St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Internet Policy & Internet Use Agreement

Internet access is available to the staff and pupils at St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School.

The Internet is a network connecting computers all over the world and millions of individual users. Through this medium pupils and teachers have access to a wide variety of resources including: access to many university and government libraries and library catalogues; electronic mail; information and news from countless agencies and governments; information provided through the Lancashire Local Authority Intranet, public domain software and shareware/demonstration software of all types

At St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School we believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both pupils and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and pupils is to promote educational excellence and raise standards by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication.

By reading this agreement pupils, staff members and parents acknowledge that they are aware of their rights and responsibilities as users of the Internet in the school. In general, this agreement requires efficient, ethical and legal utilisation of the resources. If a person violates any of these provisions, his or her future access could possibly be restricted or denied.

With the Internet providing access to computers and people all over the world, pupils could also gain access to material that would not be considered to be of educational value, or to be appropriate in the context of a school setting. St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials via a Smart Filter screening system. However, on a global network it is impossible to guarantee total control over access to all materials. An industrious user could access controversial information, if he or she was determined to do so. We firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide resource far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the school.

Access to the Internet relies upon the proper conduct of the pupils and staff who must adhere to certain Internet procedures and guidelines. In addition, St. Bernadette's has defined its own guidelines addressing both the rights and responsibilities of pupils and staff who access the Internet through the school's computers. These guidelines are attached.

Internet Access & Security.

Acceptable Use - The use of the Internet, through school computers, must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School.

The transmission of any material in violation of any UK laws is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene materials, or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities is generally not acceptable. Use for advertising of any kind or nature or political lobbying is strictly prohibited.

Privileges - The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use as solely determined by the Headteacher will result in revocation of those privileges. The Headteacher will deem what is inappropriate use, and this decision is final. Also, the Headteacher may deny, revoke, or suspend a staff members and/or pupil's access if he or she is found to be abusing the privilege of using the Internet. A log of all Internet access and activity is monitored so misuse of the system can be identified and dealt with.

Internet Rules – All users are expected to abide by the following rules:

- ❑ Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
- ❑ Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- ❑ Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
- ❑ Do not reveal the personal address or phone number of pupils or colleagues.
- ❑ Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not private. System operators have access to all mail.
- ❑ Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- ❑ Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
- ❑ All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
- ❑ Certain Internet forums, discussion groups, user groups, etc. may contain or address material that is, or could be construed to be obscene. Pupils and staff are expressly denied access to such Internet resources

If an Internet resource is of a questionable nature, the burden of responsibility lies with the pupil to check with the teacher to determine if the pupil should or should not access that resource

Security - Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Staff and pupils may not use another individual's logon account. Pupils may not access resources for which they do not have expressed permission.

Vandalism - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, Internet, or any of the agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet.

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its Internet provision.