Mill Hill Primary School

Policy on ICT Internet Access

(see also ICT, Child Protection Safeguarding, Risk Management)

1 Introduction

1.1 Mill Hill Primary School has developed extensive use of the internet to bring knowledge and skills to the children in our care. This brings enormous benefits to both pupils and teachers in terms of access to a vast store of information.

1.2 The internet facilitates nationwide and worldwide communication with other schools and institutions extremely quickly allowing users to share information, experiences and expertise. However, because the Internet is so easily accessible by many independent bodies a great deal of material lodged in the system is of a sensitive nature, totally unsuitable to be viewed by the children in our care.

1.3 What follows is Mill Hill Primary School's access policy designed to ensure, as far as possible, that users are protected at all times from undesirable materials. The policy has been developed by all the teaching staff and has the support of the Head Teacher and governing body.

1.4 This policy is restricted to curriculum access only and should not be seen as reflecting school administration use.

2 Why Internet access is essential

2.1 The purpose of using the internet in schools is to raise educational standards and to support the professional work of staff.

2.2 It will enable:

- access to worldwide educational resources housed in eg museums, art galleries, libraries;
- inclusion in government initiatives such as National Grid for Learning (NGFL) and VLE;
- information and cultural exchanges between children worldwide;
- news and current events;
- cultural, social and leisure use in libraries, clubs and at home;
- information exchange between staff and colleagues world-wide;
- staff access to educational materials and good curriculum practice;
- communication with LA curriculum advisory and support service;
- compliance with NC requirements of teaching how to use the internet to gather information and communicating via e-mail;
- promotion of our school's and children's achievements via our own website;
- staff CPD eg Inclusion Development Programme, Testbase.

3 How the school will ensure the Internet will aid effective learning

3.1 Pupils will be given clear objectives for internet use.

3.1 Staff and pupils will have updated lists of relevant and reliable web sites.

3.3 Internet access will be planned to enrich learning across all curriculum areas.

4 How we will protect pupils from unsuitable materials

4.1 Pupil access will be supervised at all times via central system server and by staff members.

4.2   Pupils engaged on curriculum research and/or computer club activities will be under the supervision of at least one member of staff.

4.3   The LA's filtering system (firewall) provides a good level of security but regular reviews will be undertaken to assess whether levels need to be increased.

4.4   Staff will check that sites selected for pupils are appropriate.

4.5   Only approved appropriate sites will be copied to the school's Intranet.

4.6   Children's access policies and profiles will be regularly checked by our technician to allow unrestricted access to curriculum areas, but with adequate restrictions to prevent unauthorised use or access to sensitive areas.

4.7   Rules for internet access will be posted near computer systems.

4.8   All staff will have access to the Internet Access Policy.

4.9   Parents' attention will be drawn to the Policy on the school website.

4.10   A pupil may have internet or computer access denied for a period.

5   Monitoring and review

5.1   This policy is monitored by the governing body, and will be regularly reviewed in light of developing internet experience.

Signed: …………………………………………..

          Chair of Governors

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          Head Teacher

October 2018