

Online safety and online learning policy

Belonging Believing Becoming
(Mark 4 30-32)

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been developed to ensure that all adults in West Didsbury CE Primary School are working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

1.3 Online safety is a safeguarding issue not an ICT issue and all members of the school community have a duty to be aware of online safety at all times, to know the required procedures and to act on them.

1.4 This document aims to put into place effective management systems and arrangements which will maximise the educational and social benefit that can be obtained by exploiting the benefits and opportunities by using ICT, whilst minimising any associated risks. It describes actions that should be put in place to redress any concerns about child welfare and safety as well as how to protect children, young people and staff from risks and infringements.

1.5 The Head of School or, in her absence, the authorised member of staff for online safety (the ICT / online safety coordinator) has the ultimate responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils in their care.

1.6 This policy complements and supports other relevant school and Local Authority policies.

1.7 The purpose of internet use in school is to help raise educational standards, promote pupil achievement, and support the professional work of staff as well as enhance the school's management information and business administration systems.

1.8 The internet is an essential element in 21st century life for education, business and social interaction and the school has a duty to provide children and young people with quality access as part of their learning experience.

ETHOS

2.1 It is the duty of the school to ensure that every child and young person in its care is safe. The same 'staying safe' outcomes and principles outlined in the Every Child Matters agenda apply equally to the 'virtual' or digital world. This expectation also applies to any voluntary, statutory and community organisations that make use of the school's ICT facilities and digital technologies.

2.2 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils is embedded into the culture of the school and its everyday practice and procedures.

2.3 All staff have a responsibility to support online safety practices in school and all pupils need to understand their responsibilities in the event of deliberate attempts to breach online safety protocols.

2.4 Online safety is a partnership concern and is not limited to school premises, school equipment or the school day.

2.5 Bullying, harassment or abuse of any kind via digital technologies or mobile phones will not be tolerated and complaints of cyber bullying will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Anti-Bullying and Behaviour Policy.

2.6 Complaints related to child protection will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Safeguarding Policy.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The Head of School of West Didsbury CE Primary School will ensure that:

- All staff should be included in online safety training. Staff must also understand that misuse of the internet may lead to disciplinary action and possible dismissal.
- A Designated Member of Staff for online safety is identified and receives appropriate on-going training, support and supervision and works closely with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- All temporary staff and volunteers are made aware of the school's online safety and online learning Policy and arrangements.
- A commitment to online safety is an integral part of the safer recruitment and selection process of staff and volunteers.

3.2. The Governing Body of the school will ensure that:

- There is a senior member of the school's leadership team who is designated to take the lead on online safety within the school.
- Procedures are in place for dealing with breaches of online safety and security and are in line with Local Authority procedures.
- All staff and volunteers have access to appropriate ICT training.

3.3 The Designated Member of Staff for online safety will:

- Act as the first point of contact with regards to breaches in online safety and security.
- Liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead as appropriate.
- Ensure that ICT security is maintained.
- Attend appropriate training.
- Ensure support and training for staff and volunteers is provided on online safety
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers have received a copy of the school's Acceptable Use Policy document.
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers understand and are aware of the school's online safety and online learning Policy.

- Ensure that the school's ICT systems are regularly reviewed with regard to security.
- Ensure that the virus protection is regularly reviewed and updated.
- Discuss security strategies with the Local Authority particularly where a wide area network is planned.

TEACHING and LEARNING Benefits of internet use for education

4.1 The internet is a part of the statutory curriculum and a necessary tool for staff and children and young people and benefits education by allowing access to world - wide educational resources.

4.2 Access to the internet supports educational and cultural exchanges between students world - wide and enables pupils to participate in cultural, vocational, social and leisure use in libraries, clubs and at home.

4.3 The internet supports professional development for staff through access to national developments, educational materials, good curriculum practice and exchange of curriculum and administration data with the Local Authority and Department for Education (DfE)

4.4 The internet improves access to technical support, including remote management of networks, supports communication with support services, professional associations and colleagues as well as allowing access to, and inclusion in, government initiatives.

4.5 The internet offers opportunities for mentoring pupils and providing peer support for them and their teachers.

4.6 Internet use will be planned to enrich and extend learning activities and access levels will be reviewed to reflect the curriculum requirements and age of the children and young people.

4.7 Children and young people will be educated in the effective use of the internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation.

4.8 Children and young people will be encouraged to question what they read and to seek confirmation of matters of fact from more than one source. They will be taught research techniques including the use of subject catalogues and search engines and encouraged to question the validity, currency and origins of information. Children and young people will also be taught that copying material is worth little without an appropriate commentary demonstrating the selectivity used and evaluating the material's significance.

4.9 Pupils will be taught to acknowledge the source of information used and to respect copyright when using internet material in their own work.

MANAGING INTERNET ACCESS

5.1 Developing good practice in internet use as a tool for teaching and learning is essential. The school internet access will be designed expressly for pupil use and will include filtering appropriate to the age of the children and young people.

5.2 Pupils will be taught what internet use is acceptable and what is not and be given clear objectives for internet use. Staff will guide pupils in on-line activities that will support the learning outcomes planned for the pupil's age and maturity.

5.3 Pupils will be taught what to do if they experience material that they find distasteful, uncomfortable or threatening.

5.4 If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address) and content must be reported to the Internet Service Provider via the ICT coordinator and One Education.

5.5 The school will ensure that the use of Internet derived materials by staff and pupils complies with copyright law.

5.6 Pupils will be taught to be critically aware of the materials they read as well as how to validate information before accepting its validity.

MANAGING E-MAIL

6.1 Personal e-mail or messaging between staff and pupils should not take place.

6.2 Staff must use the school e-mail address if they need to communicate with pupils about their school work e.g. homework, course work etc.

6.3 Pupils and staff may only use approved e-mail accounts on the school system and pupils must inform a member of staff immediately if they receive an offensive e-mail. Whole-class, in-school or group e-mail addresses should be used at KS1 and below.

6.4 Pupils must not reveal details of themselves or others in any e-mail communication or by any personal web space such as an address, telephone number and must not arrange meetings with anyone.

6.5 Access in school to external personal e-mail accounts may be blocked.

6.6 Excessive social e-mail use can interfere with learning and will be restricted.

6.7 E-mail should be authorised before sending to an external organisation just as a letter written on school headed note-paper would be.

6.8 The forwarding of chain letters is not permitted.

6.9 Incoming e-mail should be monitored and attachments should not be opened unless the author is known.

MANAGING WEBSITE CONTENT

7.1 Editorial guidance will ensure that the school's ethos is reflected in the website, information is accurate, well presented and personal security is not compromised.

Care will be taken to ensure that all information is considered from a security viewpoint including the use of photographic material.

7.2 Photographs of pupils will not be used without the written consent of the pupil's parents/carers.

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

7.4 The Head of School or nominated person will have overall editorial responsibility and ensure that all content is accurate and appropriate.

7.5 The website will comply with the school's guidelines for publications and parents/carers will be informed of the school policy on image taking and publishing.

7.6 Use of site photographs will be carefully selected so that any pupils cannot be identified or their image misused.

7.7 The names of pupils will not be used on the website, particularly in association with any photographs.

7.8 Work will only be used on the website with the permission of the pupil and their parents/carers.

7.9 The copyright of all material must be held by the school or be attributed to the owner where permission to reproduce has been obtained.

7.10 Pupils will be taught to consider the thoughts and feelings of others when publishing material to websites and elsewhere. Material which victimises or bullies someone, or is otherwise offensive, is unacceptable and appropriate sanctions will be implemented.

SOCIAL NETWORKING AND CHAT ROOMS

8.1 The school will control access to moderated social networking sites and educate pupils in their safe use.

8.2 Pupils will not access social networking sites e.g. 'Facebook', Instagram or Snapchat in school.

8.3 Pupils will be taught the importance of personal safety when using social networking sites and chat rooms.

8.4 Pupils will not be allowed to access public or unregulated chat rooms.

8.5 Pupils will only be allowed to use regulated educational chat environments and use will be supervised.

8.6 Newsgroups will be blocked unless an educational need can be demonstrated.

8.7 Pupils will be advised to use nick names and avatars when using social networking sites.

8.8 Staff will not exchange social networking addresses or use social networking sites to communicate with pupils. The school strongly advises against any communication with ex-pupils, except for family members.

8.9 Please note that all staff must comply with the Management Support policy document (Social Networking Policy Guidance for Educational Establishments) in the way they act on social networking sites, failure to do so may result in formal disciplinary procedures.

MOBILE PHONES

9.1 Mobile phones will not be used during lessons or formal times where children are present in school without permission of the Head of School. The sending of abusive or inappropriate text messages or files by Bluetooth or any other means is forbidden and will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Anti-Bullying and Behaviour Policies.

9.2 Staff will not be permitted to use cameras in their mobile phones. All pictures need to be taken using school devices eg i-pad or camera.

FILTERING

10.1 The school will work in partnership with parents/carers, the Local Authority, the DfE and the Internet Service Provider to ensure systems to protect pupils and staff are reviewed and improved regularly.

10.2 If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (web site address) and content must be reported to the online safety coordinator or Head of School.

10.3 Any material the school deems to be unsuitable or illegal will be immediately referred to the Internet Watch Foundation (www.iwf.org.uk).

10.4 Regular checks by the school's external ICT support will ensure that the filtering methods selected are appropriate, effective and reasonable.

10.5 Filtering methods will be selected by the school in conjunction with One Education and will be age and curriculum appropriate.

AUTHORISING INTERNET ACCESS

11.1 All staff must read and sign the school's 'Acceptable Use Policy' (A.U.P.) before using any school ICT resources and any staff not directly employed by the school will be asked to sign the A.U.P. policy before being allowed internet access from the school site.

11.2 The school will maintain a current record of all staff and pupils who are allowed access to the school's ICT systems.

11.3 The school will maintain a record of pupils whose parents/carers have specifically requested that their child be denied internet or e-mail access.

11.4 Parents/carers will be asked to sign and return the school's form stating that they have read and understood the school's 'Acceptable Use' document and give permission for their child to access ICT resources.

11.5 Staff will supervise access to the internet from the school site for all pupils.

PHOTOGRAPHIC, VIDEO AND AUDIO TECHNOLOGY

12.1 When not in use all video conferencing cameras will be switched off and turned towards the wall.

12.2 It is not appropriate to use photographic or video technology in changing rooms or toilets.

12.3 Staff may use photographic or video technology, provided by the school, to capture to support school trips and appropriate curriculum activities.

12.4 Staff should not use their own equipment to take photographic or video images of pupils without permission of the Head of School.

12.5 Pupils must have permission from a member of staff before making or answering a videoconference call or making a video or audio recording in school or on educational activities.

12.6 Videoconferencing and webcam use will be appropriately supervised for the pupil's age.

ASSESSING RISKS

13.1 Emerging technologies offer the potential to develop teaching and learning tools but need to be evaluated to assess risks, establish the benefits and to develop good practice. The senior leadership team should be aware that technologies such as mobile phones and devices (smartphones and tablets etc.) with wireless internet access can bypass school filtering systems and allow a new route to undesirable material and communications.

13.2 In common with other media such as magazines, books and video, some material available through the Internet is unsuitable for pupils. The school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users access only appropriate material. However, due to international scale and linked nature of Internet content, it is not always possible to guarantee that unsuitable material may never appear on a school computer. Neither the school nor the Local Authority can accept liability for the material accessed, or any consequences of Internet access.

13.3 Emerging technologies will be examined for educational use before use in school is allowed in order to identify, assess and minimise any risks.

13.4 The use of computer systems without permission or for inappropriate purposes could constitute a criminal offence under the Criminal Misuse Act 1990 and will be dealt with accordingly.

13.5 The Head of School will ensure that the online safety and online learning policy is implemented and compliance with the policy is monitored.

13.6 Access to any websites involving gambling, non-educational games or financial scams is strictly forbidden and will be dealt with accordingly.

INTRODUCING THE POLICY TO PUPILS

14.1 Rules for Internet access will be posted in all rooms where computers are used.

14.2 Responsible Internet use, covering both school and home use, will be included in the PSHE curriculum and integrated into ICT where appropriate.

14.3 Pupils will be instructed in responsible and safe use before being allowed access to the Internet and will be reminded of the rules and risks before any lesson using the Internet.

14.4 Pupils will be informed that internet use will be closely monitored and that misuse will be dealt with appropriately.

CONSULTING STAFF

15.1 It is essential that teachers and learning support staff are confident about using the internet in their work and should be given opportunities to discuss issues and develop appropriate teaching strategies:

- All staff are governed by the terms of the school's 'Acceptable Use Policy' and will be provided with a copy of the online safety and online learning policy and its importance explained.
- All new staff will be given a copy of the policy during their induction.
- Staff development in safe and responsible use of the internet will be provided as required.
- Staff will be aware that internet use can be monitored and traced to the original user. Discretion and professional conduct is essential.
- Senior managers will supervise members of staff who operate the monitoring procedures.

MAINTAINING ICT SECURITY

16.1 Personal and school data sent over the network will be encrypted or otherwise secured.

16.2 Unapproved system utilities and executable files will not be allowed in pupils' work areas or attached to e-mails.

16.3 The ICT coordinator will ensure that the system has the capacity to deal with increased traffic caused by Internet use.

DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS

17.1 Staff, children and young people, parents/carers must know how and where to report incidents. Concerns related to Safeguarding issues must be dealt with through the school's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

17.2 The school's designated person for online safety will be responsible for dealing with complaints and any complaint concerning staff or pupil misuse of the internet must be reported to the Head of School immediately.

17.3 Pupils and parents/carers will be informed of the complaints procedure.

17.4 Parents/carers and pupils will work in partnership with the school staff to resolve any issues.

17.5 As with drugs issues, there may be occasions when the school must contact the police. If appropriate, early contact should be made to discuss strategies and preserve possible evidence.

17.6 Sanctions for misuse may include any or all of the following:

- Interview/counselling by an appropriate member of staff.
- Informing parents/carers.
- Removal of internet access for a specified period of time, which may ultimately prevent access to files held on the system.
- Referral to the police.

PARENTS/CARERS SUPPORT

18.1 Parents/carers will be informed of the school's Acceptable Use Policy which may be accessed on the school website.

18.2 Any issues concerning the internet will be handled sensitively to inform parents/carers without undue alarm.

18.3 Advice on filtering systems and appropriate educational and leisure activities including responsible use of the Internet will be made available to parents/carers.

18.4 Interested parents/carers will be referred to organisations such as Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) and Childnet.

18.5 A partnership approach will be encouraged with parents/carers and this may include practical sessions as well as suggestions for safe internet use at home.

18.6 Up to date information on internet safety issues will be provided on the online safety section of the school's website including links for further advice and support.

COMMUNITY USE

19.1 School ICT resources may be increasingly used as part of the extended school agenda.

19.2 Adult users will sign the school's acceptable use policy.

19.3 Parents/carers of children and young people under 16 years of age will be required to sign the acceptable use policy on behalf of their child.

Hannah Large

Head of School

Agreed: March 2021

Paul Blackburn

Chair of Governors

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