



E-SAFETY POLICY

ICT in the 21st Century is an essential resource to support learning and teaching, as well as playing an important role in the everyday lives of children, young people and adults. Consequently, schools need to build in the use of these technologies in order to arm our young people with the skills to access life-long learning and employment.

Information and Communications Technology covers a wide range of resources including; web-based and mobile learning. It is also important to recognise the constant and fast paced evolution of ICT within our society as a whole. Currently the internet technologies children and young people may use both inside and/or outside the classroom include:

- Websites
- Learning Platforms and Virtual Learning Environments
- E-mail and Instant Messaging
- Chat Rooms and Social Networking
- Blogs and Wikis
- Podcasting
- Video Broadcasting
- Music Downloading
- Gaming
- Mobile/ Smart phones with text, video and/ or web functionality
- Other mobile devices with web functionality

Whilst exciting and beneficial both in and out of the context of education, much ICT, particularly web-based resources, are not consistently policed. All users need to be aware of the range of risks associated with the use of these Internet technologies. It is the nature of the internet that it is an open communication medium, available to all, at all times. Anyone can view information, send messages, discuss ideas and publish material which makes it both an invaluable resource for education, business and social interaction, as well as a potential risk to young and vulnerable people.

In all Wishford Schools, we understand the responsibility to educate our pupils on e-Safety issues; teaching them the appropriate behaviours and critical thinking skills to enable them to remain both safe and legal when using the internet and related technologies, in and beyond the context of the classroom.

Cyber-Bullying

Wishford Schools defines Cyber-Bullying as the use of ICT, such as mobile phones or the internet, to deliberately upset someone else.

Aims

To ensure pupils are aware of what Cyber-Bullying is and its impact on victims.

To put into place policies to prevent incidents of Cyber-Bullying, not just in the school, but within the lives of the school community.

To have effective measures to deal with instances of Cyber-Bullying and to continually monitor the effectiveness of the measures.

Preventing Cyber-Bullying

The school will ensure that all pupils are educated about Cyber-Bullying through the ICT and PHSEE curricula.

All members of staff are trained to be able to identify Cyber-Bullying and to keep up to date with the technologies the children are using.

Pupils will be encouraged and supported to report all instances of Cyber-Bullying.

Staff will ensure that the pupils are aware that Cyber-Bullying will be treated seriously in accordance with the School's Anti-Bullying Policy.

The school will ensure that parents are aware of the issue of Cyber-Bullying and are able to monitor their children's behaviour when at home.

Responding To Cyber-Bullying

The school will follow the Anti-Bullying and Behaviour Policy in all cases of Cyber-Bullying.

E-Safety in the Curriculum

The school teaches e-Safety skills during Computer Science and PSHEE lessons.

Pupils are made aware of the relevant legislation when using the internet such as data protection and intellectual property which may limit what they want to do but also serves to protect them.

Pupils are taught about copyright and respecting other people's information and images.

Pupils should be aware of the impact of Cyberbullying and be taught how to seek help if they are affected by any form of online bullying. Pupils are also taught where to seek advice or help if they experience problems when using the internet and related technologies; i.e. parent/ carer, teacher/ trusted staff member, or an organisation such as Childline or CEOP report abuse button.

Pupils should learn to critically evaluate materials and learn good searching skills through the ICT curriculum. Safer Internet Day is an important event on the school calendar which includes assemblies and a variety of follow-up activities including role-play.

e-Safety Skills Development for Staff

New staff receive information on the school's acceptable use policy as part of their induction. All staff have been made aware of their individual responsibilities relating to the safeguarding of children within the context of e-Safety and know what to do in the event of misuse of technology by any member of the school community.

Social Media

Social networking sites, if used responsibly both outside and within an educational context can provide easy to use, creative, collaborative and free facilities. However it is important to recognise that there are issues regarding the appropriateness of some content, contact, culture and commercialism. To this end, we encourage our pupils to think carefully about the way that information can be added and removed by all users, including themselves, from these sites.

At present, we deny access to public social networking sites to pupils within school. All pupils are advised to be cautious about the information given by others on sites, for example users not being who they say they are.

As part of the curriculum, children may be required to use blogging or simulated Social Networking. Any sites that are used should use accounts that can only allow interaction between the School's children and School's members of staff. When available, a parent account can be added but it should only be activated if it is limited to seeing information about their child's communications and activities.

Pupils are taught to avoid placing images of themselves (or details within images that could give background details) on such sites and to consider the appropriateness of any images they post due to the difficulty of removing an image once online.

Pupils are always reminded to avoid giving out personal details on such sites which may identify them or where they are (full name, address, mobile/home phone numbers, school details, IM/ email address, specific hobbies/interests).

Our pupils are advised to set and maintain profiles on such sites to maximum privacy and deny access to unknown individuals.

Pupils are encouraged to be wary about publishing specific and detailed private thoughts online.

Parent Education and Contract

Parent education is viewed as an extremely important aspect of e-safety at St David's. Parents are invited/strongly encouraged to participate in Online Safety guidance talks and are given up-to-date advice and links to helpful websites including the ones below. These along with topical articles are given in the newsletters and on the website. The importance of following age-guidelines is stressed e.g. Fortnite 12+

NSPCC free helpline 0800 800 5002

net-aware.org.uk

thinkyouknow.co.uk

www.childnet.com

Each year, all families sign an internet guide 'contract'. Parents and St David's pupils must both sign and siblings are encouraged to too.

Contacts

CEOP: Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre
33 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London SW1V 2WG
enquiries@ceop.gsi.gov.uk
www.ceop.police.uk

IWF: Internet Watch Foundation - UK Hotline for reporting criminal online content - www.iwf.org.uk

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