

E-Safety Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the ESCB e-safety strategy for schools and education settings- December 2013 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2014



eSafety

The Internet is an essential element in 21st century life for education, business and social interaction. The school has a duty to provide students with high- quality, but safe, internet access as part of their learning experience.

"Children and young people have embraced new technologies as a source of information, education and entertainment. The use of digital technology has been completely normalized and it is now fully integrated into their daily lives. Children are using technology in new and exciting ways, enhancing and enriching their lives with the many tools on offer."

"ICT can offer many positive educational and social benefits to young people but unfortunately there are some dangers. As in any other area of life, children and young people are vulnerable and may expose themselves to danger, whether knowingly or unknowingly, when using the internet and other technologies."

Signposts to e-safety Becta 2007

Rationale

E-safety reflects the need to raise awareness of the safety issues associated with information systems and electronic communication as a whole. It encompasses not only internet technologies but also electronic communications such as mobile phones and wireless technology. It highlights the benefits of these technologies in educating children and young people, but also the risks and responsibilities of using them. It provides safeguards and raises awareness to enable users to control their online experiences.

Aims

The policy identifies the measures in place in our school:

- to protect children from undesirable content on the internet
- to protect them from undesirable contacts over the internet
- to prevent unacceptable use of the internet by children or adults
- to address issues of copyright for materials published on the internet

Roles and Responsibilities

E-safety is a whole-school responsibility dependent on all stakeholders, e.g. staff, governors, parents, and advisors. It is also up to the pupils themselves to ensure they act responsibly when using the internet and other forms of communication. The major consideration in creating a safe e-learning environment is internet-safety education, which occurs in the classroom itself and is initiated by the teacher or teaching assistant. Whilst the Headteacher has overall responsibility for e-safety issues, the Computing Lead Teacher also has delegated responsibility as the e-safety Leader.

Permission to Use the Internet

The internet can provide pupils and all stakeholders with opportunities to experience and access a wide range of activities, resources and information to support and enhance the learning and teaching across the whole school curriculum.

All pupils will be expected to access the internet unless parents indicate otherwise at the time their child is admitted to school. In their admissions pack parents are required to sign the parental consent form to acknowledge their understanding of the school policies and procedures.

E-safety documents will be published on the school website for everyone to access.

Accessing and Using the Internet

Pupils use individual logins whenever possible. Pupils will be taught to use the internet safely and responsibly as an integral part of e- learning across the curriculum, supported by the school's e-safety policy. Pupils will be taught how to keep themselves safe whilst online at home as well as at school.

Internet Content

Unintentional Exposure of Children to Inappropriate Content

It is the school's intention that all reasonable steps will be taken to prevent exposure of children to undesirable materials and inappropriate content on the internet. However, it is recognized that this can happen not only through deliberate searching for such materials, but also unintentionally when a justifiable internet search produces unexpected results.

To protect children from such occurrences, the school has adopted the following position. In-school protection by:

- adult supervision of pupils' internet activity, with access or searching on the internet only allowed with a suitable adult present in the room;
- the "caching" of internet sites by staff, whenever possible in advance, to verify the site and its content;
- children being taught to become critical and discriminating users of materials they find online, through questioning the source and reliability of any content they access, and by being aware of ways to minimize risks.

Intentional Access to Undesirable Content by Children

Children should never intentionally seek offensive material on the internet. Any such incident will be treated as a disciplinary matter, and the parents will be informed. In the event of children gaining access to undesirable materials, the following steps will be taken:

- the teacher will report the incident to the e-safety Leader and Headteacher;
- the incident will be recorded in a central log located in the school, and a Serious Incident Form completed. The school will reliably report the frequency and nature of incidents to any appropriate party.
- parents will be notified at the discretion of the Headteacher and according to the degree of seriousness of the incident. For example, exposure to materials that include common profanities might not be reported to parents, but exposure to materials that include pornographic images would be reported;
- the Headteacher will regularly notify Governors of any incidents involving inappropriate or unacceptable use of school internet/ICT facilities as part of the Headteacher's Report.

Intentional Access to Undesirable Content by Adults

Deliberate access to undesirable materials by adults is unacceptable and will be treated as a disciplinary issue. If abuse is found to be repeated, flagrant or habitual, the matter will be treated as a very serious disciplinary issue. The Governors will be advised and the LA consulted.

Contact

Risks Associated with Contact

The internet as a means to contact people and organizations is an extremely valuable tool, encouraging the development of communication skills and transforming the learning process by opening up extra possibilities. However, just as in the real world, children may become involved in inappropriate antisocial or illegal behaviour whilst using new technologies e.g., cyber bullying, identity theft, or arranging to meet people they have met online.

Whilst children will, at times, use e-mail as part of their learning across the curriculum, the school does not use chat rooms or instant messaging. Children will however be made aware of the risks involved in all of these and ways of avoiding them, as part of their learning.

Receiving and Sending of E-Mails by Children

It is recognized that e-mail messages received by children can contain language or content that is unacceptable and that some people may try to use e-mail to identify and contact children for unacceptable reasons. If any member of staff believes that a child has been targeted with e-mail messages by parties with criminal intent, the messages will be retained. The incident will be recorded and the Governors, and the child's parents, will be informed. Advice will also be taken regarding possible further steps.

To avoid these potential issues the school has adopted the following practices:

- the use of the accredited Local authority e-mail service which includes the filtering of all incoming and outgoing messages for inappropriate content and spam;
- pupils only read e-mail messages when a member of staff is present, or the messages have been previewed by the teacher;
- children are taught not to open or respond to e-mails from a previously unknown source, but to tell the member of staff present in the room so that appropriate action can be taken;
- steps are taken to verify the identity of any school or person seeking to establish regular e-mail contact with this school;
- pupils save their e-mails/messages to 'Draft' for the teacher or teaching assistant to approve before being sent
- to prevent children revealing their identity within e-mail messages, only the child's forename is revealed, and this is only when appropriate.

Publishing pupil's images and work

- Photographs that include pupils will be selected carefully and will not enable individual pupils to be clearly identified.
- Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on the school web site or learning platform particularly in association with photographs. This includes in file names or in the tag. Full names will not be published in any videos/ DVDs produced by the school.
- Written permission from parents will be obtained before photographs of pupils are published on the school web. This is in the form of an opt- out choice on the on-entry paperwork completed by parents.
- No children who the SENCo/s feel are at particular risk will have their images shown.
- If parents wish to take photos/video of school events e. g assemblies, concerts please be aware these must be for your own private/personal use and images must not be used inappropriately
- Please do not obscure the view of others when taking photos

Other Use of the Internet and E-Mail Facilities

The school internet/e-mail facilities should be used only for educational purposes during teaching and learning time. If a member of staff chooses to use school internet facilities for personal purposes, such as online banking or purchasing of items for personal use, they do so at their own risk. Staff who have their own children at St. Michael's school, or whose children have social contact with St. Michael's school pupils, must be extra vigilant when accessing social network sites.

Staff must be aware of and make sure they understand the dangers of using social networking sites.

Communication with children through technology

Adults or volunteers who work with children should be mindful of how they use social media and the potential for others to access personal content they may post. Staff should maintain a clear boundary between personal and professional communication and use a privacy setting on personal accounts so that these are not accessible to children.

- have security settings to the maximum
- do not allow any St. Michael's school children or St. Michael's school parents to see their profile
- do not use their profile to bring the school or an individual into disrepute (including children, parents, governors and staff)
- staff must not use their personal mobile or personal device during working hours e.g. photography on personal mobile
- disciplinary action may result if these boundaries are not adhered to

Copyright Issues

It is recognized that all materials on the internet are subject to copyright, unless the copyright is specifically waived. It is the school's policy that the copyright of internet materials will be respected.

Where materials are published on the internet as part of the teacher's professional duties, copyright will remain with the LA. Internet published materials will contain due copyright acknowledgements for any third party materials included within them.

Useful Resources for Staff

Cyberbullying www.cyberbullying.org

Think-U-Know www.thinkuknow.co.uk

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