



Solefield School

ICT Acceptable Use Guidance

New technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people in today's society both within schools and in their lives outside school. The Internet and other digital information and communications technologies (ICT) are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. These technologies can stimulate a wide range of positive activities and experiences including; discussions, promoting creativity and stimulating awareness to promote effective learning. Young people should have an entitlement to safe Internet access at all times.

Solefield School recognises this essential and important contribution that technology plays in promoting dynamic learning but we also recognise there are potential risks involved when using online technology.

The school takes online safety very seriously and, as such, strives to ensure that the boys are educated about safe use of technology and takes every reasonable precaution to ensure the boys cannot access inappropriate materials whilst using school equipment. However, no system can be 100% safe and we therefore require the boys to be responsible and active in promoting their own safety and that of those around them.

This Acceptable Use Policy is intended to ensure:

- that young people are educated to be responsible users and stay safe while using the Internet and other communications technologies for educational, personal and recreational use.
- that school ICT systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk or cause other users harm.

Solefield School endeavours to ensure that pupils have good access to ICT to enhance their learning and, in return, expects pupils to adhere to being responsible users.

A set of age-appropriate guidelines is shared with the boys at the start of the year through PSHE or ICT lessons. Teachers spend time familiarising the boys with the expectations of the school with regard to their behaviour surrounding use of the computers and ICT equipment at school and inform them of our school responsibility in providing them with safe and considered Internet access. This is reviewed through the Computing curriculum on a regular basis. Posters reflecting these guidelines are also on display in the ICT room and in form rooms as a constant, visual, reminder.

It is made explicitly clear to the boys that they can talk to any trusted adult in school if they feel unsafe, in any way, online. It is also made very clear to the boys that consequences in line with the school's Rewards & Sanctions Policy may follow, just as they would for other misdemeanours, if these guidelines are not adhered to.