



School Policy



E- Safety

Autumn 2020

Introduction

The Internet is now regarded as an essential resource to support teaching and learning.

The curriculum requires pupils to learn how to locate, retrieve and exchange information using ICT. In delivering the curriculum, teachers need to plan to integrate the use of communications technology such as web-based resources and e-mail and mobile learning, such as phones and touch screen tablet devices. Computer skills are vital to access life-long learning and employment; indeed computing is now seen as an essential life-skill.

Young people have access to the Internet from many places, home, school, friends' homes, libraries and in many cases mobile phones. Schools have a number of services to help ensure that curriculum use is safe and appropriate, however, access out of school does not usually have these services and has a range of risks associated with its use.

From September 2020, Relationships Education was made compulsory for all primary aged pupils. Through this new subjects, pupils are taught about online safety and harms including being taught what positive, healthy and respectful online relationships look like, the effects of their online actions on others and knowing how to recognise and display respectful behaviour online. Throughout these subjects, teachers address online safety and appropriate behaviour in an age appropriate way that is relevant to their pupils' lives. This complements the computing curriculum, which covers the principles of online safety at all key stages, with progression in the content to reflect the different and escalating risks that pupils face. This includes how to use technology safely, responsibly, respectfully and securely, and where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies.

Schools are ideally placed to help young people learn to become e-safe. This policy is designed to ensure safe internet use by pupils in school, but also while on-line at home etc.

Core Principles of Internet Safety

Internet safety depends on staff, schools, governors, advisers, parents and, where appropriate, the pupils themselves taking responsibility for the use of Internet and other communication technologies such as mobile phones.

There are no straightforward or totally effective solutions and staff, parents and the pupils themselves must remain vigilant.

The online world develops and changes at great speed. New opportunities, challenges and risks are appearing all the time. This can make it difficult for schools to stay up to date with the latest devices, platforms, apps, trends and related threats. It is therefore important to focus on the underpinning knowledge and behaviours that can help pupils to navigate the online world safely and confidently regardless of the device, platform or app. This teaching could be built into existing lessons across the curriculum, covered within specific online safety lessons and/or school wide approaches. Teaching must always be age and developmentally appropriate.

We aspire to educate the children with underpinning knowledge and behaviours including:

- How to evaluate what they see online.
- How to recognise techniques used for persuasion.
- Assessing online behaviour.
- How to identify online risks.
- How and when to seek support.

Why is Internet use important?

The Internet is an essential element in 21st century life for education, business and social interaction. The school has a duty to provide pupils 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, well-being and to support the professional work of staff and to enhance the school's management information and business administration systems.

How will Internet use enhance learning?

The school Internet access will be designed expressly for educational use and will include filtering appropriate to the age of pupils.

Pupils will learn appropriate Internet use and be given clear objectives for Internet use.

Pupils will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation.

How will filtering be managed?

The school works in partnership with Telford and Wrekin and BLOXX, to ensure systems to protect pupils are reviewed and improved. Impero is also used in school to actively monitor the internet use age.

If staff or pupils discover unsuitable or illegal sites, the URL (address) and content must be reported to the ICT co-ordinator and then Senior Management. Parents of the children involved will be notified immediately.

Our ICT co-ordinator and ICT technician will ensure that regular checks are made to ensure that the filtering methods selected are appropriate, effective and reasonable.

How will the risks be assessed?

In common with other media such as magazines, books and video, some material available via the Internet is unsuitable for pupils. The 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 the school nor the LEA can accept liability for the material accessed, or any consequences of Internet access.

The use of computer systems without permission or for inappropriate purposes could constitute a criminal offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

Methods to identify, assess and minimise risks will be reviewed regularly.

The Headteacher and ICT Co-ordinator and technician will ensure that the Internet policy is implemented and compliance with the policy monitored.

Managing Content

If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address) and content must be reported to the ICT Coordinator.

Schools should ensure that staff and pupils are aware that the use of internet derived materials should comply with current copyright laws.

Specific lessons will be included within the Computing Scheme of Work that teaches all pupils how to read for information from web resources.

Nominated persons (ICT Coordinator) will be responsible for permitting and denying additional websites as requested by colleagues.

Restrictions are put onto all school iPads and we use the safety mode on you tube.

How should the school website content be managed?

The point of contact on the website should be the school address, school e-mail and telephone number. Staff or pupils' home information will not be published.

Website photographs that include pupils will be selected carefully and will not enable individual pupils to be identified by name.

Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on the website, particularly in association with photographs.

Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of pupils are published on the school website.

On-line communications and social networking

The whole school will work on e-safety and re write the policy with our ICT technician each year during e safety week. E safety will also be on going through SMSC curriculum and Loudmouth Theatre visits. Our school 'Team Safe' will also help to develop this in assemblies.

Pupils will be advised never to give out personal details of any kind which may identify them, their friends or their location. They will also be advised to use nicknames and avatars when using social networking sites as part of the e safety programme.

Pupils and parents will be advised that the use of social network spaces outside school brings a range of dangers for primary aged pupils. Our ICT technician is also creating a parents' guide to help with keeping children safe using technology at home including the age restrictions for popular apps, games and social media platforms.

Appropriate use of mobile phones will be taught to pupils as part of their e-safety programme.

Pupil mobile phones are not permitted within the school and if children need these for after school they are kept in the school office and given back at home time with parental consent.

Rules for Internet safety access will be posted in all classrooms written by the children in every e safety week.

Parents and E-Safety

Parents' attention will be drawn to the School E-Safety Policy in newsletters, the school brochure and on the school Website.

Regular information will be provided to parents about how to ensure they can work with the school to ensure this resource is used appropriately both within school and home.

A partnership approach with parents will be encouraged. This could include demonstrations, practical sessions and suggestions for safe Internet use at home. All parents will receive support information as and when available as we look to update our policies and 'Parents Guide' to ensure our children continue to access the internet safely at home as well as at school.

Consulting with Staff and their inclusion in the E-safety Policy

All staff including teachers, supply staff, classroom assistants and support staff, will be provided with the School Internet Policy, and its importance explained.

The school's consequences for Internet and mobile phone technology misuse will be clear so that all teachers are confident to apply this should the situation arise.

Staff development in safe and responsible Internet use and on the school Internet policy will be provided as required.

How will complaints be handled?

Responsibility for handling incidents will be delegated to a senior member of staff. Any complaint about staff misuse must be referred to the head teacher.

Pupils and parents will be informed of the complaints procedure. Parents and pupils will need to work in partnership with staff to resolve issues.

There may be occasions when the police must be contacted. Early contact could be made to establish the legal position and discuss strategies.

This page must not be taken as advice on legal issues, but we feel that schools should be alerted to some of the legislation that may be relevant.

Reviewed: Autumn 2020

Next Review: Autumn 2021

Reviewer: Jane Siddons