

## **Internet Access Policy**

### **Internet in the Curriculum**

The Internet is a valuable resource that can raise educational standards by offering both pupils and teachers opportunities to search for information from a very wide range of sources based throughout the world. As with any school resource, ICT needs to be organised and managed to maximise its effectiveness and the contribution it can make to developing and supporting the educational policies of the school.

### **Internet Access**

Teachers need to create the right balance between protecting pupils, security IT systems and improving access to systems and the Internet.

Pupils should be educated to develop a responsible attitude to computer and Internet use within and outside the school environment in the expectation that pupils will make the right decisions if they understand the issues. The school will regulate Internet access. Pupils cannot be relied upon to foresee every possible danger. At White Court School, Internet access will be directly controlled by an adult working with a group of pupils. A rules approach will be taken with older pupils, whereby a code of conduct is set. The education and regulation will be appropriate depending on the age and maturity of the pupils. A set of rules and responsibilities are provided for the more mature children. (Year 6)

### **Teachers need to:**

1. investigate the nature of the different media
2. investigate the difficulties that pupils may experience with retrieval and in dealing with large quantities of information.
3. provide well-defined tasks with lists of suitable sources which will direct investigations and help ensure success.
4. Open-ended research involving the unstructured use of search engines or catalogues should be restricted to pupils that have the necessary information handling skills.

Pupils should never feel uncomfortable or threatened by messages received or material seen. As with bullying, the natural approach should be to tell a teacher.

### **Responsibilities**

There is no legal definition of the term 'pornography' and there are few legal precedents relating to the use of the Internet. There are a number of laws which are likely to apply to the use of the Internet in certain circumstances, including the Obscenity Acts of 1959 and 1964, The Protection of Children Act 1978, The Indecent Displays Act 1981 and The Criminal Justice Act 1988. The use of a computer system without permission or for a purpose not agreed by the school could constitute a criminal offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990. In many cases, laws relating to copyright, libel, obscenity or incitement to racial hatred are likely to apply to the use of the Internet.

Each member of staff is aware what is acceptable through signing a detailed Code of Practice of Acceptable Internet Use.

### **Management Strategies**

Within the curriculum planning process, management will review the contribution made by Internet use for teaching and learning. White Court School will ensure that it has done everything reasonably possible to ensure appropriate and safe use of the Internet.

Wherever pupils interact with the public by telephone, e-mail or web site, particular care is required to ensure the communication follows sensible rules for personal safety, for instance never giving full name, a home address or telephone number.

The school wishes to control the quality and presentation of material on its Web site, and will not publish photographs with pupils' names on the Web site.

### **Monitoring Internet Access**

Technical solutions to social issues cannot be expected to be fully effective by themselves, but they should form an important part of a holistic approach.

Restricting access to inappropriate material is blocking and filtering. These are performed by the Internet Service Provider (ISP), which is Research Machines.

A blocking strategy generally removes access to a list of unsuitable sites or newsgroups. Maintenance of the list is a major task, as it may contain thousands of sites, and changes must be made frequently.

Filtering examines the content of Web pages or e-mail messages for unsuitable words. The advantage is that no prior work is required, but there are problems, for instance with a Web page containing images only. Filtering of Web searches reduces pupils' opportunities to locate unsuitable material.

E-mail presents particular dangers due to the large volume of messages and the ease of communicating into and out of a safe area such as a school. Software to restrict addressees to a set list is used, and the filtering of e-mail for unsuitable content is provided in the form of easymail and the LEA.

### **Sanctions**

In order to protect pupils and help the school to demonstrate that ICT systems are being used responsibly, occasional monitoring of files or the sites visited will be necessary.

The Code of Practice for both staff and pupils will be used to clarify acceptable Internet use. The Headteacher will deal with any breaches of the Code of Practice.

## **White Court School**

### **Rules for Responsible Internet Use (June 2001)**

The school has installed computers and Internet access to help our learning. These rules will keep everyone safe and help us be fair to others.

- I will only access the system with my own login and password, which I will keep secret;
- I will not access other people's files;
- I will only use the computers for school work and homework;
- I will not bring in floppy disks from outside school unless I have been given permission;
- I will ask permission from a member of staff before using the Internet;
- I will only e-mail people my teacher has approved;
- The messages I send will be polite and responsible;
- I will not give my home address or telephone number, or arrange to meet someone;
- I will report to my teacher immediately if any unpleasant material or messages are sent to me.
- I understand that the school may check my computer files and may monitor the Internet sites I visit.