

Network Access Policy

Policy reviewed: May 2026

Description of Changes:	May 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Amendment to section 1.3
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1. Policy statement and principles

1.1 Policy aims and principles

This policy is to ensure that the information held either onsite at OAT head office / stored in remote locations / academies is secure and the privacy is maintained at all time. It explains the importance of appropriate access and security of electronic data.

This policy is consistent with all other policies adopted by the academy and is written in line with current legislation and guidance.

1.2 User Account Definitions

The following defines the types of computer user logon accounts:

End user

The majority of staff and students will be an 'end user' with an IT system account that will allow access to private email, internet, personal storage and team storage of files and folders.

Enhanced user

This user will have all the properties of an 'end user' but will also be granted 'local Admin' for their IT device, allowing users to change device settings at a hardware and operating system level.

Network Administrator

This account will be used by the Network Manager, Senior ICT Technician and ICT Technicians who are responsible for the maintenance of computer hardware and software systems that make up the computer network including the maintenance and monitoring of active data network, LAN/WAN infrastructure and related network equipment. This account will not allow access to end user email or personal storage areas.

Domain Administrator

This account is used to manage the replication of directory information within the Active Directory, and makes any enterprise level changes to the Active Directory, such as Active Directory modifications. It is a privileged access account granting access to all of the network information and user files, folders and emails, therefore it can only be used by the Network Manager and the Senior ICT Technician.

1.3 Data Storage Areas

All Staff and Student Shared Drives including redirection and home folders are located on SC-SRV-SC01-FS which is securely stored as part of a Failover Cluster in the Academy Server Room. MIS data is stored in the same failover cluster configuration. All of this data is backed up securely to the Schools backup system (Veeam Backup and Recovery) and an additional copy is kept offsite via Wasabi Cloud Backup. Due to a recent merge to the OAT Central Tenancy, a copy of user Homedrives now also sits in Microsoft 365. This service is not backed up.

1.4 Complaints

All complaints are dealt with under the **Complaints Policy**.

Complaints should be made in writing and will follow the OAT complaint procedures and set timescales. The handling of complaints may be delegated to an appropriate person.

The outcome of the complaint will be communicated in writing.

1.5 Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and / or government guidance
- As a result of any other significant change or event
- In the event that the policy is determined not to be effective

If there are urgent concerns these should be raised to the senior member of staff responsible for strategic ICT Jamie O’Keefe (j.o’keefe@scacademy.co.uk) in the first instance for them to determine whether a review of the policy is required in advance of the review date.

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Key personnel

Network Manager		Chad Masters
Contact Details	Email	mailto:c.masters@scacademy.co.uk
	Telephone	01922 685777 (Ext 2125)

3. Network access and use

3.1 Appropriate use of Network Administrator

Access to computing resources should only be used for official academy business. Use of Network Administrator Access should be consistent with an individual’s role or job responsibilities.

3.2 Inappropriate use of Network Administrator

In addition to those activities deemed inappropriate in the ICT Usage policy, the following constitute examples of inappropriate use of Network Administrator access to the academy computing resources unless otherwise documented and approved by Chad Masters (Network Manager).

- Knowingly changing or acquiring user access to any other users network account
- Knowingly accessing protected or prohibited data online or on the academy network
- Accessing protected or prohibited data that is outside the scope of specific job responsibilities

- Knowingly allowing access to, exposing or otherwise disclosing protected or prohibited data to unauthorized persons
- Using access to gain restricted information about an individual, system, practice, or other type of entity

3.3 Passwords

It is the user's responsibility to keep their passwords safe. Staff members are not to share password information with anyone unless directed to by the principal. No user passwords are to be stored or shared by any individual. If for any reason forced access is required to a senior user's account, the network administrator with the express permission of the principal will change the password of the user to an agreed password. This action will be documented.

Note: The documentation of such an event will not include any password information only that of whose account has been changed and the person who made the request.

3.4 Domain Administrator account access protocol

The account will not be used by ICT staff unless deemed an emergency or necessary for completing a specific planned task as set out below.

Planned usage

Planned usage is defined as an event prepared for before it happens. This access must be agreed with the Network Manager.

Emergency usage

Emergency is defined as a situation that can only be resolved by domain level access, such as dealing with a virus, recovering from a serious hardware / software failure. In the event of an emergency, ICT staff will request use from the Network Manager and then access the account. In exceptional circumstances e.g. contact cannot be made with the Network Manager, the domain password may be manually reset.

In the event of this being used, the staff member must document the date, time, reason for access and feedback to the principal.

Reset of password for domain account

The domain password will be retained by the Network Manager only.

Upon use by the ICT team, the password will be reset at the earliest opportunity by the Network Manager.

Note: It is expected that all possible alternatives will be considered and where appropriate attempted to resolve the issue prior to this access being used.

3.5 ICT Support Team

Each ICT member of staff will be provided with two accounts.

- Standard User account
 - *%initial%.%surname%@scacademy.co.uk*, e.g. *c.masters@scacademy.co.uk*
 - This will be the 'end user' access account and must be used for all non-administration access
- Network Administrator account
 - *%initial%%surname%_eng@scacademy.co.uk* e.g. *cmasters_eng@scacademy.co.uk*
 - This account will be provided with appropriate rights to ensure that the member of staff can perform all of their expected administration tasks
 - This account should only be used when logging onto servers or when elevating access.
 - This account is not to be used as an everyday user

3.6 Third party support

Any external company who supplies support will be provided with an account appropriate for the support needs. This account will be activated when required and disabled at all other times. This access must be agreed giving clear times of access and clearly stating the areas to be accessed. Any external access to any academy service or resource will be logged by the ICT Team and reviewed by the Network Manager.

3.7 Email mailbox access

User email accounts will be given exclusive user access permission only, unless delegation is documented and approved by the principal.

Shared email accounts will be formally requested, documented and approved by the Network Manager before being created and delegated exclusively to the appropriate users.

3.8 Backup file access

Encryption of the backed-up data enables safe transport and storage. Data is not encrypted at the Veeam stage though is encrypted for any offsite backups.

The passwords or keys are required to be kept separate from the data itself.

3.9 Reporting inappropriate use of academy computer accounts

Any user who suspects a violation of computer security should contact the principal. This includes suspected inappropriate use of IT accounts.