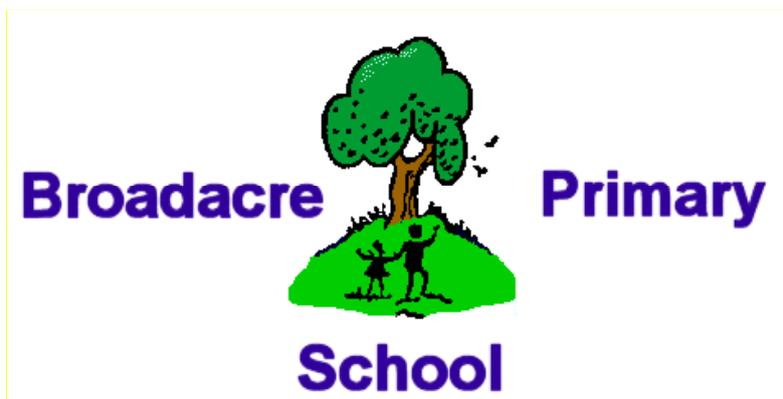


Broadacre Primary School



Internet Usage Policy

Spring 2012

Background

Resources found on the Internet, sometimes referred to as the World Wide Web (WWW) are unlike those found in more traditional media. Historically, the resources used by pupils in schools such as books, videos and other resources are carefully chosen by the teacher and determined by curriculum policies. The Internet, by its open and dynamic nature, may lead pupils to material over which the teacher has had no previous viewing and has therefore been unable to judge its suitability for classroom use. The school endeavours to point pupils to relevant curriculum sites either via its own, or the LEA Intranet, or by previously researched sites that have been identified as being relevant to the area of study.

Whilst pupils are often directed to these sites which provide reviewed and evaluated sources, at times, they are able to move beyond these, to sites unfamiliar to the teacher. Therefore, because use of the Internet is growing rapidly, many schools are concerned by issues and problems raised in the media. Although it is true that some of this media coverage is an exaggeration of the problems that exist, schools are right to be concerned and there is a genuine cause for concern that children might access unsuitable material either accidentally or deliberately.

Aims

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Establish the ground rules we have in school for using the Internet.
- Describe how these fit into the wider context of our discipline and PSHE policies.
- Demonstrate the methods used to protect the children from sites containing pornography, racist or politically extreme views and violence.

The school believes that the benefits to pupils from access to the resources of the Internet, far exceed the disadvantages. Ultimately, the responsibility for setting and conveying the standards that children are expected to follow, when using media and information resources, is one the school shares with parents and guardians. At Broadacre Primary, we feel that the best recipe for success lies in a combination of site-filtering, of supervision and by fostering a responsible attitude in our pupils in partnership with parents. We actively promote E-Safety, where children are taught the rules for being safe when accessing any Internet sites. The school promotes this as a matter of course during the school day in assemblies and lessons.

Parents will be sent an explanatory letter and the rules which form our Acceptable User Policy (AUP). This is attached to the end of this document and can be seen as an extension to the Home School Agreement. All children, with their parents, will have to sign this agreement before they are given access to the Internet. They will also be sent a copy of the rules for their own records. Therefore, this agreement needs to be part of new admissions packs.

Today millions of people regularly use the Internet and e-mail to communicate. Use of the Internet will continue to rise, not only for business and personal use, but also for educational purposes. Already there is a wealth of educational resources available on the Internet and this too will continue to grow. At Broadacre Primary

School we believe that the pupils should have opportunity to use these emerging and changing technologies to support their learning and to equip themselves with the skills that will be required for lifelong learning.

The benefits of using the Internet include:

- access to a wide variety of educational resources including libraries, art galleries and museums.
- gaining an understanding of people and cultures around the world.
- staff professional development through access to new curriculum materials, experts' knowledge and practice.
- exchange of curriculum and administration data with LEA/DFE.
- social and leisure use.
- greatly increased skills in literacy, particularly in being able to read and appraise critically and then communicate what is important to others.

Protecting Children

Broadacre Primary School uses Hull City Council's 'filtered' Internet Service which minimises the risk of accessing inappropriate Internet material or receiving inappropriate e-mail. This Internet Service also has the added value of a resource of curriculum material easily available. Should any pupils access material they have concerns about, they should notify a member of staff, who will then inform the ICT Co-ordinator/E-Safety Officer, Miss Sarah Young. This rule also applies for staff. The Co-ordinator will inform the Service of the address of the offending web site, who will then take appropriate action to block further access. The school will take appropriate action against users, both children and staff, who use the school facilities to knowingly access, or attempt to access inappropriate materials. Therefore, the school reserves the right to access the work area of any user to view files held in that area.

All staff review and evaluate resources available on web sites appropriate to the age range and ability of the pupils being taught and the ICT Co-ordinator assists in the dissemination of this information. Therefore, the school has decided that the teaching staff, who will make the necessary professional judgement regarding access for pupils, will determine individual access to the Internet.

Access for younger pupils is more directed, with autonomous use being available to older pupils. Where pupils are given freedom to search the Internet for information they should be given clear learning objectives by their teacher. The school only allows children to use the Internet when there is a responsible adult present to supervise. However, it is unrealistic to suppose that the teacher's attention will always be directed toward the computer screen.

Pupils are taught to use e-mail and the Internet responsibly to reduce the risk to themselves and others. They are taught how to use the address book, how to attach files to an email and how to follow conventions of politeness. At times, information, such as pictures and text is downloaded from the Internet. We help pupils to decide when it is appropriate to use the Internet, as opposed to other sources of information, in terms of: the time taken, the amount of information found, the usefulness and reliability of information located.

Members of staff are aware of the potential for misuse and will be responsible for explaining to pupils, the expectation we have of pupils. Teachers have access to pupils' emails and other Internet related files and will check these on a regular basis to ensure expectations of behaviour are being met.

All staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an e-safety incident taking place (see documents attached).

Our rules for Internet access will be posted near all computers.

Words of Caution

A number of options have been outlined that restrict access to the Internet, but it must be understood that no system, other than a ban on using the Internet, can ensure users do not access material that is deemed inappropriate. Pornographic material is usually the main focus of filtering methods, but users need to be aware that removing racist, sexist and political material is beyond many filtering programs. There is also the difficulty with any filtering software that content which is deemed offensive to one group of people is regarded differently by others. For these reasons, treating the use of the Internet as an issue that involves pupils, staff and parents would seem to be the most sensible approach.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the 'E-Safety Policy' and the 'ICT Policy'.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Date: February 2012

Review Date: February 2013