



GP22– ICT e-SAFETY



Last Review Date	November 2024	Next Review Date	November 2026
Leader of Policy Review	Headteacher		
Associated Policies	Behaviour, ICT Acceptable Use, ICT Across the Curriculum, ICT Effectiveness		

e-Safety is the education of students about the benefits and risks of using new technologies, and to provide safeguards and awareness that enable them to control their on-line experiences. The School actively promotes e-Safety through assemblies and curriculum activities.

Examples of such technologies include the internet and other electronic communications, as well as social networking and personal publishing.

- Online Social Space Internet areas (sites/pages) where you can meet other people and chat, either in real-time (chatrooms and live chat) or via messages and message boards
- Chatroom A web page that contains a window into which you can type text to enable a ‘real-time’ conversation in text form with individuals or small groups
- Blog / Vlog A website where regular entries are made in the form of an on-line journal or diary. A Blog or ‘web log’ often offers commentary or news on a particular subject whilst Vlog uses video to document their daily lives as an ongoing video diary
- Wiki A website or similar resource that allows users to add and edit content collectively

Social Networking and Personal Publishing Sites

Parents and teachers should be aware that the internet has emerging on-line spaces and social networks which allow individuals to publish unmediated content. Examples include: blogs, wikis, Piczo, Friendster, Livejournal, Windows Live Spaces, YouTube, Facebook, Flickr, MSN space, forums, bulletin boards, multi-player online gaming, chatrooms, and instant messenger (IM).

Writing for an audience is important to language development and an essential life skill. However, students should be encouraged to be cautious about revealing too much personal information and about the difficulty of removing inappropriate text, images or other content once it is published.

Some potential dangers of such technologies include:

- Providers that do not supply any solid ownership or contact information for their sites
- The dangers inherent when sites can be set up using a false name and e-mail address with no identity checking
- The posting of anonymous comments that may be malicious
- Sites that give safety of users a low priority
- Sites that celebrate inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour

In response the School will:

- Filter access within school in line with the published policy on ‘Acceptable use of Electronic Communications’
- Be proactive in educating students so that they have a good understanding of what it means to be a responsible and mature user of internet technologies
- Explain to students the risks and how to get help should they need it
- Discourage students from posting personal information about themselves and each other
- Teach students to critically evaluate materials and learn good searching skills
- Provide opportunities within a range of curriculum areas to teach about e-Safety

- Provide parents and the school community with information relating to the safe use of computers and offer constructive advice on how to minimise risk to their children
- Deal with any incidents relating to e-Safety via the Behaviour Policy

Mobile Device Safety

Mobile phone technology has advanced significantly over the last few years - and it continues to evolve. Wireless connections in particular have extended the capabilities of mobile phones, enabling access to a wide range of new content and services globally. Many phones now offer Internet and email access, alongside the most often standard functions of messaging, camera, video and sound recording.

Mobile phones, alongside other forms of technology are changing the way and speed in which we communicate. They can provide security and reassurance; however there are also associated risks. Children and young people used to understand these risks in order to help them develop appropriate strategies for keeping themselves safe. As with e-safety issues generally, risks to children and young people can be broadly categorised under the headings of content, contact and conduct and managed by reducing availability, restricting access and increasing resilience.

We promote safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust acceptable use guidelines. This is achieved through balancing protection against potential misuse with the recognition that mobile phones are effective communication tools - which in turn can contribute to safeguarding practice and protection.

The school rules for use of mobile phones state:

- Turn off mobile phones and put them away in lessons
- Do not wear headphones or earphones in lessons unless instructed
- Do not use phones or headphones when moving between lessons

It is recognised that it is the enhanced functions of many mobile phones that cause the most concern, and which are most susceptible to misuse. Misuse includes the taking and distribution of indecent images, exploitation and bullying. It is also recognised that mobile phones can cause an unnecessary distraction during the working day and can be intrusive when used in the company of others. When mobile phones are misused it can impact on an individual's dignity, privacy and right to confidentiality. Such concerns are not exclusive to children and young people; hence there is a duty to protect the needs and vulnerabilities of all.

Current evidence suggests it is unlikely that mobile phones increase the risk of health problems. However, there are some things you can do to reduce the amount of radio wave radiation you're exposed to if you have any concerns.

Mobile safety is promoted through PSE, the house system and during Safety week.