**Ebrington Primary School**

**Use of the Internet and Digital Technologies**

*This policy is based on and complies with DENI Circular 2007/1 on Acceptable Use of the Internet and Digital Technologies in Schools*

**Introduction**

In Ebrington Primary School we believe that 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. This 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 above circular 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 Ebrington Primary school.

The policy and its implementation will be reviewed annually.

**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. The Code of Safe Practice for Ebrington Primary School makes explicit to all users (staff and pupils) what is safe and acceptable and what is not.

The scope of the Code covers fixed and mobile Internet; school PCs, laptops, and I Pads. It should also be noted that the use of devices owned personally by staff but brought onto school premises such as mobile phones is subject to the same requirements as technology provided by the school.

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

**Code of Practice for pupils**

Pupil access to the Internet is through a filtered service provided by C2K, which should ensure educational use made of resources is safe and secure, while protecting users and systems from abuse.

In addition, the following key measures have been adopted by Ebrington Primary School to ensure our pupils do not access any inappropriate material:

* The school’s Code of Practice for use of the Internet and other digital technologies is made explicit to all pupils;
* Pupils using the Internet will normally be working in highly-visible areas of the school;
* All online activity is for appropriate educational purposes and is supervised, where possible;
* Pupils will, where possible, use sites pre-selected by the teacher and appropriate to their age group;
* Pupils in Key Stage 2 are educated in the safe and effective use of the Internet.
* Pupils are expected to behave in an appropriate manner when communicating with others.
* Pupils must be aware that the use of the Internet in schools is a privilege and not a right and this privilege will be withdrawn if it misused.
* Pupils must respect the hardware and software that has been made available to them.

It should be accepted, 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 or during school trips.

During school hours pupils are forbidden to play computer games or access social networking sites, unless specifically assigned by the teacher.

**Sanctions**

Incidents of technology misuse which arise will be dealt with in accordance with the school’s discipline 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 school child protection procedures.

**Code of practice for staff**

Staff have agreed to the following Code of Safe Practice:

* Pupils accessing the Internet should be supervised by an adult or in highly-visible areas of the school.
* All pupils are aware of the rules for the safe and effective use of the Internet. These are discussed with pupils.
* Any websites used by pupils should be checked beforehand by teachers to ensure there is no unsuitable content and that material is age-appropriate.
* Deliberate/accidental access to inappropriate materials or any other breaches of the school code of practice should be reported immediately to the Principal/ICT teacher leader.
* 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 be stored on the school network, accessible only to teaching staff.
* School systems may not be used for unauthorised commercial transactions.

**Log in and Passwords**

• Children and staff must not disclose any password or login name given to anyone, or allow anyone else to use a personal account.

• Children and staff must not attempt to gain access to the school network or any Internet resource by using someone else’s account name or password.

• Staff and children must ensure terminals or lap tops are logged off (or hibernated) when left unattended.

Adult users are expected to be in charge of their own areas on the network where relevant. Passwords are therefore set for each user in these circumstances. We recommend that passwords are changed regularly.

**Internet Safety Awareness**

In Ebrington Primary School we believe that, alongside having a written safety 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 regularly with all pupils.

**Internet Safety Awareness for staff**

The ICT Co-ordinator keeps informed and updated on issues relating to Internet Safety and attends regular courses. This training is then disseminated to all teaching staff and classroom assistants on a regular basis.

**Internet Safety Awareness for parents**

The Internet Safety Policy and Code of practice for pupils is available on school web site. Internet safety leaflets for parents and carers also are sent home on a regular basis.

**Health and Safety**

Ebrington Primary School have attempted, on 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 Clevertouch boards are being used.

**Digital and Video Images of Pupils**

Parental permission is sought to cover the use of photographs of pupils on the school website, Facebook, in the local press and for displays etc within school and written permission must be obtained from parent/carer.

**School Website**

Our school website promotes and provides up to date information about the school, as well as giving pupils an opportunity to showcase their work and other aspects of school life. In order to minimise risks of any images of pupils on the school website being used inappropriately the following steps are taken:

* Group photos are used where possible, with general labels/captions;
* Names and images are kept separate – if a pupil is named their photograph is not used and vice-versa;
* The website does not include home addresses, telephone numbers, personal e-mails or any other personal information about pupils or staff.

**Storage of images**

Digital and video images of pupils are, where possible, taken with school equipment. Images are stored on the school network, accessible only to teaching staff.

**Social Software**

Chatrooms, blogs and other social networking sites are blocked by the C2K filters so pupils do not have access to them in the school environment. However, 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. 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.

**I.C.T.**

**Co-ordinator**

**J.Kee**

**June 2020**