

Internet Policy

The Internet provides access to the vast information resources of the World Wide Web and allows electronic exchange of information by means of Email.

From school based systems, it will be deemed that use of the Internet will constitute an educational purpose, and that use therefore must be appropriate, relevant to duty, and mindful of security disciplines. Any information downloaded must be respectful of copyright, property rights and privacy. Information downloaded is stored in the cache of the system, therefore can potentially be observed by a third party, including pupils. Information uploaded must be mindful of confidentiality and data security.

Downloading of offensive or explicit material, unlicensed software or software for personal use at all times is unacceptable. Offensive sites that escape a block by the filtering application or firewall must be reported to the Headteacher or ICT Co-ordinator.

Effort should be made to ensure sites visited are clean, thus avoiding the download into our system of any virus. Sherborne Prep School networked machines use a Navaho firewall and the likelihood of contamination is minimal. However, any messages received from filtering programmes should be appropriately responded to and be reported to the ICT Co-ordinator.

Children working on the internet should be clearly guided to the purpose of their activity. At times research may involve following blind links, so careful monitoring and quick intervention should be prepared for. When practical, likely links should be pre-investigated. Public domain pictures can be copied and pasted, and short texts for reference can be downloaded, but pasting large unedited text into own work should be discouraged.

Children should have the nature of the internet explained in age appropriate terms at the beginning of each year, with ongoing reminders. This will be done in IT lessons for years 3 – 6, for years 7 & 8 it will be done in P.S.H.E. The web mirrors the outside world and is not all good, safe and healthy.

Children's work published to the web should have only first names as an identifier. Where identifiable faces appear in pictures, no names should be attached. Exceptions are only permitted with written parental consent.

If you are in any doubt with regard to any point please see the Deputy Head (Administration).