



Internet policy

Aims: For the Internet service to be available for enhancing research and information processes in the school.

For children and adults to be confident in the use of the Internet as a powerful communication tool.

To have systems for use which protect children from unpleasant and/or inappropriate material published on the Internet.

We have a Computer Suite in school with networked PC's which all have full connection to the Internet and E-mail through an HPSN line, each classroom also has at least one linked PC. The line is pre-paid annually, allowing for unlimited access between 8am and 6pm.

Adults in the school have free access to the Internet at any time within these times and are actively encouraged to use the service to practice skills, enhance their curriculum knowledge, access research information for use in lessons and communicate with colleagues in other schools.

The Internet in school is used as an additional source of information for the children, either to access sites for topic research or as additional curriculum material for skills development.

Children are given planned opportunities to use the Internet under adult supervision. Although we have a service provider with a filtered walled garden, we always set up sites on the "favourites" bar and children are trained to go straight to this option and select the site.

Assessment of Internet skills is within the umbrella of ICT assessment (see policies for Assessment and Recording and ICT).

In line with the school ethos of full inclusion, children with Special Educational Needs have equal access to all areas of the curriculum (see Policies for Equal Opportunities, Racial Equality and Children with Physical Impairment). As with all aspects of study, each individual has a different level of response, expertise and learning rate which will affect the results achieved. Children with Physical Impairment have full access to all areas of the school. Seating in the computer suite is sufficiently flexible to allow for specialised arrangements as appropriate.

The Internet is a powerful tool which will become increasingly accepted within society as a vehicle for communication. We aim to start on children on the road to open exploration within the safety of school care.