Internet Safety Policy

This policy was agreed by the Governing Body of Sageston CP School on:
Date: 09.01.23

Signed: Mrs R Lloyd (Chair of Governors)

Sageston CP School

Internet Safety Policy

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1. Introduction

Generally, any resources used by pupils in school are subject to evaluation and approval by teachers and often tailor-made for their educational requirements. Use of the Internet however, will inherently provide the pupil with access to information that has not been subject to any such selection procedures. Whilst pupils will only have supervised access to the Internet and frequently be directed to specific, approved websites, there remains the risk that they may be able to move beyond these to sites unfamiliar to the teacher.

The problems and issues surrounding children and their use of the Internet are well documented and there is a general concern that pupils might access unsuitable material either accidentally or deliberately.

The purpose of this policy is to:
- Establish the ground rules for Internet use.
- Establish guidelines for pupils' use of email.
- Demonstrate the methods used to protect pupils from sites containing unsuitable materials.

We believe that the benefits afforded to pupils from Internet access outweigh the disadvantages. To ensure that pupils' access is as safe as possible the school uses a web filtering service but also aims to foster a responsible attitude to Internet use from pupils, supported by the Pupil Internet Agreement.

2. Use of the Internet for Education

The benefits include:
- Access to a wide variety of educational resources
- Access to interactive learning materials
- Use of email

- Raising standards in other Areas of Learning and Experience
- Improved motivation in pupils
- Improved staff professional development through access to dynamic curriculum material and inclusion in Government initiatives.

Our school teaches ICT both as a discrete subject and as a tool for delivering the broader curriculum in accordance with the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and Digital Competence Framework. Children in all year groups will use the Internet in lessons in a variety of ways throughout the academic year. Email use is more relevant to the work undertaken by pupils later in Progression Step 2 and Progression Step 3.

3. Pupils' access to the Internet

Our school accesses the internet via Pembrokeshire's website which screens websites being used by pupils for inappropriate material, blocking any sites deemed unsuitable. Unfortunately, no system is foolproof and other procedures are in place to supplement this service.

Pupils will only be allowed to access the Internet when supervised and will follow and understand the rules of the Pupil Internet Agreement. They will be aware of the procedure to follow should inappropriate material appear on screen.

Teachers will have access to pupils' emails and will check them to ensure expected standards of behaviour are adhered to.

In many lessons where the Internet is used a learning tool, teachers will direct pupils to a specific website that has been reviewed and evaluated. Where search engines are used, where appropriate, pupils will be directed to use child-friendly search engines. Frequently used websites will be book marked and stored in the "Favourites" menu to minimise the risk of pupils inadvertently straying away from their intended website.

4. Expectations of Pupils using the Internet

- All pupils are expected to follow the expectations of behaviour outlined in the Pupil Internet Agreement.

- Pupils using the Internet are not expected to deliberately seek out offensive materials. Should they encounter any inappropriate material accidentally they should first minimise the window it appears in, then report it to their teacher so that further access to that website can be blocked.

- Pupils must ask permission before accessing the Internet and have a clear idea why they are using it.

- No program files may be downloaded from the Internet as this carries the risk of viruses and data corruption, which could cause serious damage to the network.

- No programs on disc, CD Rom or memory stick should be brought in from home for use in school. This is for both legal and security reasons.

- Pupils should not access other pupils' files unless permission has been given.

- Pupils must not attempt to enter chatrooms of any kind whilst using the Internet in school.

- When using email pupils will only contact recipients approved by the school and must not give out personal information such as telephone numbers or attempt to make arrangements to meet someone they communicate with online. Pupils must follow the rules for email etiquette that their teacher will outline, such as appropriate language and topics of conversation. Emails from Hwb accounts will only be sent as part of planned lessons.

- At our school we expect pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour on the Internet just as they do anywhere else in school. Any pupils who do not comply with these expectations of behaviour will be warned and may be denied further access to Internet resources.

5. Pupil Internet Agreement

All pupils and their Parent/Guardians will be asked to read and sign an agreement covering the expectations we have of pupils using the Internet in school. Any pupils who persistently fail to comply with the Internet Agreement may be denied further access to Internet resources.