

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
A Catholic Voluntary Academy
Internet Access and Safety Policy

Mission Statement

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School is a caring Catholic community where every child is equal. We aim to nurture each child's uniqueness in the Spirit of God, helping them to achieve their full potential in a safe and happy environment

Our community lives by these shared values;

- Love
- Respect for themselves and one another
- Trust and patience
- Forgiveness
- Acceptance and understanding of difference
- Fairness and friendship
- Recognition and celebration of all achievement and effort
- Perseverance and self control
- Dignity and self worth

At St. Mary's young people can grow and develop a sense of wonder about themselves and the world in which they live, so that they leave us confident, fulfilled and excited to embrace their future.

St. Mary's School is a Rights Respecting School and as such the needs and well being of our children are at the heart of all policies in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Introduction

The rapid developments in electronic communications are having many effects on society. Today's pupils are growing up with the World Wide Web and some use it more than adults. Therefore it is important to identify what is to be achieved by the use of the internet within school and how the internet can be used safely.

Aims

At St. Mary's we aim to provide a high quality learning environment where children can achieve to their full potential. We see the internet as being a powerful tool in helping us achieve this standard.

We believe access to the internet will:

- Enrich the quality of curriculum provision and extend learning activities.
- Help raise children's attainment.
- Support teachers' planning and resourcing of lessons.
- Enhance the school's management and administration systems.
- Enhance staff development through access to educational materials, as well as the sharing of information and good curriculum practice between schools.

Inappropriate materials

There is a wealth of valuable educational websites available on the internet, but unfortunately alongside these are websites which contain inappropriate materials which it would be unacceptable for the children to gain access to. To ensure that children can access the internet safely, we buyback our internet service provider (ISP) from Rotherham Council.(Schools Connect) This ISP uses a very robust and effective filtering service which is regularly reviewed to bar access to inappropriate websites. However, there is always a small chance that inappropriate materials may be unfiltered by this system.

Therefore we have the following guidelines for using the internet in school.

Guidelines for staff

Children should:

- Follow the internet safety guidelines as displayed within areas where the internet can be used. (See Appendix)
- Only use the internet under the supervision of an adult.
- Only use websites they have been asked to access by their teacher or responsible adult.
- Inform teachers immediately if they encounter any information or websites they feel are inappropriate or offensive.
- Only send polite emails to the address that their teacher has specified and not include any personal information (i.e. address or phone number)

School will:

- Inform all parents of the school's 'Rules for Responsible Internet Use' which children are expected to abide by in order to ensure a safe environment.
- Answer parents' queries and concerns about their child's use of the internet and our safeguards to protect them from unpleasant material. (Parental permission will not be sought by the school before a child is allowed to access the internet.
- Access outside agencies such as the School Library Service to provide internet safety information for the pupils, parents and staff.

School Website

The school website provides information for parents and useful links to educational websites. It is our policy that parental permission will be sought before any photographs of children are put on the website.

Social Networking Sites

As use of the internet grows, children are using it at home for social networking. Sometimes problems online started at home can spill into school. A partnership approach with parents is encouraged. This will include parent information sessions with suggestions for safe home internet use. School will inform parents if an incident from home impacts into school. School will not tolerate any form of bullying.

Parents' attention will be drawn to this policy in newsletters and the website.

Staff Disciplinary policy will be applied to any staff misusing the internet.

Appendix

Code of Conduct for using the Internet

- A teacher or responsible adult must be in class when you are using the internet or sending emails.
- Before you send an email it must be seen by your teacher or a responsible adult.
- Never tell anyone you meet on the internet your home address, telephone number or your school's name unless you have been given permission by your teacher.
- Never send your picture without permission.
- Never respond to nasty, suggestive or rude emails. When you receive an email, let your teacher see it first.
- Always tell your teacher if you see bad language or distasteful pictures when you are online.
- Always be yourself and do not pretend to be anyone or anything you are not.
- Always respect other people's work and do not interfere with their work or files.
- Do not deliberately waste limited resources.