Gillotts School

Policy Title:	**Student Web Browser Requirement and Safeguarding Policy**
Policy Number:	IT-001
Version:	1.0
Version Owner:	Gillotts School Network Manager

Approval Date: October 2, 2025

Review Date: October 2026

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a mandatory standard for student web browsing activities across the school network and school-owned devices. This is necessary to ensure consistent access to educational resources, software compatibility, efficient IT support, and, most importantly, the proper deployment of essential **safeguarding and filtering tools**.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Gillotts School students accessing digital resources, curriculum software, and the internet. This includes use on **all school-owned devices** (laptops, Chromebooks, PCs, mobile devices, and tablets), and **all Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) devices**, regardless of personal or school ownership, whenever they are connected to the school wifi network or accessing school-provided resources off-site.

3. Policy Statement

It is mandatory for all students to use the Google Chrome browser and be actively logged into their designated Gillotts student Google account whenever accessing school resources or the internet, regardless of the device used (school-owned or BYOD).

No other web browser (e.g., Microsoft Edge, Firefox, Safari) should be used for educational activities, as use of these browsers will not provide full access to and functionality of the Gillotts Google Workspace nor provide the security and safeguarding controls deployed by the Trust.

Nor should students remain logged into any personal or non-school-provided Google account while accessing school resources, as this may cause access problems.

4. Rationale and Implementation

This policy, issued under the **authority** of the RLT IT Manager **and authorised and approved by the Gillotts School Network Manager**, is required for the following critical functions:

4.1. Safeguarding and Monitoring

The official safeguarding and filtering extensions deployed by RLT IT are specifically designed and configured to operate within the **Google Chrome environment** when linked to an active student account. By mandating the use of a logged-in Chrome profile, the school ensures:

- **Consistent Monitoring:** All online activity is consistently logged and monitored according to statutory safeguarding requirements.

- **Effective Filtering:** Content filtering and blocking rules are reliably applied to protect students from inappropriate content.

- **Rapid Reporting:** Safeguarding alerts related to student activity are accurately attributed and reported, allowing for timely intervention.

4.2. Resource Access and Compatibility

Many school-licensed applications, digital textbooks, and cloud services (such as Google Workspace and specific learning platforms) utilize **Single Sign-On (SSO)** via the student Google account.

- Using a logged-in Chrome browser ensures seamless authentication, preventing access issues and lost time.

- The Chrome browser is the validated platform for all school-supported software, guaranteeing optimal functionality and reducing technical issues.

4.3. Compliance and Consequences

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the student losing access to essential digital learning tools and the internet. **In these instances, the student may be considered to have failed to arrive at school with suitable equipment. Repeated BYOD issues or problems, such as repeatedly bringing an uncharged device, or a device deliberately set up so it cannot access the Google Workspace, also result in a 1-hour after school detention.**