

ICT

Acceptable Use Policy



The school encourages use by pupils of the rich information resources available on the Internet, together with the development of appropriate skills to analyse and evaluate such resources. These skills will be fundamental in the society our pupils will be entering.

On-line services significantly alter the information landscape for schools by opening classrooms to a broader array of resources. In the past, teaching and library materials would be carefully chosen. All such materials would be chosen to be consistent with national policies, supporting and enriching the curriculum while taking into account the varied teaching needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of the pupils. Internet access, because it may lead to any publicly available site across the world, will open classrooms to electronic information resources which have not been selected by teachers as appropriate for use by pupils. To minimise likelihood of this happening the school's access to the internet comes through EriL, the East Riding Intranet for Learning. The Intranet is a secure community network for schools and provides a number of safeguards from "undesirable materials" including "filtering" and "blocking" software. EriL is managed on behalf of the LEA to ensure a customised service for our pupils and teachers.

Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees during the coming information age. The school expects that staff will begin to investigate possibilities and blend use of such information as appropriate within the curriculum and that staff will provide guidance and instruction to pupils in the appropriate use of resources. Children will be introduced to the rules on internet use which are displayed next to the computers. Staff will consult the ICT co-ordinator for advice on content, training and appropriate teaching levels consistent with the school's ICT programme of study. They are required to sign a copy of the school's Guidelines on Acceptable Internet Use which form part of this policy. These forms will be filed along with conditions of service agreements.

Access to on-line resources will enable pupils to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards which exchanging messages with people throughout the world. The school believes that the benefits to pupils from access to information resources and increased opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. It is intended that the children will be taught how to use the internet responsibly by using the safe environment of the intranet. When they are given access to the internet they will be supervised and directed towards specific curriculum activities and suitable websites. But, ultimately parents are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the school supports and respects each family's right to give permission for internet access. A letter explaining how the internet is used at school will be issued to parents with a reply slip attached.

The ICT co-ordinator will prepare appropriate procedures for implementing this policy and for reviewing and evaluating its effect on teaching and learning.

Reviewed 2 yearly