

St Barnabas C.E Primary School



Parents' Permission Form

Dear parents/carers,

As part of the ICT curriculum we offer pupils supervised access to the Internet. Before being allowed to use the Internet, all pupils must obtain parental permission. Both you and your child must sign and return the enclosed form as evidence of approval and acceptance of the school policy on "**Conditions of Suitable Use**" (copy attached)

We have purchased our Internet access from Warrington Borough Council, an educational supplier that operates a filtering system to block access to inappropriate materials. However, due to the international scale and linked nature of information available via the internet, it is not possible to guarantee that some material might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people.

Whilst our aim for the internet use is to further educational goals and objectives, pupils may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to pupils from having access to the internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information services.

During school, teachers will guide pupils towards appropriate materials. Outside school, families bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with information sources such as TV, cinema, DVDs, mobile phones, radio, and any other Social Media Sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, snap chat etc. Please note these Social Media sites have a legal age of 13. There are good reasons for this rule, including safety, security, privacy, and experience required to exercise good judgement. Whilst the school does not promote the use of these Media sites with the children we are aware many of the older children have accounts. Please refer to the sites 'terms and conditions' in order to help safeguard your child against any unwanted material being seen.

The school has its own website, Facebook page and will be looking into other Social Media Forums in order to keep parents up to date with school activities, events and achievements. A valuable use of these links will be to display pupils work with relevant and appropriate photographs/videos. The enclosed form also requests your approval for publication.

We would be grateful if you could read the enclosed guidance documents and to sign and return the enclosed permission form.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss J Hodgkinson
Head teacher

St Barnabas C.E Primary School



Ensuring Internet access is appropriate and safe

The internet is a widely used communications medium and is freely available to any person wishing to send e-mail or publish a Website. In common with other media such as magazines, books and films, some material available on the Internet is unsuitable for pupils. Pupils in school are unlikely to see inappropriate content in books due to the selection by the teacher and the school will take every practical measure to ensure that children do not counter upsetting, offensive, or otherwise inappropriate material on the internet. The following key measures have been adopted to help ensure that our pupils are not exposed to unsuitable material.

- ❖ Our Internet access is purchased from the local council, which provides a service designed for pupils including a 'firewall' filtering system intended to prevent access to material inappropriate for children.
- ❖ Children will be supervised at all times whilst using the Internet.
- ❖ Staff will check that the sites pre-selected for pupil use are appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils.
- ❖ Staff will be particularly vigilant when pupils are undertaking their own search and will check that the pupils are following the agreed search plan.
- ❖ Pupils will be taught to use e-mail and the internet responsibly in order to reduce the risk to themselves and others.
- ❖ Our rules for Responsible Internet Use will be posted near computer systems.

These measures have proved highly effective, however due to the scale of information available on the internet, it is not possible to guarantee that particular types of material will never appear on their screen.

A most important element of our Rules of Responsibility Internet Use is that pupils will be taught to tell a teacher **immediately** if they encounter any material that makes them feel uncomfortable.

St Barnabas C.E Primary School



Conditions for Responsible Internet and E-mail Use

The school has computers and tablets with internet access to help our learning. These rules will help keep us safe and help us to be fair to others.

By signing the policy, you have agreed to the following:

Using the computers:

- ❖ I will only access the computer system with the login and password I have been given.
- ❖ I will not access other people's files.
- ❖ I will not bring in USB sticks and CDs from outside school and try to use them on school computers unless checked by a teacher and the relevant scans done first.

Using the Internet:

- ❖ I will ask permission from a teacher before using the internet
- ❖ I will report any unpleasant material to my teacher immediately because this will help protect other pupils and myself.
- ❖ I understand that the school may check my computer files and may monitor the internet sites I visit.
- ❖ I will not complete and send forms without permission from my class teacher.
- ❖ I will not use work from the Internet as if it were my own. I will give credit to the sources of materials included in my work.
- ❖ **I will not give my full name, my address or telephone number.**

Using e-mail:

- ❖ I will immediately report any unpleasant messages sent to me because this would help protect other pupils and myself.
- ❖ I understand that e-mail messages I may send and receive may be read by others.
- ❖ The messages I send will be polite and responsible.
- ❖ I will only e-mail people I know, or my teacher has approved.
- ❖ I will not use e-mail to arrange to meet someone outside school hours.

I will not take part in any activity that goes against school rules or government legislation.

Sanctions

If any breach of the conditions of Internet Use takes place this could lead to the following sanctions being enforced.

1. A temporary or permanent ban on Internet Use.
2. Additional disciplinary action may be added in line with the schools discipline policy.
3. When applicable parents or external agencies may be contacted.