Our school’s e-safety policy

In a world where education is increasingly reliant on technology, it is essential that schools provide an online environment where students and staff can make the most of the internet which brings a huge range of benefits and opportunities, but it also presents risks.

Risks

Children and young people do not always recognize the inherent dangers of the internet and often do not understand that online behavior may have offline consequences. For this reason, we need an e-safety policy to minimize the risks. Therefore, it is important to educate children about the benefits, risks, and responsibilities of using information technology in a way that is age appropriate for children. Appropriate guidance should also be provided to the teachers and parents.

Students

Pupils are expected to take an active part in planned lessons and activities to support their understanding and confidence in dealing with e-Safety matters.

Students must be taught to:

* use technology safely and responsibly

• recognize what internet use is acceptable/unacceptable

• acknowledge the source of information and to respect copyright when using Internet material in their own work.

* Children / young people should be encouraged to consider the associated risks and dangers related to sending or accepting friend requests and posting personal comments, inappropriate images or videos about themselves or their peers.
* Children / young people should also be encouraged to never give out any personal details or images which may identify themselves, their peers, their siblings. This includes real names, dates of birth, address, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, photographs or videos.
* Children / young people must be advised about e-security and encouraged to set passwords, deny access to unknown individuals and instructed how to block unwanted communications.
* Children/young people should be warned not to have their photos published without their consent or the written consent of their parent.

If pupils encounter material, they feel is distasteful, uncomfortable or threatening, they should report the address of the site to a member of the staff.

Teachers

All teachers are responsible for promoting and supporting safe behaviours in their classrooms and following school e-Safety procedures. Staff should ensure they are familiar with the school e-Safety policy. They must also familiarize themselves about the risks and inappropriateness of sharing personal information about themselves via social networking sites with young people.

Parents

Parents are given information about the school’s e-safety policy and asked to support these rules with their children.

CYBERBULLYING

Cyber-bullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself/herself. By cyber-bullying, we mean bullying by electronic media:

•Bullying by texts or messages or calls on mobile phones

• The use of mobile phone cameras to cause distress, fear or humiliation

• Posting threatening, abusive, defamatory, or humiliating material on websites

• Using e-mail to send messages to others

• Hijacking e-mail accounts

• Making threatening, abusive, or humiliating remarks in chat rooms including Facebook

It is the duty of our school to ensure that every child is safe. For this reason, the headteacher ensures that the Policy is implemented. The responsibility for e-Safety has been designated to a member of our staff. Our school e-Safety coordinator is the ICT teacher who acts as first point of contact for any complaint. Any complaint about staff misuse is referred to the headmistress.