



*Darul Madinah will nurture our learners into model citizens that exemplify the
Inherent values of Islam make a positive contribution to the community and are champions
of their faith.*

Internet Access Policy

This policy is in line with the Mission Statement of the School

Document Control

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Internet Access Policy

Mission Statement

Darul Madinah will nurture our learners into model citizens that exemplify the inherent values of Islam, make a positive contribution to the community and are champions of their faith.

Introduction

Darul Madinah Primary School recognises that the internet and digital technologies play a vital role in education, communication and the day-to-day operation of the school. Safe and effective internet use supports teaching and learning, enhances pupil engagement and provides opportunities for research, collaboration and the development of essential digital skills.

The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils, staff and visitors use the internet responsibly, safely and appropriately. While the internet offers significant educational benefits, it also presents potential risks. This policy outlines the procedures and expectations in place to safeguard pupils and staff whilst using online technologies and internet-enabled devices.

This policy should be read alongside the school's Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Policy, Computing Policy, Staff Code of Conduct and Online Safety procedures.

Aims of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that internet access within school is safe, secure and educationally beneficial. The school aims to provide pupils with appropriate opportunities to develop digital literacy skills whilst protecting them from harmful or inappropriate online content.

The school also aims to ensure that staff use internet systems professionally and responsibly and that all members of the school community understand their roles and responsibilities in maintaining online safety.

Internet access is considered an important educational entitlement for pupils who demonstrate responsible and mature behaviour when using technology.

Educational Benefits of Internet Access

The school recognises the significant educational value of the internet when used appropriately. Internet access enables pupils and staff to access a wide range of educational materials, resources and learning opportunities that enhance classroom teaching.

The internet supports curriculum development by providing access to educational websites, research materials, museums, galleries and current information from around the world. It

also supports communication, collaboration and cultural understanding by enabling pupils and staff to engage with educational communities beyond the school environment.

For staff, internet access supports professional development, curriculum planning, communication with external agencies and access to educational guidance and resources. Internet technologies also assist with school administration, communication systems and management processes.

Safe and Effective Internet Use

The school is committed to ensuring that internet use enhances learning whilst maintaining appropriate levels of safeguarding and supervision. Internet access within school is provided through secure systems and filtered services designed to protect pupils from inappropriate content.

The school currently uses CloudTitan filtering systems through Aspire to provide age-appropriate filtering and monitoring of internet activity. These systems are regularly reviewed to ensure they remain effective and suitable for the needs of the school.

Teachers carefully plan internet-based activities to support learning objectives and ensure that websites and online resources used within lessons are appropriate for the age and maturity of pupils. Staff may pre-select and bookmark approved websites where appropriate to ensure safe access during lessons.

Pupils are taught that internet use within school is monitored and supervised. They are encouraged to use technology responsibly and understand that access to online materials is provided to support their education.

Teaching Pupils to Evaluate Online Content

The school recognises that pupils must develop the skills needed to assess the reliability, accuracy and credibility of information found online. As internet content is not regulated in the same way as published books or educational materials, pupils are taught to think critically about the information they access.

Pupils are taught how to identify reliable sources of information, compare online content with other sources and understand that not everything published online is accurate or trustworthy. They are also taught the importance of acknowledging sources of information and respecting copyright laws when using online materials in their work.

Online safety education forms part of the school's computing curriculum and safeguarding provision. Pupils are regularly taught how to stay safe online, protect personal information and report concerns to a trusted adult.

The school also teaches pupils about the risks associated with online manipulation, misinformation and radicalisation. Pupils learn that social media and online platforms can sometimes be used to influence or persuade individuals in harmful ways. Through age-

appropriate teaching, pupils are encouraged to develop resilience, critical thinking and awareness of how to seek support if they encounter concerning material online.

Pupils are reminded regularly that if they see or access any material online that makes them feel uncomfortable, worried or unsafe, they should immediately report it to a member of staff.

E-Mail and Online Communication

E-mail and digital communication are important tools within education; however, they must always be used appropriately and professionally.

School e-mail systems are provided for educational and professional purposes only. Pupils may use internal messaging or communication systems under staff supervision as part of planned learning activities.

The forwarding of chain messages, inappropriate communication or excessive social messaging is not permitted. Public chat rooms and unauthorised communication platforms are prohibited within school.

The school reminds all users that electronic communication should never be assumed to be completely private and that all communication using school systems may be monitored where necessary.

Management of the School Website

The school website is an important tool for celebrating pupils' achievements, communicating with parents and sharing information about the school community. All content published on the website must reflect the values and ethos of Darul Madinah Primary School.

Responsibility for the management and oversight of the website is delegated by the Headteacher to appropriate staff members. The school ensures that all published material is accurate, appropriate and professionally presented.

The school takes pupil privacy and data protection extremely seriously. Personal information about pupils or staff will not be published online. Individual pupils will not be identified by full name alongside photographs and images will be carefully selected to minimise risks.

Where photographs of pupils are used, preference will be given to group photographs or images where children cannot easily be individually identified. Parental consent for the use of photographs and images is obtained in line with GDPR requirements and the school's data protection procedures.

Only school contact details will appear on the website. Personal staff or pupil contact information will never be published.

Use of Other Internet Applications

The internet provides access to a range of applications and services including video streaming, live communication platforms, online collaboration tools and educational software. While many of these applications have educational value, they may also present safeguarding risks if not appropriately managed.

The school does not permit pupils to access public chat rooms or unapproved online communication platforms. Any new digital platform or application introduced within school will be carefully assessed and tested before pupil access is granted.

Staff access to certain online services may be necessary for educational or professional purposes; however, all use must remain appropriate, secure and in line with this policy.

Authorisation of Internet Access

Internet access is provided to pupils and staff as part of the school's educational provision. Access is granted on the understanding that users will behave responsibly and follow school expectations regarding online safety and appropriate conduct.

At Key Stage 1, internet access is primarily teacher-led and highly supervised. Pupils may occasionally access approved online materials directly under close adult supervision.

At Key Stage 2, pupils are provided with broader supervised access to online resources as part of their curriculum learning. Prior to this access, pupils receive age-appropriate education regarding responsible internet use and online safety.

Parents are informed that pupils will access the internet as part of their education and parental consent is obtained in accordance with school procedures.

Safeguarding and Online Safety

Safeguarding is central to all internet use within school. The school acknowledges that although filtering and monitoring systems significantly reduce risk, no system can guarantee complete protection from inappropriate content.

The school therefore adopts a comprehensive approach to online safety that combines filtering, monitoring, education, supervision and safeguarding procedures.

Pupils are regularly reminded about how to stay safe online, including the importance of protecting personal information, avoiding contact with strangers online and reporting inappropriate content or behaviour.

The school also recognises the increasing risks associated with online radicalisation, harmful content and exploitation. Staff remain vigilant and concerns relating to online safety are managed in line with safeguarding procedures and the Prevent Duty.

Filtering and Monitoring Systems

The school uses CloudTitan filtering systems to restrict access to inappropriate or harmful content. Filtering and monitoring arrangements are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain effective and compliant with safeguarding expectations.

Senior leaders conduct periodic checks to ensure that filtering systems are functioning correctly and continue to provide appropriate levels of protection for pupils.

If inappropriate or unsuitable content is identified, staff and pupils must report this immediately to the Headteacher or designated safeguarding lead. Where necessary, concerns may be referred to external agencies including the Internet Watch Foundation or safeguarding authorities.

ICT System Security

The school recognises the importance of maintaining the security and integrity of its ICT systems and networks. Appropriate measures are implemented to protect systems from unauthorised access, malicious software and cyber security threats.

Virus protection and security software are maintained and updated regularly. The use of removable devices, downloads and email attachments is monitored to minimise risks to school systems.

Personal or sensitive data should not be transferred through insecure systems or shared inappropriately online. All staff are expected to follow the school's data protection and information security procedures.

Any concerns relating to cyber security, unauthorised access or misuse of systems must be reported immediately to senior leaders.

Responding to Incidents and Complaints

The school takes all concerns relating to internet use and online safety seriously. Any incidents involving inappropriate internet use will be investigated promptly and managed in accordance with the school's safeguarding and behaviour procedures.

Responsibility for managing incidents rests with senior leaders, including the Headteacher and designated safeguarding lead where appropriate.

Sanctions for misuse of internet systems may include restrictions on internet access, completion of restorative work, parental meetings or further disciplinary action depending on the seriousness of the incident.

Where necessary, external agencies including the police may be contacted, particularly in situations involving illegal activity, safeguarding concerns or serious breaches of school systems.

Parents and pupils are encouraged to work in partnership with the school to resolve concerns relating to internet use and online safety.

Staff Training and Awareness

The school recognises the importance of ensuring that all staff are confident and competent in promoting online safety and supervising internet use effectively.

All staff, including teachers, support staff, volunteers and supply staff, are provided with relevant policies and guidance relating to internet access and online safety. Staff receive appropriate safeguarding and online safety training as part of their professional development.

The school promotes a culture of vigilance and encourages staff to remain aware of emerging online risks, trends and technologies.

Online safety guidance and reminders are displayed around school and integrated into classroom practice where appropriate.

Partnership with Parents and Carers

The school values the important role parents and carers play in supporting children to use the internet safely and responsibly outside of school.

The school seeks to work in partnership with parents by providing information, guidance and support regarding online safety, gaming, social media and responsible technology use.

Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's internet use at home, establish appropriate boundaries and discuss online safety regularly with their children.

The school may provide workshops, guidance materials or links to online safety resources to further support parents and carers.

Internet Use Within the Community

The school recognises that pupils may access the internet in a variety of locations outside school, including libraries, community centres and at home. The school encourages consistent expectations regarding safe and responsible internet use across all settings.

Where possible, the school will work collaboratively with community organisations and parents to promote safe online practices and responsible use of technology.

Rules for Responsible Internet Use

All pupils and staff are expected to use the internet responsibly and respectfully. Internet use within school must always support learning, safeguarding and the positive values of the school community.

Pupils must not attempt to access inappropriate material, bypass filtering systems or use technology in a way that may place themselves or others at risk.

Personal information including home addresses, telephone numbers and private details must never be shared online. Pupils must not communicate with strangers online or access unauthorised communication platforms.

Pupils are expected to report anything online that causes concern, discomfort or worry immediately to a trusted adult.

All internet use within school is supervised and monitored to ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff.

Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher and senior leadership team are responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of this policy.

The school will review this policy annually, or sooner if required, to ensure that it remains compliant with safeguarding guidance, technological developments and statutory expectations.

Monitoring may include:

- Reviewing filtering and monitoring systems
- Monitoring incidents and safeguarding concerns
- Reviewing staff training needs
- Gathering feedback from pupils, staff and parents
- Reviewing developments in online safety guidance

Parent Consent and Agreement

Parents and carers are informed that supervised internet access forms part of the school curriculum and educational provision.

By signing the school's consent forms, parents acknowledge that pupils will access online resources within a filtered and supervised environment and agree to support the school's expectations regarding responsible internet use.

Pupils are also expected to follow the school's rules for responsible internet use and understand that misuse of technology may result in sanctions or restrictions being applied.