



## **INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

The internet is a valuable teaching and learning tool. It provides information and allows people to communicate with others and share information. It can develop children's independent research skills and promote life-long learning. In our school the internet is to be used for the purposes of education under the guidance of the class teachers. As we are aware some material available on the Internet is unsuitable for children and therefore these guidelines will be followed when using the internet.

### **Pupils' 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 Access to the Internet may be withdrawn from pupils who fail to maintain acceptable standards of use.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 a filtering service. However no filtering service is completely foolproof 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 networks.
- Cause any form of vandalism to the machine or the work of others including the up loading or creation of viruses.
- Violate copyright laws.
- Use another user's password.
- Trespass in another user's folders, work or files.
- Publish any personal information, whether in emails, on personal profiling sites or in any other public manner.
- Take part in any bullying behaviour.

### **Organisation and Management of Internet Use**

Staff will select sites which will support pupils' learning. Pupils may be given with 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 educational purposes and e-mails will be checked before being sent. Pupils will not be allowed to send personal emails from the school system without permission. In-coming email will be regarded as public and may be examined by any staff member. The use of chat rooms is forbidden.

### **The School Website**

Children will have the opportunity to see their work (essays, paintings, poems etc.) published on the school website. When work is chosen, the children are never individually identified. From time to time we may also publish photos of students on the school website, engaged in school activities. Again, the children are never individually identified. Written consent will be obtained from the appropriate adult before publishing of any above mentioned work or photographs.

**Ratified by Board of Management on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009.**