



# INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

## Document Control

This policy has been approved for operation within Dar Ul Madinah Primary School.

Date of last review: July 2025

Date of next review: July 2026

Review period: Annually

Policy Status: Statutory

Owner: Directors

## **Internet Access Protocol**

Our school's Internet Access Policy is part of the school's Computing Policy and will relate to other policies including those for behaviour. The Internet Access Policy has been devised by the Head teacher and will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

### **The Importance of the Internet in Learning in Schools**

The purpose of Internet access in school is to raise educational standards, to support the professional work of staff and to enhance the school's management information and business administration systems. Access to the Internet is a necessary tool for staff and pupils. It is an entitlement for children/pupils/pupils who show a responsible and mature approach.

### **How the use of the Internet Benefits the School**

A number of studies and government projects have indicated the benefits to be gained through the appropriate use of the Internet in education.

These benefits include:

- ☒ Access to world-wide educational resources including museums and art galleries.
- ☒ Inclusion in government initiatives
- ☒ Information and cultural exchanges between pupils world-wide.
- ☒ Cultural, social and leisure use in libraries, youth clubs and at home.
- ☒ Discussion with experts in many fields for pupils and staff.
- ☒ Staff professional development - access to educational materials and good curriculum practice.
- ☒ Communication with the advisory and support services, professional associations and colleagues.
- ☒ Improved access to technical support.
- ☒ Exchange of curriculum and administration data with the LA and DfE.

## **Using the Internet to provide effective learning**

Teachers, parents and pupils need to develop good practice in using the Internet as tool for teaching and learning. There is a fine balance between encouraging autonomous learning and maintaining adequate supervision. Systems that ensure Internet use is as safe as possible will enable increased use and the quality of that use is a critical factor. Internet access is currently provided by Brsk. A filtering system that is appropriate to the age of pupils, i.e. CloudTitan, is in place.

- ☒ Internet access will be planned to enrich and extend learning activities.
- ☒ Access levels will be reviewed to reflect the curriculum requirement.
- ☒ Pupils will be given clear objectives for Internet use.
- ☒ Staff will select sites that will support the learning outcomes planned for pupils' age and maturity.
- ☒ Approved sites will be bookmarked.
- ☒ Pupils will be educated in taking responsibility for Internet access.

## **How pupils will be taught to assess Internet content**

Pupils in school are unlikely to see inappropriate content in books due to selection by publishers and teachers. This level of control is not so straightforward with Internet-based materials. Therefore, teaching should be widened to incorporate Internet content issues, for instance the value and credibility of Web materials in relationship to other media. The tendency to use the Web when better information may be obtained from books will need to be challenged.

- ☒ Pupils will be taught ways to validate information before accepting that it is necessarily true.
- ☒ Pupils will be taught to acknowledge the source of information and observe copyright when using Internet material for their own use.
- ☒ Pupils will be made aware that the writer of an e-mail or the author of a Web page might not be the person claimed.
- ☒ Pupils will be encouraged to tell a teacher immediately if they encounter any material that makes them feel uncomfortable.

## **The management of e-mail**

E-mail is an essential means of communication within education. The government is encouraging the ownership of personal e-mail accounts for both teachers and pupils, but care needs to be taken that the implications for the school and for the pupil are appreciated. Once e-mail is available it is difficult to control its content, nevertheless e-mail content should not be considered private.

- ☒ E-mail must only be used in school for educational purposes.
- ☒ Pupils may send internal messages as part of planned lessons.
- ☒ The forwarding of chain letters will be banned, as will the use of chat lines.
- ☒ Excessive social chat wastes pupils' time and computer resources and will be discouraged.

## **The management of the school's website**

A Website can celebrate pupils' work, promote the school and publish resources for projects or homework. Ground rules are important to ensure that the Web site reflects the school's ethos and that information is accurate and well presented. As the school's Web site can be accessed by anyone on the Internet, the security of staff and pupils must be considered carefully. Although common in newspaper

reports, the publishing of pupils' names beside photographs that identify individuals may be considered inappropriate on Web pages. While any risks might be small, the parents' perception of risk has been taken into account in the devising of this policy.

- The Headteacher will delegate editorial responsibility to a member of staff to ensure that content is accurate and quality of presentation is maintained.
- Pupils will be made aware that the quality of their work published on the Web needs to reflect the diversity of the audience.
- All material must be the author's own work, or where permission to reproduce has been obtained, clearly marked with the copyright owner's name.
- The point of contact on the web site should be the school address and telephone number. Home information or individual e-mail identities will not be published.
- Photographs must not identify individual pupils. Group shots or pictures taken over the shoulder will be used in preference to individual "passport" style images.
- Full names will not be used anywhere on the Web site, images of children will not be identified by name at all on the school Web site.
- Following GDPR guidelines introduced in May 2018 parental consent for the use of pupil images in school, including on the school Web Site, has again been sought.

### **The availability of other Internet applications**

The Internet is the underlying technology, but new applications are constantly being developed to use this ability to communicate, such as Chat, Newsgroups, Social Networks, live streaming and webcams. Many of these facilities have great potential for education, for instance pupils exchanging live text, speech or video with a similar class in another location around the country or world, at low cost. However, most new applications start without the needs of young users being considered, particularly the area of security.

- ☒ Pupils will not be allowed to access public chat rooms.
- ☒ Newsgroups are only available to staff.
- ☒ New facilities will be thoroughly tested before pupils are given access.

### **The authorisation of Internet access**

In school, all staff and all pupils will be granted access to the Internet as a blanket requirement, with a single written record made by the Headteacher to this effect. Parental permission will be required before children can access the Internet.

- ☒ Internet access is a necessary part of statutory curriculum. It is an entitlement for pupils that is based upon responsible use.
- ☒ At Key Stage 1, the majority of the access to the Internet will be by teacher or adult demonstration. However, there may be situations when children have supervised access to specific approved on-line materials.
- ☒ At Key Stage 2, Internet access will be granted to a whole class as part of the scheme of work, after a suitable education in the responsible use of the Internet.
- ☒ Parents will be informed that pupils will be provided with supervised Internet access.
- ☒ Parents will be asked to sign and return a permission form.
- ☒ Pupils have regular e-safety lessons as part of their computing curriculum. They are taught how to keep themselves safe whilst online, what information must be kept private and what to do if they are worried about anything they see or hear online.
- ☒ Pupils are taught that the Internet can be used as a way to influence and persuade people. They learn that they need to be aware of the risk of online radicalisation and that organisations seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet. They are taught how to build their resilience to radicalisation and who to report to if they are concerned by anything they have seen or heard on the internet.

## The assessment of risk when using the Internet in school

The school will address the issue that it is difficult to remove completely the risk that pupils might access unsuitable materials via the school system. In common with other media such as magazines, books and video, some material available via the Internet is unsuitable for pupils. The school will supervise pupils and take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users access only appropriate material, including the use of filtering software, CloudTitan. However, due to the international scale and linked nature of information available via the Internet, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never appear on a terminal.

- ☒ The use of computer systems without permission or for purposes not agreed by the school could constitute a criminal offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990.
- ☒ Methods to identify, assess and minimise risks will be reviewed.
- ☒ Staff, parents, governors and advisers will work to establish agreement that every reasonable measure is being taken.
- ☒ The Head teacher will ensure that the policy is implemented effectively.

## Ensuring safe Internet access

The Internet is a communications medium that is freely available to any person wishing to send e-mail or publish a Web site on almost any topic. Access to appropriate information should be encouraged but Internet access must be safe for all members of the school community from youngest pupil to teacher and administrative staff. Pupils will generally need protected access to the Internet. The technical strategies being developed to restrict access to inappropriate material fall into several overlapping types (sometimes all referred to as filtering): **Blocking strategies** remove access to a list of unsuitable sites or newsgroups.

Maintenance of the blocking list is a major task as new sites appear every day. **Filtering** examines the content of web pages or e-mail messages for unsuitable words. Blocking and/or filtering, as previously stated, is performed by CloudTitan.

- ☒ Pupils will be informed that Internet use will be supervised and monitored.
- ☒ The school will work in partnership with parents, the LA, DfE and the Internet Service Provider to ensure systems to protect pupils are reviewed and improved.
- ☒ Senior staff will ensure that occasional checks are made to ensure that the filtering methods selected are effective in practice.
- ☒ If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address) and content will be reported to the Head Teacher.
- ☒ Any material that the school suspects is illegal will be referred to the Internet Watch Foundation.
- ☒ Where minority languages are involved, appropriate measures will be taken to ensure the processes to protect pupils are adequate.

## The maintenance of security of the ICT systems

The Internet is a connection to the outside world that could compromise system performance or threaten security.

- ☒ Security strategies will be discussed with the Local Education Authority.
- ☒ The authority is regularly reviewing the schools' networks to ensure that the system has the capacity to take increased traffic caused by Internet use.
- ☒ The security of the whole system will be reviewed with regard to threats to security from Internet access.

- ☒ Personal data should not be sent over the Internet from school.
- ☒ Virus protection will be installed and updated regularly.
- ☒ Use of e-mail to send attachments will be monitored closely.

### **The complaints procedure regarding Internet use**

Prompt action will be required if a complaint is made. The facts of the case will need to be established, for instance whether the issue has arisen through Internet use inside or outside school. Transgressions of the rules could include minor as well as the potentially serious consequences and a range of sanctions will be devised, linked to the school's behaviour policy.

- ☒ Responsibility for handling incidents will be given to a senior member of staff.
- ☒ Pupils and parents will be informed of the complaints procedures.
- ☒ Parents and pupils will need to work in partnership with staff to resolve issues.
- ☒ As with drugs issues, there may be occasions when the police must be contacted. Early contact will be made to establish the legal position and discuss strategies.
- ☒ Sanctions available include interview/counselling by head teacher and, if appropriate, informing parents or carers.
- ☒ A pupil may have Internet or computer access denied for a period of time depending on the nature of the incident.
- ☒ Denial of access could include all school work held on the system, including any examination work.

### **Staff and pupil consultation about the Internet**

It is very important that staff feel prepared for Internet use and consider that the school Internet Access Policy is appropriate. Staff should be given opportunities to discuss the issues and develop appropriate teaching strategies. It would be unreasonable if staff, particularly supply staff, were asked to take charge of an Internet activity without training. Reassurance and discussion may be required.

- ☒ Rules for Internet access will be posted near computer systems. **The Acceptable Use Statement** or **Rules for Responsible Internet Use** will be printed as posters.
- ☒ All staff including teachers, supply staff, classroom assistants and support staff, will be provided with the Internet Access Policy, and its importance explained.
- ☒ Parents' attention will be drawn to the Policy in newsletters, the school brochure and on the school Web site;
- ☒ A module on responsible Internet use will be included in the Computing scheme of work, covering both school and home use.

### **Enlisting parental support for the use of the Internet**

Internet use in pupils' homes is increasing rapidly. Unless parents are aware of the dangers, pupils may have unrestricted access to the Internet. The school may be able to help parents plan appropriate, supervised use of the Internet at home.

- ☒ A careful balance between informing and alarming parents will be maintained.
- ☒ Demonstrations and practical IT sessions for parents may be organised to encourage a partnership approach.
- ☒ Joint home/school guidelines on issues such as safe Internet use will be established;
- ☒ Suitable educational and leisure activities that make responsible use of the Internet will be developed with parents.

- ☐ A range of links to support parents, covering, gaming, internet safety and the use of mobile phones will be available on the school website.

### **Internet use in the community**

Internet use in the local community is common. In addition to the home, access may be available at the local library, youth club, adult education centre, village hall or supermarket. The school may wish to contact their community colleagues in order to advise pupils regarding membership, booking procedures, availability, and possible costs. Each organisation is developing its own approach and pupils may find variations in the rules and even unrestricted access to the Internet. Although policies may differ in detail, community partners adhere to the same laws as schools with respect to content, copyright and misuse.

- ☐ In libraries, parents/carers of children under 18 years of age will generally be required to sign an acceptable use policy on behalf of the child;
- ☐ In libraries, adult users will also need to sign the acceptable use policy;
- ☐ In libraries, children under 8 years of age must be accompanied by an adult when accessing the Internet, due to the Children's Act;
- ☐ Rules for Internet access will be posted near computer systems, or will be available on request. Rules are there to protect legitimate use;
- ☐ Visits, demonstrations and practical IT sessions for schools may be organised to encourage a partnership approach;
- ☐ Suitable educational, vocational and leisure use is encouraged in community facilities.

## Rules for Responsible Internet Use

- ② **The search engines used by the children at school are all from an official filtered list of links.**
- ② **Children have no access in school to Personal Online Spaces or Chatrooms.**
- ② **Children only have access to online communication via the school's Learning Platform.**
- ② **Children and staff will never reveal their personal details, home address and telephone numbers on the web or in dialogue with other Internet users.**
- ② **Children will be supervised at all times when using search engines.**
- ② **Any images of children will not be labelled with their names.**
- ② **Any child finding themselves uncomfortable or upset by anything they discover on the Internet will report it to an adult immediately.**
- ② **Downloading of files is restricted to staff and children under supervision.**

Dear Parents,

### **Responsible Use of the Internet**

As part of pupils' curriculum enhancement and the development of ICT skills, Darul Madinah Primary School is providing supervised access to the Internet.

Although there have been concerns about pupils having access to undesirable materials, we are taking positive steps to deal with this risk in school. Our school operates a filtering system called CloudTitan that restricts access to inappropriate materials.

I enclose a copy of the Rules for Responsible Internet Use (see overleaf) that we operate at Darul Madinah Primary School.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of Internet use please telephone me to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely

Head teacher

#### **Permission for Internet Access**

<b>Parent/carer's permission</b>	<b>Pupil's agreement</b>
I give permission for access to the Internet on the terms set out in the above letter.	I agree to follow the Rules for Responsible Internet Use.
Signed	Signed
Print name	Print name
Date	Date