**The New Walk School** *Bespoke support. Brighter futures.*

# Acceptable Use Agreement (Pupil)

*The New Walk School policy framework*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Policy** | Acceptable Use Agreement (Pupil) | **Version** | V1 |
| **Issue date** | 08 May 2026 | **Next review** | 08 May 2027 |
| **Policy owner** | Headteacher | **Approved by** | Directors of The New Walk School Ltd |

## 1. About The New Walk School

The New Walk School is an independent specialist day school for pupils aged 7 to 19 who have Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, autism spectrum conditions, learning difficulties and communication difficulties. The school is located on New Walk in Leicester — a setting with a long-standing association with academic life — and is operated by The New Walk School Ltd, a Company Limited by Guarantee.

The majority of our pupils hold an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and many have experienced previous educational placements that did not meet their needs. Our offer combines a broad academic curriculum with an in-built therapeutic provision rooted in the PACE model — Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy — developed by Dr Dan Hughes. PACE is a relational approach designed to build trust, regulate distress and create the safety from which learning can take place. It informs how every adult in the school speaks to, listens to and works with our pupils.

## 2. The PACE therapeutic model in practice

PACE shapes how this Agreement is taught and held. Pupils are not expected to comply because we say so; they are supported to understand why each expectation matters and to make decisions they can stand behind:

- Playfulness — staff use a light, warm tone to reduce shame and de-escalate distress, using humour appropriate to the pupil and the moment.
- Acceptance — pupils' feelings and inner experiences are accepted unconditionally, even where specific behaviours are not. Acceptance is communicated before any limit is set.
- Curiosity — staff seek to understand the meaning behind a pupil's behaviour rather than reacting to its surface, asking 'what is this telling me?'
- Empathy — staff name and stay with the pupil's emotional experience, communicating that the pupil is not alone with what they feel.

PACE is not a behaviour-management tool layered on top of practice; it is the relational foundation from which all other aspects of the school operate.

## 3. Purpose

This Agreement sets out how pupils use the school's IT systems and online services. It is age-appropriate and is taught — not just signed. Pupils are supported to understand each expectation.

## 4. What I will do

- I will use school devices and accounts to learn.
- I will keep my password private and not log in as someone else.
- I will tell a trusted adult if I see something online that worries or upsets me.
- I will respect other people online — I will not say or share things that hurt others.
- I will only photograph or record other pupils with their permission and only when I have been told it is okay.
- I will tell an adult if someone online asks for personal information or for me to do something that does not feel right.

## 5. What I will not do

- I will not try to get around the school's filters or use someone else's account.
- I will not bring inappropriate content into school on a memory stick, phone or other device.
- I will not use AI tools to do my work for me unless my teacher has agreed it.

## 6. Mobile phones

I will hand in my mobile phone at the start of the school day and collect it at the end. If I need to contact home during the day, I can ask any adult and we will make a plan together.

## 7. If something goes wrong

If I make a mistake online, I can tell an adult. The adults at The New Walk School will help me put it right. I will not be in trouble for being honest about a mistake — though we may need to repair the situation together.

## 8. Adapted versions

Symbol-supported and easy-read versions of this Agreement are available for pupils who would benefit from them. Adults will go through the Agreement with each pupil at a developmental level the pupil can engage with.

## Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Headteacher in consultation with the senior leadership team and the Directors of The New Walk School Ltd. It will be reviewed earlier where there is a material change in legislation, statutory guidance or the operational needs of the school. The most recent version is held on the school's policy register and is made available to parents, carers and staff on request.

## Linked policies and documents

This policy should be read alongside the school's wider policy suite, including: Safeguarding and Child Protection; SEND; Behaviour and Relationships; Anti-Bullying; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; Health and Safety; Curriculum; and Complaints.