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## INTERNET ACCEPTANCE USE POLICY

### Introduction

The internet is a valuable teaching and learning tool. It provides and allows people to communicate with others and share information. It can develop children's independence research skills and promote life-long learning. However, some materials available on the Internet is unsuitable for children and therefore these guidelines will be followed when using the internet.

### Pupil's use of the Internet

Pupils are responsible for good behaviour on the internet. Access to the Internet may be withdrawn from pupils who fail to maintain acceptable standards of use. Internet access in the school includes filtering service is completely fool proof and therefore pupils will be supervised during the use of the internet.

Staff will ensure to the maximum extent possible, that pupils know and understand that no internet user is permitted to:

- Use the internet for any illegal activity including accessing other computers.
- Retrieve, send, copy or display offensive messages or pictures.
- Use obscene or offensive language.
- Cause damage to computers, computer systems or network.
- Violate copyright laws.
- Use another user's password.
- Trespass on another user's folders, work of files.
- Cause any form of vandalism to the machine or the work of other including the up loading or creation of viruses.

### Organisation and Management of Internet Use

Staff will select sites which will support pupil's learning. Pupils may be given details of suitable sites to extend their learning at home as and when appropriate.

### Promoting Safe and Independent Use of the Internet

Internet access will be supervised. Teachers will ensure that pupils understand appropriate use of the internet and are aware of the rules. Pupils will be encouraged to tell a teacher immediately if they encounter any material that makes them feel uncomfortable.

### Children's Use of Email

Children in school must only use email for education purposes and emails will be checked before being sent. Pupils will not be allowed to send personal emails from the school system without permission. In-coming emails will be regarded as public and may be examined by any staff member. The use of chat rooms is forbidden.

Ratified by Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Advice for Parents on ITC in the Home**

During school hours, teachers will guide pupils towards appropriate materials on the internet.

Outside school, parents or guardians should bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they normally would with other information sources, such as television, magazines etc.

Parents or guardians should be aware that the internet service provider at home may not be filtered.

It is therefore that these guidelines are followed:

1. Discuss rules for using the internet with your children and decide together when, how long and what comprises appropriate use.
2. Be aware of the sites your children are visiting and discuss with them what they are learning.
3. Ensure the children do not give out personal identifying information on the internet such as a picture, address, phone number, school name or financial information such as credit card or bank details.
4. Encourage your children not to respond to any unwelcome, unpleasant or abusive messages and to inform you if they receive any such messages or images.
5. Appropriate home use of internet can be educationally beneficial and can make a useful contribution to home and school work. It should however be supervised and parents be aware that they are responsible for their children's use of the internet resources at home.

## Appendix 2

Dear Parents,

As part of the school's ICT programme, we will be offering pupils supervised access to the Internet. As you are probably aware, the Internet contains a vast amount of information but unfortunately not all of this is suitable for children and so we have produced an Acceptable Use Policy specifying our guidelines.

Before being allowed to use the Internet, all pupils must obtain parental permission. We therefore ask that both you and your child sign the enclosed form as evidence of your approval and acceptance of the school rules on this matter. A copy of our Acceptance Use Policy is attached.

Please read the Acceptance Use Policy carefully.

**Name of Pupil:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I allow my child (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ to use the Internet in school and accept school rules on this matter.**

**Signature of Parent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Pupil:** \_\_\_\_\_