

Pupils will be taught to use e-mail, the Internet and mobile technology responsibly to reduce the risk to themselves and others. After being agreed by staff and pupils at the beginning of each year, rules for Internet access and the use of all technologies within school will be posted in each classroom and around the school. E safety will form an integral part of Computing lessons but will also be covered in regular assemblies and as part of our PSHE programme of study.

The school believes that access to the Internet and mobile devices will enable pupils to explore resources available from libraries, other schools, LAs and commercial content providers in a way that will enhance the learning process in ways impossible by other means. E-mail will allow communication to be made with other individuals and organisations, regardless of time and distance.

The school believes that access to this technology brings benefits to the learning processes that outweigh the possible risks that might be encountered.

The final responsibility for use of the Internet and E safety lies with the parents and guardians of our pupils. Therefore, the school asks parents to sign our Home School Agreement and our regular e-safety updates. In doing so, parents are giving their permission for their children to be educated in accordance with school policies. Parents will also be provided with support and guidance to maintain their children's safety away from school, through regular events in school and through documentation provided on our website. Such information will also be available in hard copies from the school, should this be required.



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Acceptable Use Policy



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Use of the Internet is now an integral part of people's lives. In spite of this, it is important schools continue to be aware of issues and problems and to continue to educate our children accordingly. It is important staff, pupils and parents understand the moral and ethical issues surrounding access to the Internet before allowing access.

There are a number of options available that restrict access to the Internet, but it must be understood that no system, other than a ban on using the Internet, can ensure users do not access material that is deemed inappropriate. Pornographic material is usually the main focus of filtering methods, but users need to be aware that removing racist, sexist and political material is beyond many filtering programs. There is also the difficulty with any filtering software that content which is deemed offensive to one group of people is regarded differently by others. Furthermore, we are now faced with more recent issues such as grooming, cyber-bullying and identity theft which cannot be controlled by filtering systems. For these reasons, treating the use of the Internet as an issue that involves pupils, staff and parents has to be the most sensible approach.

In response to this, the most appropriate course of action is to develop a school policy on use of the Internet together with a home/school agreement.

Bransgore Primary School has an E-Safety and Acceptable Use Policy. These rules are a joint agreement between staff and pupils as part of our ESafety curriculum. The policy works in line with our Home School Agreement and is available to parents on request and electronically via our website.

Today millions of people use the Internet and e-mail on a daily basis. In recent years, use of the Internet has continued to increase, particularly with the introduction of mobile devices. This is not only for business and personal use, but also for educational purposes. A wealth of educational resources is now available on the Internet and via mobile devices; and this continues to grow.

At Bransgore Primary School, we believe that our pupils should have opportunity to use these emerging and changing technologies to support their learning and to equip themselves with the skills that will be required for lifelong learning.

Resources found on the Internet, are unlike those found in more traditional media. Historically, resources such as books, videos and other resources could be carefully selected for the learning process. The Internet, by its open and dynamic nature, may lead pupils to material over which the teacher has had no previous viewing and has therefore been unable to judge its suitability for classroom use. Although the school will endeavor to point pupils to relevant curriculum sites or to previously researched sites that have been identified as being relevant to the area of study, we also accept our responsibility in educating our pupils about responsible, respectful and safe use of the Internet.

Research using electronic methods is now fundamental to preparing pupils for citizenship and future employment possibilities. The school will ensure that opportunities for both integrating the use of the Internet into the curriculum and teaching pupils about e-safety will be planned and that staff will guide pupils in line with Government guidelines.

The school recognises that training the staff in preparation for using the Internet and indeed any mobile technology in a safe manner is vital. The school will use a variety of agencies to train the staff in integrating new technologies into the curriculum. In addition, relevant governmental guidelines will be made available to all staff as a point of reference.

The school uses an Internet Service Provider (ISP) that has filtering software in place to minimise the risk of accessing inappropriate Internet material or receiving inappropriate e-mail. Should any pupils access material they have concerns about, they should notify a member of staff, who will then inform the DSL. The DSL will then ask the IT Manager to inform the ISP of the address of the offending website. Where possible, appropriate action will then be taken to block further access. On occasions where a total block is not possible, staff will then use this to remind pupils of their own responsibilities in becoming safe users, in line with the Computing curriculum. The school will take appropriate action against users that use the school facilities to knowingly access, or attempt to access inappropriate materials. Therefore, the school reserves the right to access the work area of any user to view files held in that area.

All pupils across the school have access to the Internet and are able to use the technology available. It is anticipated that access to younger pupils will be more directed, with autonomous use being available to older pupils. Where pupils are given freedom to search the Internet for information, they should be given clear learning objectives by their teacher. In the event of inappropriate use or the accessing of inappropriate materials, action will be taken by the teacher and / or the Head. Any incidents will be reported and logged by the DSL.