

## INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

### What Is The Internet?

The Internet is a huge network of computers making a worldwide community. It is a way of connecting computers together so that people using them can:

- Talk to each other and have fun
- Send and receive messages
- Obtain information and resources
- Publish information
- Buy and sell things

### Why Do We Use The Internet In School?

The Internet is a unique and exciting resource. It brings the world into the classroom. It has many educational benefits:

- It gives children opportunities to find up to date information that might otherwise be unavailable in school
- It provides fast and efficient communication
- It encourages independent learning and children enjoy using it
- Use of the Internet is an essential skill for children as they grow up in the modern world.

### What Are The Dangers For My Child Using The Internet?

The Internet is available to all. This can bring young people into contact with unsuitable persons. Children should be taught:

- People they encounter on the Internet are not always who they say they are
- That they should never give personal details to a stranger on the Internet
- That they should never meet alone anyone contacted via the Internet

Some material on the Internet can be inappropriate for children as it may contain unsuitable information or images. Children need to know how to respond to unsuitable materials or requests on the Internet. They should be taught:

- To tell a teacher or an adult immediately if they find unsuitable material
- To tell a teacher or adult immediately if they are requested to do something that makes them feel worried and/or uncomfortable.

### What Can We Do In School?

In our school we do everything we can to protect children using the Internet:

- All access to the Internet is provided through a filtered service
- Internet use is supervised by an adult
- Children discuss and investigate Internet Safety issues as part of their PDMU Programme
- Children are taught Internet safety rules (see below)

### What Can You Do At Home?

It is important to promote Internet Safety in the home and to take an interest in what your children are doing on the Internet.

- Keep the computer in an area of your home where you can see your child using it
- Know which technologies, (mobile phones, gaming devices) provide internet access and discuss their use with your child
- Keep an eye on the clock! Too much time spent on the Internet can be unhealthy
- Remind children that there are Websites which are unsuitable. If they come across unsuitable materials, they must tell you
- Know the SMART rules for Internet safety and discuss them with your children.

### The SMART Rules For Internet Safety Are:

**S**

**Secret** - Always keep your name, address, mobile phone number and password private – it's like giving out the keys to your home!

**M**

**Meeting** someone you have contacted in cyberspace can be dangerous. Only do so with your parent's/carer's permission, and then when they can be present.

**A**

**Accepting** e-mails or opening files from people you don't really know or trust can get you into trouble – they may contain viruses or nasty messages.

**R**

**Remember** someone on-line may be lying and not be who they say they are. Stick to the public areas in chat rooms and if you feel uncomfortable simply get out of there!

**T**

**Tell** your parent or carer if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried.

*A copy of the full Internet Safety Policy  
is available to read in school upon request.*