



Internet Access and Safety Policy

Rationale

We want our pupils to have safe, secure access to the internet in order to enhance their learning not only of ICT skills but of knowledge and understanding related to all other subjects.

The Importance of Internet Use

- The purpose of Internet use in school is to raise educational standards, to promote pupil achievement, to support the professional work of staff and to enhance the school's management information and business administration systems.
- Internet use is a part of the statutory curriculum and a necessary tool for staff and pupils.
- Internet access is an entitlement for pupils who show a responsible and mature approach to its use.
- The Internet is an essential element in 21st Century life for education, business and social interaction. The school has a duty to provide students with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience.

Educational Benefits of the Internet

The Government has expectations that all schools are networked for Internet use through the National Grid for Learning (NGfL) initiative.

Benefits of using the Internet in education include:

- access to world-wide educational resources;
- inclusion in government initiatives such as the National Grid for Learning and South West Grid For Learning (SWGFL)
- educational and cultural exchanges between pupils world-wide;
- cultural, vocational, social and leisure use in libraries, clubs and at home;
- access to experts in many fields for pupils and staff;
- staff professional development through access to national developments, educational materials and good curriculum practice;
- communication with support services, professional associations and colleagues;
- improved access to technical support including remote management of networks;

- exchange of curriculum and administration data with the LA and DfES.
- Accessing the Internet
 - At Key Stage 1, access to the Internet will be by adult demonstration with occasional directly supervised access to specific, approved on-line materials.
 - Access levels will be reviewed to reflect the curriculum requirements and age of pupils.
- Pupils will be taught what is acceptable and what is not acceptable and given clear objectives for Internet use.
- Internet access will be planned to enrich and extend learning activities.
- Staff will guide pupils in on-line activities that will support the learning outcomes planned for the pupils' age and maturity.
- Pupils will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location and retrieval.
- Pupils will be taught to be critically aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.
- All computers in the school are filtered by SWGFL and so access is denied for any inappropriate material.

Authorisation of Internet Access

- All registered users have access to the Internet.
- Parents will be informed that pupils will be provided with supervised Internet access (a copy of the letter to parents is included as appendix 2).

Internet Safety

Worle Village Primary School will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users access only appropriate material. However, due to the international scale and linked nature of Internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never appear on a school computer. Neither Worle Village Primary School nor North Somerset Council can accept liability for the material accessed, or any consequences of Internet access.

- The school will work in partnership with parents, the LA, DfES and the Internet Service Provider to ensure systems to protect pupils are reviewed and improved.
- If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address) and content must be reported to the Internet Service Provider via the ICT co-ordinator.
- The school will select filtering strategies. Where possible, the filtering strategy will be selected to suit the age and curriculum requirements of the pupil. However, filtering systems cannot be completely effective due to the speed of change of Web content.

- Virus protection for the whole network will be installed and current.
- The use of computer systems without permission or for inappropriate purposes could constitute a criminal offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990.
- The head teacher will ensure that the Internet policy is implemented and compliance with the policy monitored.
- Schools will endeavour to ensure that the use of Internet derived materials by staff and by pupils complies with copyright law.

E-mail

E-mail is fast becoming an essential means of communication. Directed e-mail use can bring significant educational benefits and interesting projects. However, the use of e-mail requires appropriate safety measures to have been put in place. Un-regulated e-mail can provide a means of access to pupils that bypass the traditional school boundaries.

- In the school context, e-mail should not be considered private and the school, reserves the right to monitor e-mail.
- The use of personal pupil e-mail addresses is restricted to internal e-mail only. All external e-mail to and from pupils will be blocked.
- Any e-mails that need to be sent outside the school for curriculum purposes from the pupils will only be sent from and received by the teacher, who will share as appropriate with the pupils.

How the policy will be shared with parents and pupils

- Rules for Internet access will be shared and discussed with the pupils and displayed near computers that have Internet Access (see Appendix 1).
- Pupils will be informed that Internet use will be monitored.
- Instruction in responsible and safe use will precede Internet access.
- A module on responsible Internet use will be included in the PSHE programme covering both school and home use.
- A letter will be sent to all parents making them aware of the schools Internet Policy and informing them that their child will be accessing the Internet unless we are informed otherwise (see Appendix 2).

How the policy will be shared with staff

- All staff must accept the terms of the 'Responsible Internet Use' statement before using any Internet resource in school.
- All staff including teachers, supply staff, classroom assistants and support staff, will be provided with the School Internet Policy, and its importance explained.
- Staff should be aware that Internet traffic could be monitored and traced to the individual user. Discretion and professional conduct is essential.
- Staff development in the safe and responsible Internet use, and on school Internet policy will be provided as required.

Complaints regarding Internet use

- Parents and teachers should report incidents to the head teacher.
- Facts of the case will need to be established, for instance whether the Internet use was within or outside school.
- If transgressions of the rules are minor the teacher, as part of normal class discipline will deal with them. More serious situations will be dealt with using a range of appropriate strategies linked to the school's behaviour policy.
- Complaints of a child protection nature will be dealt with in accordance with LA child protection procedures.

Reviewed/initialled

Reviewed by Staffing Ctee. 3 rd Dec. 09. Endorsed FGB 28 th Jan. 2010					
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