



USING THE INTERNET AT HOME: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Date of Review:	September 2024
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This policy has been written following a consultation process, ratified by the Board of Governors and communicated to the school community as required. It will be monitored and reviewed as part of the school's policy review schedule.

Dear Parents,

E-SAFETY

School ICT & Internet Access

As part of the school's Information and Communications Technology Programme we provide children with access to the Internet. Before being allowed to use the Internet, all children must obtain parental permission and both they and you must sign and return the enclosed form as evidence of your approval and their acceptance of the school guidance on this matter.

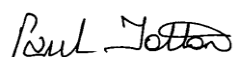
In Ballymagee Primary School we provide filtered and monitored access to the Internet for children. Access to the Internet will enable children to explore libraries, databases and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with other Internet users. However, parents should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive to some people.

During school, teachers will try to ensure children only access appropriate materials through careful monitoring. Our school Internet Policy details the steps the school has taken to ensure Internet use provides safe and effective learning. A copy of our policy is available online or on request at the school office.

We believe that any disadvantages of the Internet are outweighed by the positive benefits to the children in enhanced learning opportunities. However, the school respects the right of each family to decide whether or not to apply for access. Please find enclosed a copy of the **Rules for Responsible Internet Use**, which your child will be expected to follow if you agree to their supervised use of the Internet in school. Please take time to read through these rules with your child before they sign the agreement. After considering the information provided please complete and **return the enclosed Internet Permission form as soon as possible**.

We have also included **Guidance for Parents** on the use of the Internet by children at home, which we hope you will find useful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Totton'.

P. Totton
Principal

Using the Internet at Home – A Guide for Parents

While in school, teachers will guide children toward appropriate materials on the Internet. Parents or carers have a key role to play in helping children and young people to use technology safely and responsibly outside of school. By promoting e-safety at home, parents and carers can help to reinforce the messages taught in school and help to equip children with the skills needed to use any technology they encounter safely.

Appropriate home use of the Internet by children can be educationally beneficial and can make a useful contribution to home and schoolwork. In Ballymagee Primary School we provide filtered and monitored access to the Internet for children. You might find the following guidance and advice on the use of the internet helpful at home.

- Parents should ensure that children only access the internet when an adult is present or that the home computer / portable device is sited in such a place that careful monitoring is possible;
- Parents should carefully consider installing filtering software to protect their children from inappropriate sites;
- Parents should discuss with their children the rules for using the Internet and decide together when, how long, and what comprises appropriate use;
- Parents should get to know the sites their children visit, and talk to them about what they are learning;
- Parents should ensure that they give their agreement before their children give out personal identifying information in any electronic communication on the Internet, such as a picture, an address, a phone number, the school name, or financial information such as credit card or bank details.
- Parents should encourage their children not to respond to any unwelcome, unpleasant or abusive messages, and to tell them if they receive any such messages or images. If the message comes from an Internet service connection provided by the school or by C2K, they should immediately inform the school.

Free advice for parents is available from the following sources:

Think U Know – www.thinkuknow.co.uk

UK Safer Internet Centre www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources

Childnet - www.childnet.com

Get Safe On –Line - www.getsafeonline.org

Rules for Responsible Internet Use in School

The school has installed computers with Internet access to help our learning.

These rules will help keep us safe and help us be fair to others.

Using the computers:

- I will only access the computer system with the Username and Password I have been given;
- I will not access other people's files;
- I will not bring in Pen Drives (USB Data Sticks), Camera Cards or Portable Devices from outside school and try to connect them to the school computers without my teacher's permission.

Using the Internet:

- I will ask permission from a teacher before using the internet;
- I will only go onto the internet sites my teacher has given me permission to use;
- I will report any unpleasant material to my teacher immediately because this will help protect other children and myself;
- I understand that the school may check my computer files and may monitor the internet sites I visit;
- I will not complete and send forms without permission from my teacher;
- I will not give my full name, my home address or telephone number when completing forms.

Using MY-SCHOOL, VLE's (E.g. Google Classroom, Collaborate, Class Dojo) and C2K School E-mail Account:

- I will ask permission from a teacher before checking the e-mail;
- I will immediately report any unpleasant messages sent to me because this would help protect other children and myself;
- I understand that e-mail messages I receive or send may be read by others;
- Any messages I send/post will be polite and responsible;
- I will only e-mail people I know, or my teacher has approved;
- I will only send an e-mail when it has been checked by a teacher;
- I will not give my full name, my home address or telephone number;
- I will not use e-mail to arrange to meet someone outside school hours.

Internet Permission Form

Parents

I do/do not* give my permission for _____ (Child's Name)

1) To have supervised access to the Internet in school.

2) To use MY-SCHOOL and VLE's in school and at home.

Signed _____ (parent/guardian) Date _____

Child

I will use school computers sensibly and will follow all the school rules about Computer and Internet use.

Pupil Signature _____ Date _____

I understand that the school will implement my decision throughout my child's time in Ballymagee Primary unless I inform the school otherwise in writing.