

Ballytober Primary School



E-Safety Policy

Ratified : 21st October 2021

Signed : _____

E-SAFETY POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Boards of Governors have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils (Article 17 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 2003). It is also the duty of the Board of Governors to determine the measures to be taken at a school to protect pupils from abuse (Article 18 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 refers).

In the exercise of those duties, Boards of Governors must ensure that their schools have a policy on the safe, healthy, acceptable and effective use of the Internet and other digital technology tools. They must also actively promote safe and acceptable working practices for all staff and pupils: these will serve to reassure parents and guardians.

This E-safety policy contains policies in relation to use of the internet, use of mobile phones and use of digital/photographic images of children. It is largely based on DENI Circular 2007/1 "*Acceptable Use of the Internet and Digital Technologies in Schools*", DENI Circular 2011/22 "*Internet Safety*" and DENI Circular 2013/25 "*eSafety Guidance*". It should also be read in conjunction with the Schools Child Protection Policy.

2. INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

The Internet and other digital technologies are very powerful resources which can enhance and potentially transform teaching and learning when used effectively and appropriately. The Internet is an essential element of 21st century life for education, business and social interaction. Our school provides pupils with opportunities to use the excellent resources on the Internet, along with developing the skills necessary to access, analyse and evaluate them.

The DENI circular 2007/01 states that:

"Used well, digital technologies are powerful, worthwhile educational tools; technical safeguards can partly protect users, but education in safe, effective practices is a key goal for schools."

This document sets out the policy and practices for the safe and effective use of the Internet in Ballytober School. The policy has been drawn up by the staff

of the school under the leadership of Elaine Anderson / Kathy Elliott. (Principal/ICT Co-ordinator) It has been approved by the Board of Governors and is distributed to all parents.

The policy and its implementation will be reviewed annually.

3. C2K

Classroom 2000 (C2k) is the project responsible for the provision of an information and communications technology (ICT) managed service to all schools in Northern Ireland. It provides a safety service which should ensure educational use made of resources is safe and secure, while protecting users and systems from abuse.

Some of these safety services include:

- o Providing all users with a unique user names and passwords
- o Tracking and recording all online activity using the unique user names and passwords
- o Scanning all C2k email and attachments for inappropriate content and viruses
- Filters access to web sites
- o Providing appropriate curriculum software.

Should the school decide to access online services through service providers other than C2k then we will ensure that effective firewalls, filtering and software monitoring mechanisms are in place.

4. Code of Safe Practice

When using the Internet, email systems and digital technologies, all users must comply with all relevant legislation on copyright, property theft, libel, fraud, discrimination and obscenity. We have a Code of Safe Practice for pupils and staff containing eSafety Rules which makes explicit to all users what is safe and acceptable and what is not.

The scope of the Code covers fixed and mobile Internet; school PCs, laptops, and digital video equipment. It should also be noted that the use of devices owned personally by staff and pupils but brought onto school premises (such as

mobile phones, camera phones) is subject to the same requirements as technology provided by the school.

The ICT Co-ordinator and the Principal will monitor the effectiveness of the Code of Practice, particularly in the light of new developments in technology.

Code of Safe Practice for Pupils

A parental/carer consent letter accompanied by the code of practice for pupils is sent out annually to parents/carers and this consent must be obtained before the pupil accesses the internet.

In addition, the following key measures have been adopted by the ICT Co-ordinator to ensure our pupils do not access any inappropriate material:

- o The school's eSafety code of practice for Use of the Internet and other digital technologies is made explicit to all pupils and eSafety guidelines are displayed prominently throughout the school;
- o Our Code of Practice is reviewed each school year and signed by pupils/parents;
- o Pupils using the Internet will normally be working in highly-visible areas of the school;
- o All online activity is for appropriate educational purposes and is supervised, where possible;
- o Pupils will, where possible, use sites pre-selected by the teacher and appropriate to their age group.

It should be accepted, however, that however rigorous these measures may be, they can never be 100% effective. Neither the school nor C2K can accept liability under such circumstances.

The use of mobile phones by pupils is not permitted on the school premises during school hours. (refer to mobile phone policy) During school hours pupils are forbidden to play computer games or access social networking sites.

Sanctions

Incidents of technology misuse which arise will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Discipline/Behaviour Policy. Minor incidents will be dealt with by the Principal and may result in a temporary or permanent ban on Internet use.

Incidents involving child protection issues will be dealt with in accordance with the school's child protection policy.

Code of Practice for Staff

The following Code of Safe Practice has been agreed with staff:

- Pupils accessing the Internet should be supervised by an adult at all times.
- Staff will make pupils aware of the rules for the safe and effective use of the Internet. These are displayed in classrooms and discussed with pupils.
- All pupils using the Internet have written permission from their parents.
- Deliberate/accidental access to inappropriate materials or any other breaches of the school code of practice should be reported immediately to the Principal/ICT Co-ordinator.
- In the interests of system security staff passwords should only be shared with the network manager.
- Teachers are aware that the C2K system tracks all Internet use and records the sites visited. The system also logs emails and messages sent and received by individual users.
- Teachers should be aware of copyright and intellectual property rights and should be careful not to download or use any materials which are in breach of these.
- Photographs of pupils should, where possible, be taken with a school camera and images should be stored on a centralised area on the school network, accessible only to teaching staff or under supervision for pupil work. (see Use of Photographs Policy)
- School systems may not be used for unauthorised commercial transactions.

5. Internet Safety Awareness

In Ballytober Primary School we believe that, alongside having a written eSafety policy and code of practice, it is essential to educate all users in the safe and effective use of the Internet and other forms of digital communication. We see education in appropriate, effective and safe use as an essential element of the school curriculum. This education is as important for staff and parents as it is for pupils.

Internet Safety Awareness for pupils

Rules for the Acceptable Use of the Internet are discussed with all pupils and are prominently displayed in classrooms. In addition, Key Stage 2 pupils are made aware and discuss Internet Safety through structured lessons. There are various pupil resources available such as:

Gridclub

Signposts to Safety (primary and secondary versions)

Key Stage 2

KidSMART

Know IT All for Schools

ThinkUKnow

Childnet's Sorted website

Internet Safety Awareness for staff

The ICT Co-ordinator keeps herself informed and updated on issues relating to Internet Safety. All teaching staff, classroom assistants and supervisory assistants are in turn made aware of the Department's policy and strategy on ICT use in teaching and learning and updated in relation to relevant changes.

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (**CEOP**) runs regular one-day courses for teachers in Northern Ireland. These are advertised directly to schools. Teachers can download lesson plans, teaching activities and pupils' worksheets by registering with the Thinkuknow website.

Internet Safety Awareness for parents

The Internet Safety Policy and Code of Safe Practice for pupils is sent home at the start of each school year for parental signature.

6. Health and Safety

In Ballytober Primary School we have attempted, in so far as possible, to ensure a safe working environment for pupils and teachers using ICT resources, both in classrooms and in the ICT suite, which has been designed in accordance with

health and safety guidelines. Pupils are supervised at all times when Interactive Whiteboards are being used. Guidance is also issued to pupils in relation to the safe use of computers, interactive whiteboard and projectors. Such guidance includes advice concerning correct posture, positioning of screens, ensuring pupils do not stare directly into the beam of a projector etc. We are also mindful of certain medical conditions which may be effected by use of such equipment e.g. photosensitive epilepsy.

Use of Mobile Phones

Many modern mobile phones have internet connectivity. Please refer to the school's policy on the use of mobile phones.

7. School Website

The school website will be used to celebrate pupils' work, promote the school and provide information. Editorial guidance will ensure that the website reflects the school's ethos that information is accurate and well-presented and that personal security is not compromised. An editorial team ensure common values and quality control. As the school's website can be accessed by anyone on the Internet, the school has to be very careful to safeguard the interests of its pupils and staff. The following rules apply.

- The point of contact on the website should be the school address, school e-mail and telephone number. Staff or pupils' home information will not be published.
- Website photographs that include pupils will be selected carefully. Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of pupils are published on the school website.
- Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on the website, particularly in association with photographs.
- The Principal or nominee will take overall editorial responsibility and ensure that content is accurate and appropriate.
- The website should comply with the school's guidelines for publications.
- The copyright of all material must be held by the school, or be attributed to the owner where permission to reproduce has been obtained.

8. Social Software

This is a generic term for community networks, chatrooms, instant messenger systems, online journals, social networks and blogs (personal web journals). Social environments enable any community to share resources and ideas amongst users. Such software allows users to exchange resources, ideas, pictures and video.

The majority of activity in these on-line social sites usually causes no concern. C2k filters out these social networking sites and blocks attempts to circumvent their filters leaving it relatively safe in the school environment. Concerns in relation to inappropriate activities would tend to come from use outside the school environment.

We regard the education of pupils on the safe and responsible use of social software as vitally important and this is addressed through our Internet Safety Education for pupils. Appropriate information and indeed education will also be provided for our parents.

Instances of cyber bullying of pupils or staff will be regarded as very serious offences and dealt with according to the school's discipline policy and child protection procedures.

Pupils are aware that any misuse of mobile phones/websites/email should be reported to a member of staff immediately.

ICT Code of Safe Practice for Staff

eSafety Rules

ICT (including data) and the related technologies such as e-mail, the internet and mobile devices are an expected part of our daily working life in school. This code of practice is designed to ensure that all staff are aware of their professional responsibilities when using any form of ICT. All staff are expected to agree to this code of practice and adhere at all times to its contents. Any concerns or clarification should be discussed with Elaine Anderson, school Principal.

- I will only use the school's email / Internet / Intranet / Learning Platform and any related technologies for professional purposes or for uses deemed 'reasonable' by the Principal or Board of Governors.
- I will comply with the ICT system security and not disclose any passwords provided to me by the school or other related authorities
- I will ensure that all electronic communications with pupils and staff are compatible with my professional role.
- I will not give out my own personal details, such as mobile phone number and personal e-mail address, to pupils.
- I will only use the approved, C2k, secure e-mail system for any school business.
- I will ensure that personal data is kept secure and is used appropriately, whether in school, taken off the school premises or accessed remotely. Personal data can only be taken out of school or accessed remotely when authorised by the Principal or Board of Governors. Personal or sensitive data taken off site must be encrypted.
- I will not install any hardware or software without permission of the Principal.
- I will not browse, download, upload or distribute any material that could be considered offensive, illegal or discriminatory.
- Images of pupils and/ or staff will only be taken, stored and used for professional purposes in line with school policy and with written consent of the parent, carer or staff member. Images will not be distributed outside the school network without the permission of the parent/ carer, member of staff or Principal.
- I understand that all my use of the Internet and other related technologies can be monitored and logged and can be made available, on request, to my Line Manager or Principal.
- I will respect copyright and intellectual property rights.

- I will ensure that my online activity, both in school and outside school, will not bring my professional role into disrepute.
- I will support and promote the school's e-Safety and Data Security policies and help pupils to be safe and responsible in their use of ICT and related technologies.

User Signature

I agree to follow this code of practice and to support the safe and secure use of ICT throughout the school

Signature Date

Full Name(printed) Job Title

**Parental Agreement/Consent Letter
(Primary Pupils)**

Dear Parent/ Carer

As part of Ballytober Primary School's Information and Communications Technology programme we offer pupils supervised access to a *filtered* Internet service provided by C2k. Access to the Internet will enable pupils to explore and make appropriate use of many web sites that are of enormous educational benefit. They can also exchange messages with other Internet users throughout the world. However in spite of the tremendous learning potential, you should be advised that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive to some people.

In order to help minimise any risks, which might arise from Internet use, our Service provider C2k has installed filtering software which operates by blocking thousands of inappropriate web sites and by barring inappropriate items, terms and searches in both the Internet and e-mail. To further enhance safety, pupils will only use the Internet for educational purposes, under the supervision of a member of staff.

The school's rules for safe Internet use accompany this letter. Please read and discuss these with your child and return the slip at the bottom of this page. If you have any concerns or would like some explanation please contact the school.

Parent/ carer signature

We have discussed this and(child name) agrees to follow the eSafety rules and to support the safe use of ICT at Ballytober Primary School.

Parent/ Carer Signature

Date _____