



Internet Policy

(Please keep this page for your reference)

The Internet is an amazing resource for education but it is fraught with many hazards and, as a result, we have produced the following guidelines/rules for our students. Unfortunately, there is some material on the Internet which would be offensive to most people, such as pornography, racist and extreme political material. Our Internet provider (London Grid for Learning) filters known offensive locations of material of this kind but the widespread availability of it means that filtering is not completely effective. The only way to completely block access to this kind of material would be to have a restricted range of pages available which would mean many of the advantages of the Internet would be lost.

With this in mind, we support our system for filtering by educating pupils and requiring them to read and sign an acceptable use policy in dealing with the less savoury side of Internet use. The following guidelines explain this and parents should read these carefully before signing the consent form:

Pupil guidelines for Internet use *(Remember that access is a privilege, not a right and that privileges entail responsibility)*

- Pupils should never give out personal details about themselves or anyone else.
- Pupils are responsible for their own good behaviour on the internet, just as they are in a classroom or a school corridor.
- The internet is provided for pupils to conduct research and communicate with others.
- Individual users of the internet are responsible for their behaviour and communications over the network. It is expected that users will comply with school standards. The Internet is primarily a resource and students should aim to be selective in their research.
- Computer storage areas and USB drives should be treated with the greatest of care. Staff will review files and communications to ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on servers or disks will be private.
- If a student accidentally come across an offensive site or becomes aware that another student has accessed an offensive site, they must report it to a teacher immediately.

The following are not permitted:

- Sending or displaying offensive, obscene, defamatory or blasphemous material
- Using obscene language
- Harassing, bullying, insulting or attacking other users
- Accessing the Internet during lessons without the teacher's permission
- Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws
- Using other people's passwords
- Accessing/trespassing in another student's user area
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Playing games during the lesson
- Eating or drinking in the classrooms
- Illegal activity such as cheating/plagiarism
- Other illegal activity e.g. hacking

Sanctions

- Breaking these rules will mean that internet access is removed for a period of time or even permanently
- Additional disciplinary action may be added in line with existing practice on unacceptable language or behaviour, including exclusion from school
- In serious cases, the police or local authorities may be involved
- Those found to be involved in plagiarism (copying/stealing of others' work/coursework) will be dealt with severely. They will be reported to the relevant exam board.