Internet Safety Policy

Purpose

At South View School the purpose of Internet use is to raise educational standards and to promote student achievement. Internet access is an entitlement for students who show a responsible and mature approach to its use.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices.
- Provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
- Ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.
- The school's Internet access includes filters appropriate to the age of the student.
- Students are taught what is acceptable and what is not and given clear objectives for Internet use.
- They are given clear guidance on how to deal with inappropriate internet content and are educated in the responsible and safe use of the Internet and other technologies through a range of strategies such as (but not limited to) e-Safety lessons, special assemblies and awareness campaigns.
- We ensure that the use of Internet derived materials by staff and by students complies with copyright law and students are made aware of plagiarism.
- e-Safety rules (S.M.A.R.T rules and Responsible Use Policy) are posted in rooms with Internet access and students are informed that network and Internet use is monitored through a firewall/proxy.
- Cyber-bullying education is embedded in the curriculum.

We believe that:
- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- Children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are always kept safe.

We recognise that:
- The online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however, it can also present risks and challenges
- We have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
- We have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using South View School's network and devices
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:
- Providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults.
- Supporting and encouraging the young people using our service to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others.
- Supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online.
- Developing an online safety agreement for use with young people and their parents/carers.

- Developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child/young person.
- Reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly.
- Ensuring that usernames, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively.
- Ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate.
- Ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given.
- Providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety.
- Examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:
- Having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)
- Providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. Making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation as a whole into account.
- Reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

Responsibilities

The **Governing Body** is responsible for ensuring that there is a clear Internet Safety Policy in South View School.

The **Principal** is responsible for ensuring that the policy is implemented and for ensuring it is reviewed regularly.

The **ICT Coordinator** serves as the e-Safety Coordinator.

Staff members are responsible for ensuring that students are aware of the Internet Safety policy and that they adhere to it. Where the policy is contravened, they are responsible for taking appropriate action. Staff members have a particular responsibility to supervise use, plan access and set good examples.

Pupils are expected to use computers and/or devices for academic work only. Students are responsible for the usage and communications over any kind of forums, blogs, social media and emails, commercial, profit–making purposes or advertising. Misuse by students will result in the suspension of user privileges. Pupils at all age levels using any social media forum must at all times demonstrate restraint and respect for the members of the school community, including all students and personnel. Pupils must not breach confidentiality, defame or make threats to any person in the school community. Instances of proven and intentional breach of the above will result in sanctions.