

Any School

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

[Author Name] [Date Adopted] [Date for Review]

The importance of Internet use in Primary Education

- The Internet is an essential element in 21st Century life for education, business and social interaction. The school has a duty to provide students with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience **and is part of our vision to create an e-Confident School**
- The purpose of Internet use in school is to raise educational standards, to promote pupil achievement, to support the professional work of staff and to enhance the school's management information and business administration systems.
- Internet use is a part of the statutory curriculum and a necessary tool for staff and pupils.

Using the Internet in education allows for

- Access to world-wide educational resources including museums and art galleries;
- Access to expert up to date knowledge for both pupils and staff;
- Fast communication links to support services, professional associations and colleagues and parents.
- Fast exchange of data with the appropriate bodies

Internet use will enhance learning because

- Use of the Internet will be integral in Curriculum Planning for all subjects to specifically enrich and extend the learning process.
- Staff will guide pupils in on-line activities that are planned to support the learning outcomes for the pupils' age and maturity.
- Pupils will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location and retrieval.

Evaluation of Internet content

- If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address) and content must be reported to the Internet Service Provider via the ICT co-ordinator.
- Schools should ensure that the use of Internet derived materials by staff and by pupils complies with copyright law.
- Pupils should be taught to be critically aware of the materials they read and know that material is not necessarily valid just because it is on the Internet.
- Pupils will be taught to acknowledge the source of information and to respect copyright when using Internet material in their own work.

e-Mail Management

- Access in school to external personal e-mail accounts is not permitted
- Only the class e-mail account may be used under supervision of the class teacher
- The class teacher along with all staff have responsibility to ensure that no abuse of the e-mail facility occurs
- E-mail sent to an external organisation should be written carefully and authorised before sending, in the same way as a letter written on school headed paper.

Web site content management

- The point of contact on the Web site should be the school address, school e-mail and telephone number. Staff or pupils' home information will not be published.
- Web site photographs that include pupils will be selected carefully and will not enable individual pupils to be identified.
- Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on the Web site, particularly associated with photographs/digital images and audio content
- Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of pupils are published on the school Web site.
- The Headteacher or nominee will take overall editorial responsibility and ensure content is accurate and appropriate.
- The Web site should comply with the school's guidelines for publications.
- The copyright of all material must be held by the school, or be attributed to the owner where permission to reproduce has been obtained.

Social Media

- Pupils will not be allowed access to social network sites, public or unregulated chat rooms or Newsgroups.
- A risk assessment will be carried out before pupils are allowed to use a new technology in school.

Blogging

- Writing for a blog can be a powerful stimulus for writing as well as a way of communicating ideas and information.
- All contributors must be aware of the fact that they are doing so as a representative of the school. As a result, they must act accordingly and not act in any way detrimental to the school or its community.

Managing emerging Internet use

- Emerging technologies will be examined for educational benefit and a risk assessment will be carried out before use in school is allowed.
- Web based (Web2.0) technologies and online tools are included
- Pupils are not permitted to have Mobile phones in school, however they may make use of handheld devices belonging to the school within the school day

Internet access authorisation

- The school will keep a record of all staff and pupils who are granted Internet access. The record will be kept up-to-date, for instance a member of staff leaving or the withdrawal of a pupil's access.
- This is especially important where a school has a VLE in order to guarantee the security of the system. Access and/or accounts should be suspended upon them leaving the school
- At Key Stage 1, access to the Internet will be by adult demonstration with occasional directly supervised access to specific, approved on-line materials.
- Parents will be informed that pupils will be provided with supervised Internet access. Please see the sample form later in this document.
- Parents will be asked to sign and return a consent form. Please see the sample form later in this document.

Risk assessment

- In common with other media such as magazines, books and video, some material available via the Internet is unsuitable for pupils. The school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users access only appropriate material. However, due to the international scale and linked nature of Internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never appear on a school computer. Neither the school nor the LA can accept liability for the material accessed, or any consequences of Internet access.
- The use of computer systems without permission or for inappropriate purposes could constitute a criminal offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990.
- Methods to identify, assess and minimise risks will be reviewed regularly.
- The Headteacher will ensure that the Internet Use Policy is implemented and compliance with the policy monitored.

Filter Management

- The school will work in partnership with the LA and other bodies, to ensure systems to protect pupils are reviewed and improved.
- If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address) and content must be reported to the LA (and ISP if appropriate) via the ICT co-ordinator and Headteacher.
- Filtering strategies will be selected by the school, in discussion with the LA/filtering provider where appropriate. Where possible, the filtering strategy will be selected to suit the age and curriculum requirements of the pupils.

E-Safety Education

- All pupils and staff will be given education and training in e-safety at an age/role appropriate level

Policy Roll-out to Pupils

- Rules for Internet access will be posted near all computer systems.
- Pupils will be informed that Internet use will be monitored.
- Instruction in responsible and safe use should precede Internet access.

Staff consultation

- All staff must accept the terms of the 'Responsible Internet Use' statement before using any Internet resource in school.
- All staff including teachers, supply staff, classroom assistants and support staff, will be provided with the School Internet Policy, and its importance explained.
- Staff should be aware that Internet traffic can be monitored and traced to the individual user. Discretion and professional conduct is essential.
- The monitoring of Internet use is a sensitive matter. Staff who operate monitoring procedures should be supervised by senior management.
- Staff development in the safe and responsible Internet use, and on school Internet policy will be provided as required.

ICT system security

- There will be a regular review of ICT security in conjunction with the
- Virus protection will be installed and updated regularly.
- Security strategies will be discussed with the LA or appropriate body, particularly where a wide area network connection is being planned.
- Personal data sent over the Internet will be encrypted or otherwise secured.
- Use of removable media will be reviewed. Personal pen drives may not be brought into school without specific permission and a virus check.
- Unapproved system utilities and executable files will not be allowed in pupils' work areas or attached to e-mail.
- Files held on the school's network will be regularly checked.
- The IT co-ordinator / network manager will ensure that the system has the capacity to take the ever increasing traffic caused by Internet use.

Complaints Procedure

- The Headteacher has responsibility for handling incidents/complaints
- Any complaint about staff misuse must be referred *immediately* to the Headteacher.
- Pupils and parents will be informed of the complaints procedure.
- Parents and pupils will need to work in partnership with staff to resolve issues.
- The School cannot be held responsible for incidents of misuse or bullying that take place outside of school and beyond its control, for example misuse of social networking media or mobile phones. However, it will work with pupils and parents to minimise the occurrence of such incidents through its e-safety education

Parental Support

- Parents' attention will be drawn to the School Internet Policy in newsletters, the school prospectus and on the school Web site.
- Internet issues will be handled sensitively to inform parents without undue alarm.
- A partnership approach with parents will be encouraged. This could include demonstrations, practical sessions and suggestions for safe Internet use at home.
- Advice on filtering systems and educational and leisure activities that include responsible use of the Internet will be made available to parents.

Internet use across the school community

- Adult users will need to sign the acceptable use policy.
- Parents/carers of children under 18 years of age will generally be required to sign an acceptable use policy on behalf of the child.

We use the school computers and Internet connection for learning. These rules will help us to be fair to others and keep everyone safe.

- I will ask permission before entering any Web site, unless my teacher has already approved that site.**
- On a network, I will use only my own login and password, which I will keep secret.**
- I will not look at or delete other people's files.**
- I will not bring floppy disks into school without permission.**
- I will only e-mail people I know, or my teacher has approved.**
- The messages I send will be polite and sensible.**
- When sending e-mail, I will not give my home address or phone number, or arrange to meet someone.**
- I will ask for permission before opening an e-mail or an e-mail attachment.**
- I will not use Internet chat/ social networks.**
- I see anything I am unhappy with or I receive messages I do not like, I will tell a teacher immediately.**
- I know that the school may check my computer files and may monitor the Internet sites I visit.**
- I understand that if I deliberately break these rules, I could be stopped from using the Internet or computers.**

The school may exercise its right by electronic means to monitor the use of the school's computer systems, including the monitoring of web-sites, the interception of E-mail and the deletion of inappropriate materials in circumstances where it believes unauthorised use of the school's computer system is or may be taking place, or the system is or may be being used for criminal purposes or for storing text or imagery which is unauthorised or unlawful.

Sample Letter to Parents

1 July 2003

Dear Parents

Responsible Internet Use

As part of your child's curriculum and the development of ICT skills, MGL Primary School is providing supervised access to the Internet. We believe that the use of the World Wide Web and e-mail is worthwhile and is an essential skill for children as they grow up in the modern world. Please would you read the attached Rules for Responsible Internet Use, and sign and return the consent form so that your child may use Internet at school.

Although there have been concerns about pupils having access to undesirable materials, we are taking positive steps to deal with this risk in school. Our school Internet provider operates a filtering system that restricts access to inappropriate materials. This may not be the case at home and we can provide references to information on safe Internet access if you wish. We also have leaflets from national bodies that explain the issues further.

Whilst every endeavour is made to ensure that suitable restrictions are placed on the ability of children to access inappropriate materials, the School cannot be held responsible for the nature or content of materials accessed through the Internet. The School will not be liable for any damages arising from your child's use of the Internet facilities.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of Internet use (or to see a lesson in operation) please telephone me to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Boss
Headteacher

Sample Consent Form

Gaining pupils' and parents' agreement to the Rules for Responsible Internet Use is important but requires sound organisation. Some schools do this once each year, at the same time as checking the home and emergency contact details. The Rules for Responsible Internet Use should be included with the letter to parents to avoid any misunderstanding.

For pupils above the age of 16 and not living at home or for pupils 18 or older, the school should be able to rely on the consent of the pupil alone. Otherwise parent's consent must be obtained. It is also wise to obtain parent's permission to publish pupil's work and to publish pupil's photographs, subject to strict safeguards, on the school Web site.

MGL Primary School Responsible Internet Use Please complete, sign and return to the school secretary	
Pupil:	Form:
Pupil's Agreement I have read and understand the school Rules for Responsible Internet Use. I will use the computer system and Internet in a responsible way and obey these rules at all times.	
Signed:	Date:
Parent's Consent for Internet Access I have read and understood the school rules for responsible Internet use and give permission for my son / daughter to access the Internet. I understand that the school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure pupils cannot access inappropriate materials. I understand that the school cannot be held responsible for the nature or content of materials accessed through the Internet. I agree that the school is not liable for any damages arising from use of the Internet facilities.	
Signed:	Date:
Please print name:	
Parent's Consent for Web Publication of Work and Photographs/digital images and audio content I agree that, if selected, my son/daughter's work may be published on the school Web site. I also agree that photographs/ digital images and audio content that include my son/daughter may be published subject to the school rules that photographs/images will not clearly identify individuals and that full names will not be used.	
Signed:	Date:

