

Approved: Spring 2021

Review Due: Spring 2023

Website Policy

THE GLEBE PRIMARY
SCHOOL

Internet Access Policy



The Glebe Primary School
Acceptable Use of Technology Policy
(Including Acceptable Internet Use)
2021 - 2023

Our school's 'Acceptable Use' policy is part of the school's overall safeguarding and computing policies and will relate to other policies including those for behaviour.

This policy must be used in line with *General Data Protection Regulations - GDPR*

The Importance of the Internet and Technology to access it in Schools.

The purpose of Internet access in school is to raise standards of attainment and achievement, to support the professional work of staff and to enhance the school's management and information systems. Access to the Internet is a vital tool for staff and pupils. It is therefore a requirement as part of safeguarding and GDPR for children and staff to always take responsible and mature approach.

How the use of Technology Benefits the School

A number of studies and government projects have indicated the benefits to be gained through the appropriate use of the Internet in education.

These benefits include:

- Access to world-wide educational resources including museums and art galleries.
- The ability to share pupil information between educational establishments.
- Inclusion in government initiatives.
- Information and cultural exchanges between pupils world-wide.
- Discussion with experts in many fields for pupils and staff.
- Staff professional development - access to educational materials and good curriculum practice.
- Communication with the advisory and support services, professional associations and colleagues.
- Improved access to technical support.
- Exchange of curriculum and administration data with the LA, DfE and other organisations.

Using the Technology to provide effective learning

Teachers, parents and pupils need to develop good practice in using the Internet as tool for teaching and learning. There is a fine balance between encouraging autonomous learning and maintaining adequate supervision. Systems that ensure Internet use is as safe as possible will enable increased use and the quality of that use is a critical factor. Internet access is provided by Virgin and managed by One IT and provides a service designed for pupils. This includes filtering system that is appropriate to the age of pupils.

- Internet access will be planned to enrich and extend learning activities.
- Access levels will be reviewed to reflect the curriculum requirement.
- Pupils will be given clear objectives for Internet use.
- Staff will select sites that will support the learning outcomes planned for pupils' age and maturity.
- Approved sites will be bookmarked, listed or copied to the school network.
- Pupils will be educated in taking responsibility for Internet access.

How pupils will be taught to assess Internet content and use technology

Pupils in school are unlikely to see inappropriate content in books due to selection by publishers and teachers. This level of control is not so straightforward with Internet-based materials. Therefore, teaching should be widened to incorporate Internet content issues, for instance the value and credibility of Web materials in relationship to other media. The tendency to use the Web when better information may be obtained from books will need to be challenged.

- Pupils will be taught ways to validate information before accepting that it is necessarily true.
- Pupils will be taught to acknowledge the source of information and observe copyright when using Internet material for their own use.
- Pupils will be made aware that the writer of an e-mail, or the author of a Web page might not be the person claimed.
- Pupils will be encouraged to tell a teacher immediately if they encounter any material that makes them feel uncomfortable.

The management of e-mail

E-mail is an essential means of communication within education. The government is encouraging the ownership of personal e-mail accounts for both teachers and pupils, but care needs to be taken that the implications for the school and for the pupil are appreciated. Once e-mail is available it is difficult to control its content, nevertheless e-mail content should not be considered private. Software to restrict incoming and outgoing e-mail to a list of approved establishments is being considered as the filtering of e-mail for unsuitable content and viruses is now possible. The school uses the Local Authority 'Office 365' email platform for staff and pupils.

- Pupils will not be given individual e-mail accounts, but will use year group e-mail accounts shared by all when they use email at school.
- Pupils need to use e-mail as part of the National Curriculum.
- E-mail must only be used in school for educational purposes.
- Pupils will not be allowed to access personal e-mail from the school system.
- Pupils may only send e-mail as part of planned lessons.
- In-coming pupil e-mail will be regarded as public and must be monitored by teachers.
- All received pupil e-mail must be examined by the teacher.
- The forwarding of chain/spam, or viral materials will be banned, as will the use of instant messaging, or chat rooms.
- Chat programs will not be allowed.

The management of the school's web site

The Glebe Primary School have developed a web site that houses a wealth of information about the school, and the curriculum offered. The web site manager is in charge of uploading appropriate content to the website. The website manager ensures that the Web site reflects the school's ethos and that information is accurate and well presented. As the school's Web site can be accessed by anyone on the Internet, the security of staff and pupils must be considered carefully. Although common in newspaper reports, the publishing of pupils' names beside photographs that identify individuals has been considered inappropriate on the Web pages. While any risks might be small, the parents' perception of risk has been considered in the devising of this policy.

- The Head Teacher/SLT will delegate editorial responsibility to members of staff to ensure that content is accurate and quality of presentation is maintained.
- Pupils will be made aware that the quality of their work published on the Web needs to reflect the diversity of the audience.
- All material must be the author's own work, or where permission to reproduce has been obtained, clearly marked with the copyright owner's name.
- The point of contact on the web site should be the school address and telephone number. Home information, or individual e-mail identities will not be published.
- Photographs must not identify individual pupils. Group shots, or pictures will be used in preference to individual "passport" style images.
- Full names will not be used anywhere on the Web site, particularly alongside photographs.
- Written permission from parents will be sought before photographs, or pupils work are published on the school web site.

The availability of other Internet applications

The Internet is the underlying technology, but new applications are being developed to use this ability to communicate, such as Chat, Newsgroups and webcams. Many of these facilities have great potential for education, for instance pupils exchanging live text, speech, or video with a similar class in another location around the country, or world, at low cost. However, most new applications start without the needs of young users being considered, particularly the area of security.

- Pupils will not be allowed to access public chat rooms/instant messaging.
- Pupils will not be allowed to access newsgroups.
- New facilities will be thoroughly tested before pupils are given access.

The authorisation of Internet access

In school, all staff and all pupils will be granted access to the Internet. Parental permission will be required before children can access the Internet and e-mail.

- Internet access is a necessary part of statutory curriculum. It is an entitlement for pupils as long as it is used responsibly.
- Internet access will be granted to a whole class as part of the scheme of work, after a suitable education in the responsible use of the Internet.
- Parents will be informed that pupils will be provided with supervised Internet access., and permission will be sought.

The assessment of risk when using the Internet in school

The school will address the issue that it is difficult to remove completely the risk that pupils might access unsuitable materials via the school system. In common with other media such as magazines, books, and video, some material available via the Internet is unsuitable for pupils. The school will supervise pupils and take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users access only appropriate material, including the use of strict filtering software called 'Smoothwall' from One IT. However, due to the international scale and linked nature of information available via the Internet, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never appear on a school machine. Neither the school, nor Stockton On Tees Local Authority can accept liability for the material accessed, or any consequences thereof.

- The use of computer systems without permission, or for purposes not agreed by the school could constitute a criminal offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990.
- Methods to identify, assess, and minimise risks will be reviewed regularly.
- Staff, parents, governors and advisers will work to establish agreement that every reasonable measure is being taken.
- The Head Teacher will ensure that the policy is implemented effectively.

Ensuring safe Internet access

The Internet is a communications medium that is freely available to any person wishing to send e-mail, or publish a Web site on almost any topic. Access to appropriate information should be encouraged, but Internet access must be safe for all members of the school community from youngest pupil to teacher, and administrative staff. The technical strategies being developed to restrict access to inappropriate material fall into two overlapping types (sometimes all referred to as filtering): Blocking strategies remove access to a list of unsuitable sites, or newsgroups. 'Smoothwall' contains an extensive list of blocked sites, and monitors computer activity, blocking sites as appropriate. The school can also add inappropriate sites to this list. Filtering examines the content of web pages, or e-mail messages for unsuitable words. Blocking and/or filtering, as previously stated, is performed by 'Smoothwall' from One It.

- Pupils will be informed that Internet use will be supervised and monitored.
- The school will work in partnership with parents and the LA to ensure systems to protect pupils are reviewed and improved.
- If staff, or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address) and content will be reported to the SLT, and then to One It so that the site can be blocked.
- Any material that the school suspects is illegal will also be referred to the SLT.
- Any warnings flagged by the school, or 'One It' will be investigated, followed-up, and recorded in line with safeguarding procedures.

The maintenance of security of the ICT systems

The Internet is a new connection to the outside world that could compromise system performance, or threaten security.

- Security strategies will be put in place in line with LA procedures.
- The security of the whole system will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.
- Personal data should not be sent over the Internet from school except in CTF files.
- Virus protection, and monitoring software will be installed and updated regularly on all machines.
- Use of e-mail to send, and receive attachments will be monitored by 'Smoothwall'.
- Staff should not use school computers to access personal e-mail accounts, i.e. Hotmail, Gmail.

The complaints procedure regarding Internet use

Prompt action is taken if a complaint is made, or inappropriate use flagged. Transgressions of the rules could include minor as well as the potentially serious consequences, and a range of sanctions will be devised, linked to the school's behaviour policy.

- Responsibility for handling incidents will be given to the SLT.
- Pupils, and parents will be informed that computer use is monitored.
- Parents will always be informed when inappropriate ICT use occurs.
- Sanctions follow the school behaviour policy and can include banning children from using computers for a period of time.

Staff and pupil consultation about the Internet

It is very important that staff feel prepared for Internet use and consider that the school AUP is appropriate. Staff should be given opportunities to discuss the issues and develop appropriate teaching strategies.

- Rules for Internet access will be posted near computer systems. The Rules for Responsible Internet Use will be printed as posters.
- All staff including teachers, teaching assistants and other staff, will be have access to the AUP, and its importance explained.
- Parents' attention will be drawn to the Policy by letters explaining it.
- Teachers are responsible for discussing the acceptable use of school computers, and the internet with their classes.

Enlisting parental support for the use of the Internet

Internet use in pupils' homes is increasing rapidly. Unless parents are aware of the dangers, pupils may have unrestricted access to the Internet. The school may be able to help parents plan appropriate, supervised use of the Internet at home.

- A careful balance between informing, and alarming parents will be maintained.
- Demonstrations, and practical ICT sessions for parents will be organised to encourage a partnership approach.
- Joint home/school guidelines on issues such as safe Internet use will be established.
- Suitable educational, and leisure activities that make responsible use of the Internet will be developed with parents.

The Glebe Primary School

ACCEPTABLE INTERNET USE STATEMENT FOR ALL SCHOOL STAFF

The computer systems are owned by the school, and made available to pupils to further their education and to staff to enhance their professional activities including teaching, research, administration and management. The school has an AUP drawn up to protect all parties - the pupils, the staff and the school.

The school reserves the right to examine, or delete any files that may be held on its computer systems, or to monitor any Internet sites visited.

- Access should only be made via the authorised account and password that should not be made available to any other person.
- Sites and materials accessed must be appropriate to work in school. Users will recognise materials that are inappropriate and should expect to have their access removed.
- Users are responsible for all e-mail sent, and for contacts made that may result in e-mail being received.
- The same professional levels of language, and content should be applied as for letters, or other media, particularly as e-mail is often forwarded.
- Posting anonymous messages, and forwarding chain/spam, or viral emails is forbidden.
- Copyright of materials, and intellectual property rights must be respected.
- All Internet use should be appropriate to staff professional activity, or to children's education.

However please note that:

- Use for personal financial gain, gambling, political purposes, or advertising is forbidden.
- Closed discussion groups can be useful, but the use of public chat rooms is not allowed.
- Staff are asked to use school computers to check Office 365 e-mail only and not personal e-mail such as Hotmail, or Gmail.

Members of staff are reminded that they should not deliberately seek out inappropriate / offensive materials on the Internet and that they are subject to the LEA's recommended disciplinary procedures should they do so.

Staff should sign a copy of this Acceptable Internet Use Statement and return it to the ICT Leader.

Full name _____

Post _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Dear Parent/Carer,

Responsible Use of the Internet

As part of your child's learning and the development of ICT skills, The Glebe Primary School is providing supervised access to the Internet including e-mail. We believe that the effect use of the Internet and email is worthwhile and is an essential skill for the children as they grow up.

Although there are concerns about pupils having access to undesirable materials, we have taken positive steps to reduce this risk in school. Our school Internet access provider, Virgin and One It operates a very strict filtering system that restricts access to inappropriate materials and websites.

I enclose a copy of the Rules for Responsible Computer and Internet Use that we operate at The Glebe Primary School.

Please would you read the attached rules, then sign, and return the consent form so that your child may use the computers and Internet at school.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of Internet use, please contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Head Teacher

Permission for Internet Access

I give permission for my child to use the internet whilst supervised at school. I have read the Rules for Responsible Internet Use.

Child's name: _____

Child's class: _____

Parent's name: _____

Signed: _____

(Please circle): I am Father Mother Other: _____

The Glebe Primary School

Rules for Responsible Computer and Internet Use

The school has installed computers and Internet access to help our learning. These rules will keep everyone safe and help us be fair to others.

- I will only use my own username, and password.
- I will not open other people's files.
- I will use the computers only for schoolwork, and homework.
- I will not bring USB sticks into school without permission from my teacher.
- I will ask permission from a member of staff before using a computer.
- I will not type inappropriate words, or try and search for inappropriate websites.
- I understand that the school can check everything I type, and the websites I visit.
- I will not try to look at my own email at school.
- To help protect other pupils, and myself, I will tell a teacher if I see anything inappropriate.

THE GLEBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Internet Access Policy

This Policy has been approved at a meeting
Of the Governing Body of the Glebe Primary School

On: 11/02/23

To be reviewed: Spring 2023

Chair of Governors: Gill Broome