



READING BLUE COAT SCHOOL

Internet Safety Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Internet is an essential element of 21st Century life for education, business and social interaction. The school has a duty to provide pupils with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience to raise educational standards, to promote pupil achievement and to support the professional work of staff. We encourage our pupils to enjoy using the internet in a responsible way but not to forget that they are potentially accountable for any text or images which they send in an email, post in a chat room, web page or other public place. Internet safety is the responsibility of all those involved in school life, including parents.

2. School Internet Safety

- 2.1 Electronic information-handling skills are now fundamental to the preparation of citizens and future employees in the Information Age. The School encourages online activities which:-
 - investigate and research school subjects, cross-curricular themes or topics related to social and personal development
 - investigate careers and Further and Higher education.
 - develop pupils' competence in ICT and research skills
- 2.2 Access to the Internet will only be available only on computers that are in frequently used areas such as classrooms, libraries, study areas and designated computer areas other than those covered by the Bring Your Own Device Policy (BYoD).
Guidelines for appropriate use of the Internet safety (Appendix A) are posted near all computers and in every form room. The School will ensure that virus protection will be updated regularly. Anyone receiving unwanted email/messages should report it immediately to the school's network manager or member of staff.
- 2.3 Reading Blue Coat School reserves the right to block pupil access to sites that are deemed in the School's opinion to be undesirable.
- 2.4 Reading Blue Coat School does not provide access to social networking/chat room sites. We have become increasingly concerned at the offensive nature, explicit language and sometimes potentially slanderous content of information posted on social networking sites

and via emails and we would like to work together with parents to ensure that our pupils are educated about the internet and its dangers as well as its opportunities.

- 2.5 As part of our commitment to Internet safety at Reading Blue Coat the staff will ensure that pupils know and understand the restrictions that apply when accessing the Internet using school computers. Pupils are responsible for their good behaviour on the school networks, just as they are on and off school premises. A pupil is responsible for any material they post on the Internet or send by email and they have been made aware that anything which contravenes school rules or harms the reputation of the School will be investigated and subject to school disciplinary procedures.
- 2.6 Pupils are not permitted to use the Intranet or Internet to:-
 - Retrieve, send, copy or display offensive messages or pictures
 - Use obscene or racist language
 - Harass, insult or attack others or incite another person to do so
 - Damage computers, computer systems or computer networks
 - Ignore copyright laws
 - Use another user's password
 - Go into another user's folders, work or files
 - Use the network for commercial purposes
- 2.7 Each year, pupils are given information about safe and responsible use of the Internet through PSHE, year group assemblies and information in form rooms. There have also been whole-school and section assembly notices drawing pupils' attention to our concerns and to their responsibilities.
- 2.8 We are constantly reviewing our 'Acceptable Use Policy for ICT' to ensure it reflects current technological changes.

3. Impact of Improper Internet Use

- 3.1 When social networking sites and emails are misused, the impact on victims can be serious. Being removed from face to face contact can mean some young people are less inhibited about what they will say about someone else. There have been a number of incidents in the national press where young people who have felt intimidated and threatened by comments made on social networking sites have reacted, on some occasions, with tragic consequences. Any pupil who feels they are being victimised in this way should tell a responsible adult at home or a member of staff at school.
- 3.2 The School feels that it is more than just an extension of 'normal' playground banter and we repeatedly remind our pupils that hurting others through any action, including text messages, email or internet use is completely contrary to our rules and ethos of our school community.

4. Advice for Parents

- 4.1 The Child Exploitation and On-line Protection Centre (CEOP) launched a facility with Microsoft so that parents can customise the browser on their computer with a COEP information tool. The link is for this is below:
<http://www.ceop.gov.uk/>
- 4.2 Pupils are advised not to disclose personal information), to block contact from people who are bullying or harassing them and to flag up any problems up to parents, teachers or website providers.
- 4.3 Many young people seem unaware of the potential dangers of certain Internet use and therefore how to protect themselves from predatory 'grooming' techniques. We are aware that some of our pupils openly reveal personal information such as their identities, where they go to school and their telephone numbers on the internet. We would ask for parents to be vigilant in keeping a watchful eye on their children's internet use.
- 4.4 Keeping the computer(s) with internet access in an open, commonly used space is just one way of keeping a discreet eye on internet use. Also it is useful to learn how to take a screen shot and to know how to report possible cyber-bullying to your ISP. If your son/daughter receives an abusive email, you can forward it to abuse@isp where "isp" is the service provider the abuser is using, eg "aol.com" or "yahoo.com". Although Internet service providers may not act on every complaint, the more complaints they receive about a particular individual (with examples of abusive email) the more likely they are to close down the person's account. More guidance can be found at
<https://www.abuse.net/users.phtml>
- 4.5 If parents have any concerns about internet safety, they can contact the School's Designated Child Protection Officer Mr Phil Wise at pdw@blue-coat.reading.sch.uk
Or go to: <http://www.antibullying.net/cyberbullying5.htm>

5. Review

- 5.1 This policy will be reviewed annually by the governing body and the School's senior management team or sooner to reflect any changes in guidance or legislation.

Author(s):	PDW
Date:	January 2017
Review Frequency:	Annually
Next Review Date:	January 2018
References:	•
Governor:	Mrs Elaine Morgan
Date of Governor Agreement:	