

## Letter for Parents

Dear Parents

### **Safe use of the internet, email and ICT equipment in school**

As part of the national curriculum pupils use computers in school to access the internet and to send email. Teaching pupils about safe use of these facilities is included as part of the curriculum. Your child will be introduced to eSafety in a planned and progressive way through school to help them understand how to keep themselves safe when using the internet and other electronic devices. We will ensure that safe use is always included when new activities are introduced to pupils.

As part of our commitment to their safety we always ensure that access to the internet has a valuable educational purpose and is supervised. Internet access is provided by Sacred Heart School through a filtered system which prevents access to the majority of undesirable material. However there is always a small chance that undesirable material can get through the filters but we will teach the children what to do should this occur. We will educate pupils to act responsibly on the internet and to understand some of the risks involved.

When pupils use email or other forms of electronic communication, this will always be in a carefully controlled way so that we know who pupils are in contact with

Many children now have access to the internet outside school, some via their mobile phones. You should be aware this offers pupils much more freedom to use the internet and consequently more ready access to material and activities which might be considered unsuitable. Pupils may also use this freedom to make contact with people they do not actually know, although they may consider them their friends, because they make contact with them on a regular basis. Pupils may also use some of these facilities (such as MSN, text messaging, cameras on mobile phones or social network sites such as Facebook) to send upsetting messages or publish things about other pupils which could count as bullying.

We will teach pupils about 'cyberbullying' and the danger of making contact with strangers online as part of the curriculum. We want you to know that we take any activity of this kind seriously even if it takes place outside school, as it can be seriously upsetting for the recipient. We would contact you if an issue of this kind were to arise and would ask for your support in dealing with issues.

I enclose a copy of the Acceptable Use Policy that we operate at our school, which your child is expected to follow

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

