Acceptable Use of ICT, the Internet and Electronic Communication Policy - Pupils

Introduction

ICT in the 21st Century is seen as an essential resource to support learning and teaching, as well as playing an important role in the everyday lives of children, young people and adults. Consequently, schools need to build in the use of these technologies in order to arm our young people with the skills to access life-long learning and employment.

Information and Communications Technology covers a wide range of resources including; web-based and mobile learning. It is also important to recognise the constant and fast paced evolution of ICT within our society as a whole. Currently the internet technologies children and young people are using both inside and outside of the classroom include:

- Websites

- E-mail, Instant Messaging and chat rooms

- Social Media, including Facebook and Twitter

- Mobile/ Smart phones with text, video and/ or web functionality

- Other mobile devices with web functionality

- Gaming, especially online

- Learning Platforms and Virtual Learning Environments

- Blogs and Wikis

- Podcasting

- Video Broadcasting

- Music Downloading

Whilst exciting and beneficial both in and out of the context of education, much ICT, particularly web-based resources, are not consistently policed. All users need to be aware of the range of risks associated with the use of these Internet technologies and that some have minimum age requirements, usually 13 years.

At Brackenfield School, we understand the responsibility to educate our pupils on eSafety issues; teaching them the appropriate behaviours and critical thinking skills to enable them to remain both safe and legal when using the internet and related technologies, in and beyond the context of the classroom.

Schools hold personal data on learners, staff and other people to help them conduct their day-to-day activities. Some of this information is sensitive and could be used by another person or criminal organisation to cause harm or distress to an individual. The loss of sensitive information can result in media coverage, and potentially damage the reputation of the school. This can make it more difficult for your school to use technology to benefit learners.

Everybody in the school has a shared responsibility to secure any sensitive information used in their day to day professional duties and even staff not directly involved in data handling should be made aware of the risks and threats and how to minimise them.

Both this policy and the Acceptable Use IT, Internet and electronic communication Policy are inclusive of both fixed and mobile internet; technologies provided by the school (such as PCs, laptops, mobile devices, webcams, whiteboards, voting systems, digital video equipment, etc); and technologies owned by pupils and staff, but brought onto school premises (such as laptops, mobile phones, and other mobile devices).

ICT authorised staff may monitor, intercept, access, inspect, record and disclose telephone calls, e-mails, instant messaging, internet/intranet use and any other electronic communications (data, voice or image) involving its employees or contractors, without consent, to the extent permitted by law. This may be to confirm or obtain school business related information; to confirm or investigate compliance with school policies, standards and procedures; to ensure the effective operation of school ICT; for quality control or training purposes; to comply with a Subject Access Request under the Data Protection Act 1998, or to prevent or detect crime.

ICT authorised staff may, without prior notice, access the e-mail or voice-mail account where applicable, of someone who is absent in order to deal with any business-related issues retained on that account.

All monitoring, surveillance or investigative activities are conducted by ICT authorised staff and comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and the Lawful Business Practice Regulations 2000.

All internet activity is logged by the school's internet provider. These logs may be monitored by authorised ICT staff.

Incident Reporting

Any security breaches or attempts, loss of equipment and any unauthorised use or suspected misuse of ICT must be immediately reported to the school's ICT Co-ordinator. Additionally, all security breaches, lost/stolen equipment or data (including remote access SecureID tokens and PINs), virus notifications, unsolicited emails, misuse or unauthorised use of ICT and all other policy non-compliance must be reported to the ICT Co-ordinator or Headteacher.

Dear Parent/ Carer

ICT including the internet, e-mail and mobile technologies has become an important part of learning in our school.   We expect all children to be safe and responsible when using any ICT.

Please read and discuss these eSafety rules with your child and return the slip at the bottom of this page. If you have any concerns or would like some explanation please contact Trish Turner (Assistant Head Teacher).

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Parent/ carer signature
We have discussed this and …………………………………..............(child name) agrees to follow the eSafety rules and to support the safe use of ICT at Brackenfield School.

Parent/ Carer Signature ………………………………………………….

Class ………………………………. Date ………………………………

Acceptable Use

Agreement for Pupils / eSafety Rules

- I will only use ICT in school for school purposes.

- I will only use my class e-mail address or my own school e-mail address when e-mailing.

- I will only open e-mail attachments from people I know, or who my teacher has approved.

- I will not tell other people my ICT passwords.

- I will only open/delete my own files.

- I will make sure that all ICT contact with other children and adults is responsible, polite and sensible.

- I will not deliberately look for, save or send anything that could be unpleasant or nasty. If I accidentally find anything like this I will tell my teacher immediately.

- I will not give out my own details such as my name, phone number or home address. I will not arrange to meet someone unless this is part of a school project approved by my teacher and a responsible adult comes with me.

- I will be responsible for my behavior when using ICT because I know that these rules are to keep me safe.

- I will support the school approach to online safety and not deliberately upload or add any images, video, sounds or text that could upset any member of the school community

- I know that my use of ICT can be checked and that my parent/ carer will be contacted if a member of school staff is concerned about my eSafety.

Computer Viruses

- All files downloaded from the Internet, received via e-mail or on removable media such as a memory stick,, must be checked for any viruses using school provided anti-virus software before being used

- Never interfere with any anti-virus software installed on school ICT equipment that you use

- If your machine is not routinely connected to the school network, you must make provision for regular virus updates through your IT team

- If you suspect there may be a virus on any school ICT equipment, stop using the equipment and contact your ICT support provider immediately. The ICT support provider will advise you what actions to take and be responsible for advising others that need to know

E-Mail

The use of e-mail within most schools is an essential means of communication for both staff and pupils. In the context of school, e-mail should not be considered private. Educationally, e-mail can offer significant benefits including; direct written contact between schools on different projects, be they staff based or pupil based, within school or international. We recognise that pupils need to understand how to style an e-mail in relation to their age and good network etiquette;'netiquette'. In order to achieve ICT level 4 or above, pupils must have experienced sending and receiving e-mails.

Managing Pupil e-Mail

- Pupils may only use school approved accounts on the school system and only under direct teacher supervision for educational purposes

  - All pupil e-mail users are expected to adhere to the generally accepted rules of netiquette particularly in relation to the use of appropriate language and not revealing any personal details about themselves or others in e-mail communication, or arrange to meet anyone without specific permission, virus checking attachments

  - Pupils must immediately tell a teacher/ trusted adult if they receive an offensive e-mail

  - Pupils are introduced to e-mail as part of the ICT Scheme of Work

Pupils with Additional Needs

The school endeavours to create a consistent message with parents for all pupils and this in turn should aid establishment and future development of the schools' eSafety rules.

However, staff are aware that some pupils may require additional support or teaching including adapted resources, reminders, prompts and further explanation to reinforce their existing knowledge and understanding of eSafety issues.

Where a pupil has poor social understanding, careful consideration is given to group interactions when raising awareness of eSafety. Internet activities are planned and well managed for these children and young people.

eSafety in the Curriculum

ICT and online resources are increasingly used across the curriculum. We believe it is essential for eSafety guidance to be given to the pupils on a regular and meaningful basis. eSafety is embedded within our curriculum and we continually look for new opportunities to promote eSafety.

- The school has a framework for teaching internet skills in ICT lessons

- The school provides opportunities within a range of curriculum areas to teach about eSafety

- Educating pupils about the online risks that they may encounter outside school is done informally when opportunities arise and as part of the eSafety curriculum

- Pupils are aware of the relevant legislation when using the internet such as data protection and intellectual property which may limit what they want to do but also serves to protect them

- Pupils are taught about copyright, respecting other people's information, safe use of images and other important areas through discussion, modeling and appropriate activities

- Pupils are aware of the impact of Cyberbullying and know how to seek help if they are affected by any form of online bullying. Pupils are also aware of where to seek advice or help if they experience problems when using the internet and related technologies; i.e. parent/ carer, teacher/ trusted staff member, or an organisation such as Childline or CEOP report abuse button.

Internet Access

The internet is an open worldwide communication medium, available to everyone at all times. Anyone can view information, send messages, discuss ideas and publish material which makes it both an invaluable resource for education, business and social interaction, as well as a potential risk to young and vulnerable people. All use of EMBC (the schools current Internet provider) is logged and the logs are randomly but regularly monitored. Whenever any inappropriate use is detected it will be followed up.

Managing the Internet

- The school provides pupils with supervised access to Internet resources (where reasonable) through the school's fixed and mobile internet connectivity

- Staff will preview any recommended sites before use

- Raw image searches are discouraged when working with pupils

- If Internet research is set for homework, specific sites will be suggested that have previously been checked by the teacher. It is advised that parents recheck these sites and supervise this work. Parents will be advised to supervise any further research

- All users must observe software copyright at all times. It is illegal to copy or distribute school software or illegal software from other sources

- All users must observe copyright of materials from electronic resources

Infrastructure

- Our school also employs some additional web-filtering which is the responsibility of (the Long Eaton School support team)

- Brackenfield School is aware of its responsibility when monitoring staff communication under current legislation and takes into account; Data Protection Act 1998, The Telecommunications (Lawful Business Practice) (Interception of Communications) Regulations 2000, Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, Human Rights Act 1998

- Staff and pupils are aware that school based email and internet activity can be monitored and explored further if required

- The school does not allow pupils access to internet logs

- The school uses management control tools for controlling and monitoring workstations

- If staff or pupils discover an unsuitable site, the screen must be switched off/ closed and the incident reported immediately to the e-safety coordinator or teacher as appropriate

- Pupils and Staff using personal removable media are responsible for measures to protect against viruses, for example making sure that additional systems used have up-to-date virus protection software. It is not the school's responsibility nor the network manager's to install or maintain virus protection on personal systems.

- Pupils and staff are not permitted to download programs or files on school based technologies without seeking prior permission from (the ICT technician)

Managing Other Web 2 Technologies

- At present, the school endeavors to deny access to social networking and online games websites to pupils within school

- All pupils are advised to be cautious about the information given by others on such websites, for example users not being who they say they are

- Pupils are taught to avoid placing images of themselves (or details within images that could give background details) on such websites and to consider the appropriateness of any images they post due to the difficulty of removing an image once online

- Pupils are always reminded to avoid giving out personal details on websites which may identify them or where they are (full name, address, mobile/ home phone numbers, school details, IM/ email address, specific hobbies/ interests)

- Our pupils are advised to set and maintain their online profiles to maximum privacy and deny access to unknown individuals

- Pupils are encouraged to be wary about publishing specific and detailed private thoughts and information online

- Our pupils are asked to report any incidents of Cyberbullying to the school