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Internet Access Policy

Westmorland Primary School

Autumn 2024

Review date: Autumn 2026
Ratified by:



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Internet Access Policy

This policy explains how school is seeking to avoid the potential problems that unrestricted internet access could give rise to.

Ensuring internet access is appropriate and safe

The internet is freely available to any person wishing to send e-mail or publish a web site. In common with other media such as magazines, books and video, some material available on the internet is unsuitable for pupils. Pupils in school are unlikely to see inappropriate content in books due to selection by publisher and teacher and likewise the school take practical measures to ensure that children do not encounter upsetting, offensive or otherwise inappropriate material on the internet.

The following key measures have been adopted to help ensure that our pupils are not exposed to unsuitable material – and that they know what to do if they are:

- our internet access is purchased from Stockport MBC which provides a service designed for pupils including a "firewall" filtering system intended to prevent access to material inappropriate for children;
- children using the internet will be supervised by an adult (usually the class teacher)
- children are taught to search using safe search engines



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- staff will check that the sites pre-selected for pupil use are appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils;
- staff will be vigilant when pupils are undertaking their own search and will check that the children are following the agreed search plan;
- pupils will be taught to use e-mail and the internet responsibly in order to reduce the risk to themselves and others;
- the IT co-ordinator will monitor the effectiveness of internet access strategies;
- the IT co-ordinator will ensure that occasional checks are made on files to monitor compliance with the school's Internet Access Policy;
- the headteacher will ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- methods to quantify and minimise the risk of pupils being exposed to inappropriate material will be reviewed in consultation with colleagues from other schools and advise from the LEA, our Internet Service Provider and the DfEE.

However, due to the international scale and linked nature of information available via the internet, it is not possible to guarantee that particular types of material will never appear on a computer screen. Neither the school nor Stockport MBC can accept liability for the material accessed, or any consequences thereof.



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Pupils are taught to tell a teacher immediately if they encounter any material that makes them feel uncomfortable. If there is an incident in which a pupil is exposed to offensive or upsetting material the school will respond to the situation quickly and on a number of levels. Responsibility for handling incidents involving children will be taken by Safeguarding Team and the pupil's class teacher. All the teaching staff will be made aware of the incident if appropriate. If one or more pupils discover (view) inappropriate material our first priority will be to give them appropriate support. The pupil's parents/carers will be informed and given an explanation of the course of action the school has taken. The school aims to work with parents/carers and pupils to resolve any issue. If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the details will be reported to the LEA. If it is thought that the material is illegal, after consultation with the ISP and LEA, the site will be referred to the police.

Maintaining the security of the school ICT network

We are aware that connection to the internet significantly increases the risk that a computer or a computer network may be infected by a virus or accessed by unauthorised persons. AVA up-date virus protection regularly, and work with the LEA and Internet Service Provider to ensure system security strategies to protect the integrity of the network are reviewed regularly and improved as and when necessary.

Using information from the internet



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We believe that, in order to use information from the internet effectively, it is important for pupils to develop an understanding of the nature of the internet and the information available on it. In particular, they should know that, unlike the school library for example, most of the information on the internet is intended for an adult audience, much of the information on the internet is not properly audited/edited and most of it is copyright.

Pupils are taught to expect a wider range of content, both in level and in audience, than is found in the school library or on TV; and they

- are aware of the need to validate information whenever possible before accepting it as true, and understand that this is even more important when considering information from the internet (as a non-moderated medium);
- when copying materials from the Web, pupils will be taught to observe copyright;
- pupils will be made aware that the writer of an e-mail or the author of a web page may not be the person claimed.

Westmorland website

Our school web site will:

- provide accurate, up-to-date information about our school, for a very wide audience including pupils, parents, staff, governors, members of the local community and others;
- celebrate achievements ;



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- promote the school.