Policy Name	**Child Protection Act 1978 – IT Policy**
Policy Version	1
Department / Area	Computer Services
Created By	Paul Flanders
Amended By	Paul Flanders
Approved by SLT	Adrian Beckett
Next Review	April 2018
Document REF	CS002
Category	**Public** / Private (Public = Internet Available – Private = Internal Only)
Covers	Staff / Student / **Both**

Contents

Scope

The Child Protection act 1978 concerns (amongst other things) pictures of children under the age of 16. Under the Act it is an offence to take or (more importantly in this context) distribute indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children through Telford College of Arts & Technology's IT Services.

Introduction

Telford College of Arts & Technology is committed to defending the principle of academic freedom and acknowledges that the use of the Internet is a very valuable contribution to the exercise of that principle. Without compromising this, Telford College also aims to benefit from the Internet by presenting the College to the world. The purpose of this policy is to guarantee an appropriate use of the Internet, which is beneficial to all the members of the College.

All of those who have access to on-line services through the College's Network must be aware of the legal consequences attached to the inappropriate use of those services. The College will take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent and eliminate inappropriate use of the Internet and email system.

Policy

Legal Background

The Child Protection act 1978 concerns (amongst other things) pictures of children under the age of 16. Under the Act it is an offence to take or (more importantly in this context) distribute indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children. In addition, the 1988 Criminal Justice Act criminalises the mere possession of such photographs or pseudo-photographs.
The 1978 Act also prohibits advertisements, which suggest that the advertiser distributes or shows indecent, photographs of children, or intends to do so.

Each of these provisions may encompass material published on the Internet. Such material will almost inevitably be distributed; when it rests on a server it may be said to be in someone's possession; and a link to a web site may amount to an advertisement.

Rules

Although it has been widely accepted that College cannot monitor the vast amount of information disseminated and accessible through their Networks, Telford College of Arts & Technology is committed to responding promptly to any potentially damaging publication by withdrawing from its services any unacceptable materials and taking any other necessary action. This may mean that users responsible for such materials have their access to the College's facilities withdrawn. It is also possible that the publication of such materials may amount to an offence under the College's disciplinary regulations.
You must not:

• Distribute photographs or pseudo photographs of children under the age of 16

• Possess photographs or pseudo photographs of children under the age of 16

• Advertise photographs or pseudo photographs of children under the age of 16

Definitions

• **Distribution**
"if he/she parts with possession of (it) to, or exposes or offers it for acquisition by another person."

• **Pseudo-photograph**
"an image, whether made by computer graphics or otherwise…, which appears to be a photograph."

Misuse of Systems

Any discriminatory or inappropriate conduct via IT systems will be dealt with under the College's disciplinary procedure, which in extreme cases, could result in your dismissal/expulsion from the College. The accessing and/or downloading of pornographic or obscene material is absolutely prohibited and may be reported to the Police.

System access codes will be withdrawn during disciplinary investigation, from any person misusing email/Internet services.

Reporting of Concerns

If you have any queries relating to your own use of the email/Internet system you should raise them with the Computer Services Manager, Paul Flanders.

If you have any concerns relating to the use (or misuse) of the College's IT systems by a third party you should in the first instance raise them with your line manager/Tutor in the strictest confidence.