

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.  
Jesus told us to "Love One Another as I have Loved you."

Internet Policy

Our Vision

St Joseph's seeks to be a community in which we build the Kingdom. It is a welcoming, caring place, where Christ is central to everything we do. Every member of the community is valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. St Joseph's is rooted in Gospel values, which foster tolerance, respect and self-esteem.

Our Mission

Our Mission is to live in the way Jesus wanted. He told us to "Love One Another as I have loved you."

Rationale

The rapid developments in electronic communications are having many effects on society. Today, every child in school is younger than the World Wide Web and they use it more than some adults. Therefore, it is important to identify what is to be achieved by the use of the internet within school, and at home, and how the internet can be safely used.

Aims

At St Joseph's we aim to provide a high quality learning environment where children can achieve their full potential. We see the internet as being a valuable tool in helping us achieve this

We believe access to the internet will:

Enrich the quality of curriculum provision and extend learning opportunities

Help raise children's attainment in all core subjects

Support teachers' planning and resourcing of lessons

Enhance the school's leadership and administration systems,

Enhance staff development through access to educational materials, as well as the sharing of information and collaboration between schools.

Support parents to enhance learning at home.

Inappropriate Materials

There is a wealth of valuable educational sites available on the internet, but unfortunately alongside these are websites which contain inappropriate materials which it would be unacceptable for the children to gain access to.

To ensure that children can access the internet safely, we use the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council as our internet service provider (ISP). The ISP uses a filter to exclude any inappropriate material by barring access to sites listed as being inappropriate. However, there is always a small chance that inappropriate materials may be unfiltered by this system.

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Therefore, we have the following guidelines for using the internet within school

Guidelines for Staff

Children should

Only use the internet under the supervision of an adult.

Only use the WebPages that they have been asked to access by their teacher or responsible adult.

Inform teachers immediately if they encounter any information or WebPages that they feel are inappropriate or offensive.

Only send polite e-mails to the address that their teacher has specified and not include any personal information (i.e. address or telephone number)

School Will:

Inform all parents that their children will be provided with supervised Internet access as part of the school's curriculum.

Inform all parents of the school's "Rules for Responsible Internet Use" which their children will be expected to abide by in order to ensure a safe environment.

Answer parents' queries and concerns about their child's use of the Internet and our safeguards to protect them from unpleasant material.(Parental permission will not be called for by the school before a child is allowed to gain access to the Internet).

The School Website

The school web site provides information for parents, examples of children's work and useful links for children, parents and teachers. It is our policy only use photographs of children on the school website if we have parental consent to do so.

Social Networking Sites

As use of the internet continues to grow, children are using it at home for social networking. Parents should be aware that if children are accessing Face book or other such social networking sites then they have used incorrect personal details- i.e. they have lied about their age. This will not be condoned by the school.

Parents should not post about the school or individual children on any social networking sites.

Sometimes, problems online started at home can spill into school. A Partnership approach with parents is encouraged to include parent information sessions with demonstrations and suggestions for safe home Internet use. School will inform parents if an incident from home impacts into school. School will not tolerate any form of bullying.

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Parents' attention will be drawn to this policy in newsletters, the school prospectus and on the school website