

Allendale Primary School

E-Safety Policy

Why use the Internet?

The Internet allows staff and pupils to access a wide range of information and resources from a number of providers in an interactive environment. The Internet provides access to a wealth of information and learning resources through web sites connected to museums, libraries, government and educational organizations. It allows schools to communicate for educational purposes through e-mail. The school web site enables us to promote and celebrate the work of our children and provides a wealth of information for parents, pupils and the wider community.

Curriculum guidelines state that children use and work with new technologies in order to fully participate in all aspects of modern life.

The Internet offers many benefits to schools but it also presents risks. The material on The Internet is uncontrolled and uncensored. Allendale Primary School is connected to the Internet by means of the Northumberland Intranet System, which contains filters. However, it may still be possible for pupils to access sites that contain extremely inappropriate material. For these reasons we must have very clear ideas about how the Internet will be used and what precautions we will take.

The use of the following IT terminology will be used, in lessons and in correspondence with parents.

- Search engines
- Website
- Webpages
- Internet
- Intranet
- Broadband

This policy is intended to:

- Establish the aims behind the use of the Internet within our School.
- Set out safe practices for Internet use within school.
- Identify how the Internet will be used as a learning resource.

Aims and Intentions for using the Internet

The key intentions of using the Internet in our school are to:

- Support the raising of educational standards.
- Promote pupil achievement.
- Support the professional development of staff.
- Enhance the school's management and business administration systems.
- Communicate with other schools and personnel via e-mail - allowing very fast and efficient exchanges of information.

To make the most of the Internet as an educational resource we aim to:

- Identify curriculum resources, approved software and websites that will provide quality support to teaching and learning and enhance the interactive learning opportunities for our children.
- Support staff so that they are able to use the Internet as a teaching and learning tool.
- Develop the school website in order that it can provide information for children to use, celebrate their achievements and act as a link to educational resources on the web.
- Develop the use of social media to communicate with stakeholders and celebrate the work of the school.
- Develop responsible attitudes in our children to using the Internet.
- Help children to realise the benefits to learning that the Internet can provide.
- Promote awareness of e-safety issues.
- Share knowledge of websites that can help staff to support their professional development.

Why is e-safety important?

Online safety education is a compulsory part of the curriculum for all children from age 5.

Increasingly pupils live and operate in a digital world. This world has steadily integrated with the classroom and, where activities involving the internet and communications technologies might have been a rarity a few years ago, they are now commonplace. Coupled with this pupils have access to these technologies outside of school and potentially through a range of locations, home, libraries, free wi-fi sites and also through a variety of technologies ranging from mobile phones to portable games machines.

This regular use of technology within teaching and learning and outside of school, places risks on pupils, staff, governors, parents and the community. The risks for users are wide ranging - not just dangers of viewing inappropriate content such as pornography, but racist, suicide and eating disorder sites, dangers from cyberbullying and contact from paedophiles.

The use of technology also brings many learning benefits and so risks need to be balanced up with the opportunities technology offers and moderated by the careful and rigorous application of e-safety measures by schools. All users be

they children or adults need a clear understanding of what the risks and dangers are and how these can be safely managed.

Futures Cloud (Internet monitoring software)

The Local Authority (L.A.) has licensed Futures Cloud for all Northumberland schools. Futures Cloud will provide the school with greater controls over our network and will also enable us to monitor and track user activity more effectively. Futures Cloud is installed on all the school's curriculum computers. Administrator computers internet usage is monitored by computer services at County Hall, Morpeth and Senior Management at Allendale Primary.

Pupils from Year 2 and above have their own personal logins and passwords and these are monitored and controlled by school staff. The pupils are educated about the importance of not sharing their details with other people.

Futures Cloud offers a wide range of features to ensure the online safety of pupils and staff, in particular identifying and preventing:

- Bullying and threatening behaviour
- Abusive comments or offensive attitudes
- Inadvertent exposure to inappropriate web sites (pornography, violence, suicide)
- Deliberate access to inappropriate web sites
- Online gambling and shopping
- Un-moderated discussion forums and chat rooms.

Futures Cloud generates reports of internet usage. The 2 nominated members of staff to receive the user reports from PCE are:

The Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher.

They will discuss the user reports regularly and take appropriate action as necessary.

Using the school website

To make the most of the Internet within our school community we aim to use the website to:

- Inform the wider community of the learning environment and opportunities that our school has to offer.
- Provide information about future school events and provide reports and photographs of past events.
- Enable parents and the wider community to see work and activities in which the children have been involved.
- Provide a library of resources for parents to download such as holiday forms, holiday dates and commonly used policies and forms.

Responsibility for access to the Internet

In order to access the internet teachers must ensure that they have received a signed Acceptable Internet Use Agreement from each child. The purpose of this contract is to outline the benefits of the Internet but stress that safe and responsible access is a shared responsibility between the school staff, governors, parents and children. Parents and carers must also give their consent if we wish to use a photograph of their child for the school website.

The Internet will be used by pupils when it is appropriate to the requirements of the curriculum. No child should ever have access to the Internet without the supervision of an adult. Any form of cyber bullying or the production of or transmission of offensive material will not be tolerated.

Opportunities for learning through use of the Internet

Appropriate Internet resources may be accessed directly by the children to support activities planned and monitored by teachers. Teachers may also use resources obtained from the Internet to support children's learning either through the use of the interactive whiteboard or at a PC as a research or investigative task, as an individual or group activity.

Internet use will be planned to enrich and extend learning activities. These activities will reflect the curriculum requirements and the age range of the pupils. The school will integrate the use of web based resources into its teaching.

The Internet in the curriculum

Internet use is part of the statutory curriculum and an increasingly important tool for learning. When using the Internet as an educational tool we will:

- Use appropriate Internet based resources to provide children with learning opportunities that support the curriculum
- Develop children's skills in using the Internet in accordance with the National Primary Curriculum
- Use the Internet as a means of providing the children with opportunities for researching information effectively within the curriculum

The main intention of using the Internet is that it should provide opportunities to support and enhance learning. Teachers will always have investigated the resources they will use to support their teaching to ensure that it is a safe site and decide if it enriches the children's learning. In this way the most effective use will be made of this learning resource.