



Internet Access Policy

Evidence of intentions and practice - for the information of staff, governors, parents, LA, OFSTED and DfE

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Approved by:
Curriculum Committee

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PARKSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Internet Access Policy

- 1 Today millions of people regularly use the Internet and e-mail to communicate. Use of the Internet will 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 Parkstone Primary School we believe that pupils should have the 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.
- 2 Resources found on the Internet are unlike those found in more traditional media. Historically, resources such as books, videos and other resources could be carefully selected for the learning process. 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 will endeavour to point pupils to relevant curriculum sites whether via its own, or the LA Intranet, or by previously researched sites that have been identified as being relevant to the area of study.
- 3 Research using electronic methods is now fundamental to preparing pupils for citizenship and future employment possibilities. The school will ensure that opportunities for integrating the use of the Internet into the curriculum will be planned and that staff will guide pupils in its use. The school has subscriptions to several educational websites (Espresso, MyMaths, J2E and Linguafun) which offer a wide range of activities and information and which can be used to support learning and teaching in all areas of the curriculum.
- 4 The school recognises that training the staff in preparation for using the Internet is vital. The school will use a variety of agencies to train staff in integrating new technologies into the curriculum. In addition, staff will be given the opportunity to discuss issues surrounding the use of the Internet and develop appropriate teaching strategies.
- 5 The school will use an Internet Service Provider (ISP) that has filtering software in place to minimise the risk of accessing inappropriate Internet material or receiving inappropriate e-mail. The chosen ISP will also have the added value of a resource of curriculum material easily available. Should any pupil access any material they have concerns about, they should notify a member of staff, who will then inform the Computing subject leader. The subject leader will inform the ISP 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 that 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.

- 6 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. It is anticipated that access for younger pupils will be 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.
- 7 Pupils will be taught to use e-mail and the Internet responsibly to reduce the risk to themselves and others in accordance to the e-safety policy. Our rules for Internet access will be posted near computers that have access to the Internet.
- 8 The school believes that access to the Internet will enable pupils to explore resources available from libraries, other schools, LAs and commercial content providers in a way that will enhance the learning process in ways impossible by other means. E-mail will allow communication to be made with other individuals and organisations, regardless of time and distance.
- 9 The school believes that access to this technology brings benefits to the learning process that outweighs the possible risks that might be encountered.
- 10 The final responsibility for use of the Internet lies with the parents and guardians of the pupil. Therefore, parental permission will be sought before allowing pupils to access the Internet from the school system. Parents will be sent a letter, complete with tear off slip, explaining the schools' use of the Internet and a copy of the pupils' rules.
- 11 All staff have read and signed the staff Code of Conduct for Computing.

The policy will be reviewed annually.

Dear Parents / carers

Responsible Use of the Internet

As part of pupils' curriculum enhancement and the development of ICT capability, Parkstone Primary School provides filtered access to the internet.

Children will have the opportunity to exchange electronic mail with partner schools and research information from museums, libraries, news providers and suitable websites as part of their learning.

Although there have been concerns about children having access to undesirable materials, we are taking positive steps to deal with that possibility. Our Internet access is from a supplier that operates a filtering system that restricts access to inappropriate materials. All our screens are in public view and, as stated above, access will be filtered.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of internet use please telephone me to arrange an appointment.

I enclose a copy of the Rules for Responsible Internet Use that we operate here at Parkstone Primary School. Please will you read this through with your child and then sign and return the slip below.

We also have a number of leaflets from national bodies that explain issues further and also cover Internet use at home.

Yours sincerely

Miss C Smith
Headteacher

_____ PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FOLLOWING SECTION

I have read and accept the rules for responsible Internet use for pupils.

My child _____ of class _____

also agrees to read and follow the rules for responsible Internet use.

I understand that suitable guidance and supervision will be provided during access to the Internet.

Date _____

signed _____