

# BEATRIX POTTER PRIMARY SCHOOL

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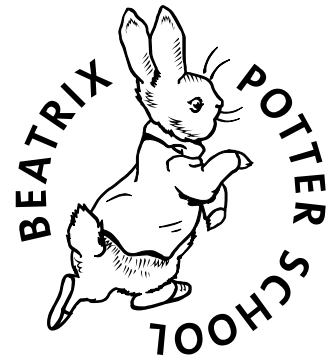
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## ICT and the Internet.

### Purpose

“While schools need to exercise caution when allowing children access to ICT, they should not be deterred from using it. It’s educational benefits outweigh any possible dangers. Schools have always helped learners to engage with society based on clear support and guidelines, and the use of the Internet and related technology should be no exception...”. (NGFL, 2009).

We want to ensure children can use the Internet safely and responsibly as an integral part of lessons in all subjects of the curriculum.

### Rationale.

The Internet has become an important aspect of everyday life to which children need to be able to respond safely and responsibly. The Internet offers a valuable resource for teachers and children and children and ways to communicate with others via the World Wide Web.

ICT provides a powerful resource for learning, as well as a powerful resource of communication.

ICT in education provides a number of specific learning benefits, including:

- ✓ Improved subject learning across a wide range of curriculum areas.
- ✓ Improved motivation and attitudes to learning.
- ✓ Development of independent learning and research skills.
- ✓ Enhanced social and collaborative skills.

However, due to the unregulated nature of the Internet, there are risks that children may gain access to material that is inappropriate. We set out the measures that minimises these risks.

The school encourages use by pupils of the rich information resources available on the Internet, together with the development of appropriate skills to analyse and evaluate such resources. These skills will be fundamental in the society our pupils will be entering.

Online services significantly alter the information landscape for schools by opening classrooms to a broader array of resources. In the past, teaching and library materials could usually be carefully chosen. All such materials would be chosen to be consistent with national policies, supporting and enriching the curriculum while taking into account the varied teaching needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of the pupils. Internet access, because it may lead to any publicly available site in the world, open classrooms to electronic information resources which have not been selected by teachers as appropriate for use by pupils. Electronic information research skills are now essential for children. It is now part of the curriculum and forms part of the necessary skills for all pupils.

Access to online resources will enable pupils to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with people throughout the world. The school believes that the benefits to pupils from access to information resources and increased opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are

responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources.

### **Our Guidelines.**

**Parental Permission: Internet Usage:** No pupil should use the Internet without parental permission, and without accepting the school's rules on acceptable use. Parents are requested to state if they do not agree to using the internet and the schools internet linked resources. (BP Acceptable Use Policy for Parents) This acknowledges that parents and carers accept some responsibility for the way in which their children use the Internet and that, in spite of all reasonable precautions and supervision, there still remains a small risk of children viewing inappropriate material.

**Photographs of Pupils for school use and web use.**

All parents are required to complete and return the Photograph Consent Form.

**A Filtered Internet Service:**

The school through its provider has a filtered Internet service that currently filters out websites known to contain racist, offensive, pornographic, illegal or other inappropriate material. Filters are never 100% effective. It is the responsibility of all teaching and non-teaching staff to report instances of inappropriate sites not being filtered so that they can be blocked.

**A "Commonsense Approach" What you can do:**

Many of the risks of using the Internet and related technologies can be minimised by taking a commonsense approach: Sitting computers in areas with open access, where everyone can see what is on screen. Taking an interest in the Internet and regularly discussing what children see and use. Monitoring online time and being aware of the nature of work being completed on the web. Educating children to use the Internet in a sensible and responsible manner. Making pupils aware of the importance of not divulging personal information such as name, address and phone numbers on the Internet. Encouraging learners to be critical users of the Internet: "Is the information true? How do you know?".

Warning children that there are some unsuitable sites on the Internet and discussing the issues involved. Making children clear of the consequences for misuse of the Internet and technologies present in school and at home. All of these simple and practical steps will safeguard your child and make them aware of the possibilities and potential problems with the web.

**Supervision in school:** Pupils for most of the time will be supervised when using a computer. However there will be times when children will use IT on their own. The children will be expected to follow the rules we have set for them. The school has developed a set of guidelines for IT use by pupils. All children will be taught about acceptable and responsible use of the Internet. At school we will implement the following:

Children can only use the Internet at school if their parents agree.

Children must always get permission from an adult before using a computer.

Children can only use the computers at break and lunch times if a teacher has been told.

If they discover something that is not nice on the Internet, they are taught to sensibly turn the monitor off and find and tell a teacher straight away. If a pupil breaks the rules their use of the school IT will cease until they agree to follow the rules.

**Some Guidelines for Specific Technologies:**

**Chatrooms, Discussion Groups & Instant Messaging (MSN Messenger/Yahoo Messenger etc):**

Children are not allowed to enter or access these services within school. A controlled service such as E Pals will be used, due to its very controlled and teacher monitored facilities.

**Real Time Conferencing (NetMeeting) SKYPE:**

Real Time Conferencing will only take place within school under direct adult supervision during lesson time.

**Email:** Children are not allowed to access their home based email accounts within school. When required to access email as part of the School's ICT Scheme of Work, the School will provide children with a Learning Gateway class email account. Children will be reminded not to divulge personal information via email and will be warned of the dangers of: Bullying by email, anonymous senders and Spam.

**Downloading Files & Attachments and Virus Awareness:**

In order to protect the resources of the school, everyone will be aware of antivirus practices. Staff are asked to be aware of hidden viruses when opening email attachments; and if in doubt, to seek advice. If children bring in memory sticks teachers will check them for any issues.