

POLICY STATEMENT:USE OF SCHOOL NETWORK AND OF THE INTERNET

RATIONALE

To ensure appropriate use of the school network and of the Internet by both staff and students.

(A) The Value of The Internet

- (1)The Internet is a rich source of information covering many topic areas
- (2)The global nature of The Internet encourages students to learn about other cultures and to communicate in other languages
- (3)The Internet allows pupils to communicate directly with experts in many disciplines
- (4)The content of The Internet is not specified by the teacher - it is not carefully chosen or tailored to the task

(B) The Curriculum and The Internet

- (1)Electronic information research skills are an important part of the society which our pupils will be entering
- (2)Pupils need skills to analyse and evaluate these resources
- (3)Staff will need to guide and instruct pupils in the appropriate use of Internet resources, ensuring close links with the schemes of work and the wider curriculum
- (4)As with any resource, it is important to take into account the various teaching needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of the pupils
- (5)Staff can consult the Network Manager (Curriculum) for advice on content, training and appropriate teaching levels consistent with the school's IT programme of study
- (6)While pupils can move beyond these resources to those which have not been evaluated by staff, they may be provided with guidelines and lists of resources particularly suited to the learning objectives
- (7)The school believes that the benefits to pupils from access to information resources and increased opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages

(C) Responsible Use

- (1)Use of The Internet will only be permitted after submission of permission and agreement forms by pupils and their parents
- (2)Staff will receive INSET from the IT department before allowing pupils to use The Internet
- (3)All members of staff need to be aware of possible misuses of on-line access and their responsibilities towards pupils
- (4)All students are permitted to use The Internet while supervised by a teacher
- (5)All pupils will be informed by staff of their responsibilities as users, before their first use, either as an individual user or as a member of a class or group

- (6)Unsupervised Internet use will not be a compulsory part of any curriculum area
- (7)The school has developed a set of guidelines for Network and Internet use by pupils. These rules will be made available to all pupils, and kept under review
- (8)More independent use will only be permitted upon submission of permission and agreement forms by parents of pupils and by pupils themselves
- (9)Such permission is not transferable and may not be shared.
- (10)The school supports and respects each parent/guardian's right to decide whether or not to apply for independent access

CONCLUSION

The policy will assist staff and students to use the school network and the Internet in responsible and effective ways to support and enhance the fulfilment of the National Curriculum and the requirements of being designated a Technology College.

J W Attwood
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