Acceptable use of the Internet and Digital Technologies in St. Joseph's Primary School

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St. Joseph's Primary School

Introduction

At St. Joseph's we aim to provide an excellent standard of education for all our children. As part of this commitment we aim to deliver education in an atmosphere of safety, fairness and equality. In the area of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) there are some concerns regarding issues relating to safety and child protection. The Board of Governors will ensure that St. Joseph's Primary school has a policy on the safe, healthy, acceptable and effective use of the Internet and other digital tools e.g. digital cameras, mobile phones, tablet devices and gaming hand-helds which have downloadable capabilities e.g. Nintendo DS Lite or PSP's. They also promote safe and acceptable practices for all staff and pupils.

Advice for Parents

It should be noted that the school's access to the internet is an intranet, which is different from the internet you have at home. An intranet is a list of websites that have been censored and deemed suitable by the Department of Education. Websites which are deemed unsuitable (such as content of an adult nature) are blocked and cannot be accessed by staff or pupils. Our system is filtered and monitored and all users are aware that how they use the internet can be traced.

While in school, teachers will guide pupils toward appropriate materials on the internet. Outside school, parents or guardians bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they would normally exercise with information sources such as internet, Youtube, television, smart phones, movies, radio and other media.

General

- Use of ICT in the Northern Ireland education community must be in support of the aims and objectives of the Northern Ireland Curriculum

- All users must comply with all copyright laws

- All users must limit their use of the Internet for school related purposes – examples of this include the use of email, the use of the Internet to investigate and research school subjects and staff using the Internet to further develop their professional development

- All users are expected to behave in an appropriate manner when communicating with others

- All users must be aware that the use of the Internet in schools is a privilege and not a right and this privilege will be withdrawn if it misused

- All users must respect the hardware and software that has been made available to them

- All users must respect the work of others

Pupils

- Pupils must agree to the appropriate 'Code of Conduct' for their age annually.

- Pupils must not enter the folders or files of anyone else

- Pupils must be aware that teachers have the right to enter any pupil folder in their own class

- The ICT Co-ordinator and Principal reserve the right to enter any pupil's folder

- Pupils must not use the Internet for unapproved purposes

- P3-7 pupils change their password every 90 days and are reminded to give 'strong' passwords which they will not disclose to others

- Pupils should be discouraged from bringing mobile phones and hand-held gaming consoles with downloadable capabilities to schools on the grounds that they:

    - are valuable and may be lost or stolen.
    - are capable of storing images that are inappropriate

Parents

- Parents should counter sign their child's 'Code of Conduct' annually

- Parents should be aware that the access to the Internet provided to staff and pupils in school has limiting security features

- Parents should be aware that the use of the Internet in school is closely monitored by staff

- Parents should be aware that there will be no use of the Internet without the supervision of staff and that this will be in full view of others, e.g. the classroom or the library

- Parents should, in co-operation with staff, make pupils aware of the rules and expectations within this document

- Parents should be aware that the use of ICT is complimentary to the teaching already done – i.e. the use of computers in the classroom is a tool

- Parents should be aware that children's full names will not be available online at any stage but some indication of work they do could be added to any online work that becomes available on the school website

- Parent should be aware that no photographs of pupils will be available online without parents giving their permission and group photographs will be used mainly

- Parents should discourage pupils from bringing mobile phones to school on the grounds that Internet access becomes very difficult to police

- Parents should also be aware that social networking sites such as Facebook adhere to a strict 'over 13's' age policy.

- Parents should be aware that some hand-held gaming consoles have downloadable capabilities (e.g Nintendo DS Lite or PSP's). St. Joseph's discourages these consoles being brought to school (only during 'Golden Time' termly under teacher supervision).

Addendum

- Network administrators reserve the right to review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that the users are using the system responsibility – they will respect the right to privacy whenever possible

- Any parent or member of staff who wishes to discuss this document can put any questions to:-

Mrs Laura Fitzsimons (Principal)

- This document is based on
St. Joseph's P.S ICT Policy
Acceptable Use of the Internet and Digital Technologies in Schools
(DENI Circular 2007/1 – 18 June 2007)