Park Grove Primary Academy

Use of The Internet By Children

The current ICT curriculum makes it essential that children spend some part of their ICT lessons working on the Internet. We have agreed a policy for using the Internet which has been approved by all staff who have access to the Internet through the school network and by the school's governors. This policy is designed to ensure that children can safely access information from the Internet.

The rules are: -

1. Pupils must only sign on to the Internet using the username and password supplied by a teacher. Where it is essential that an Internet search is made then a 'child friendly 'engine must be used.
2. Pupils must not knowingly view any material that would normally be considered unsuitable for the school environment.
3. Children should not have access to discussion groups or bulletin boards unless are essential to the curriculum and have been approved by the class teacher, Head and ICT Coordinator.
4. Pupils must not create or transmit material that discredits and insults the good name of others.
5. Pupils should not deliberately violate the privacy of others by reading or copying their personal files.
6. Pupils should not deliberately destroy or corrupt information on the school network unless they have permission to do so (e.g. 'housekeeping' of their own files).
7. Pupils must not use logins and passwords which are not your own.
8. Pupils must not knowingly download or transmit computer viruses.
9. Pupils should listen and follow advice on avoiding viruses.
10. Pupils must not copy other people's work from the Internet and pretend it is their own.

Now that the school accesses the internet using a managed broadband connection we have an efficient 'firewall' which prevents children accessing a range of sites which we consider unsuitable. Although these are rarely completely foolproof this one does seem to be very efficient.

Children are only allowed onto the Internet when supervised by an adult and must only gain access to the Internet and e-mail with the username and password given to them by a teacher to ensure protection by the 'firewall'. Staff have a responsibility to ensure that their passwords are not given to children.

However, because of the unregulated nature of the Internet there is always a slight risk, however stringent our rules and precautions, that children may view material that we would deem unsuitable for the school environment. Should this situation ever occur then we would: -

- o Investigate how it had happened to prevent a reoccurrence
- o Work with the parents of the child / children on the consequences of the incident.

It is essential that parents understand and approve these procedures and I would be obliged if you would return the form below as acknowledgment.

✂ -

I acknowledge that I have read and approve the rules for use of the Internet.   I understand that the school is taking all possible precautions to ensure that no children view unsuitable material when using the Internet as part of the curriculum. However, I also acknowledge that this process is not perfect and, should my child view unacceptable material then I will cooperate with the school to resolve the issue satisfactorily.

Signed . . . .

Name of pupil . . . .   Class. . . . .