



Appropriate use of Internet and Email Facilities

1. Rationale

The Internet is becoming as commonplace as the telephone or TV. Significant educational benefits should result from curriculum Internet use, including access to information from around the world and the abilities to communicate widely.

Internet safety depends on staff, schools, governors, advisers and parents to take responsibility for the use of the Internet.

- The Internet is an essential element in 21st Century life for education, business and social interaction. The school has a duty to provide children with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience. The purpose of Internet use in school is to raise educational standards, to promote pupil achievement and to support the professional work of staff.
- Benefits of using the Internet allows access to world-wide educational resources including museums and art galleries, and staff professional reasonable precaution to ensure that users access only appropriate material.
- Rules for Internet access will be posted near all computers.
- Virus protection will be installed and updated regularly.
- The new ICT and Internet facilities will be available to all staff, governors and Friends of School.
- Consideration is being given to offer opportunities for parents of children in the school to access the Internet via schools facilities. This would allow parents to feel confident enough with ICT to support their children's learning at home.

2. Principles for Acceptable Use of the Internet

Use of school computers by pupils must be in support of the aims and objectives of the National Curriculum.

Online activities which are encouraged include:

- The use of email and computer conferencing for communication: between colleagues, between pupils(s) and teacher(s), between pupil(s) pupil(s), between schools and industry.
- Use of the Internet to investigate and research school subjects, cross-curricular themes or topics related to social and personal development.
- The development of pupils' competence in ICT skills and their general research skills.

Online activities which are not permitted include:

- Searching, viewing or retrieving materials that are not related to the aims of the curriculum or future careers.
- Copying, saving or redistributing copyright-protected material, without approval.
- Subscribing to any services or ordering and goods or services, unless specifically approved by the school.
- Playing computer games or using other interactive 'chat' sites unless specifically approved by the school.



- Using the network in such a way that use of the network by other users is disrupted (for example: downloading large files during peak usage times; sending mass email messages).
- Publishing, sharing or distributing any personal information about a user (such as: home address; email address; phone number; etc).
- Downloading software.
- Any activity that violates a school rule.

3. Guidelines:

Children will:

- Have equal access to email in a safe & secure environment.
- Have equal access to a variety of approved websites through the Intranet.
- Children will be taught all the skills in order to use Internet & email as an ICT tool.
- Children will use Internet & email to support, enhance & develop all aspects of curriculum.
- Children will develop Internet & email skills at the appropriate level regardless of race, gender, intellect and emotional or physical difficulties.*