communication channels. In emergencies, students will be allowed to use their phones under staff supervision.

Parental Responsibility: Parents are encouraged to monitor their children's mobile phone usage outside of school hours. They should ensure that students engage in responsible and age-appropriate digital behavior

Zero Tolerance for Misuse: Any misuse of mobile phones that is deemed criminal, inappropriate, or culturally insensitive will not be tolerated. Violations, including cyberbullying or unauthorized recording, will be reported to the relevant authorities. Disciplinary actions will be taken against students, staff, or visitors found misusing mobile devices

06-Conclusion

AICS School Dubai is dedicated to promoting a safe and respectful digital environment for all community members. By adhering to this Cyber Safety Policy, we aim to empower students and staff to use technology responsibly, aligned with both educational goals and legal standards in the UAE.