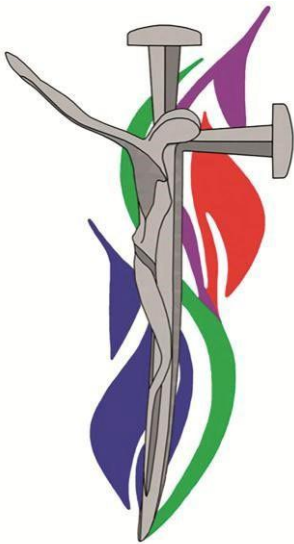


Holy Cross MAC Policy

Online Safety

At

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School



Responsible for policy	Veronica Gosling
Date approved	29.9.25
Posted on website	29.9.25
Date of policy review	29.9.29

INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

Mission statement

“St John Vianney School is an academic community which is characterised by the Gospel Spirit of Peace, Justice and Love. All that we do and say in our school will be dominated by Jesus’ words “Love one another as I have loved you”. Our school rules are based on this statement and carried in “our hearts and our heads” and reflected in the life and work of our school”.

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of all children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School’s Internet Policy has been written by the Computing coordinator and Headteacher, building on NGfL policy and government guidance. It has been agreed by all staff and approved by governors.

WHY THE INTERNET IS IMPORTANT?

The purpose of Internet use in our school is to raise educational standards, to promote pupil achievement, to support the professional work of staff and to enhance the school’s management information and business administration systems.

Internet use is part of the statutory curriculum and a necessary tool for staff and pupils. Internet access is an entitlement for children who show a responsible and mature approach to its use. The Internet is an essential element in modern life for education, business and social interaction. Our school has a duty to provide pupils with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience.

HOW THE INTERNET BENEFITS EDUCATION

We consider the Internet to be vital for educational development. Benefits of using the Internet in education include:

- Access to world-wide educational resources including museums, art galleries and other school sites across the world.
- Access to online learning platforms such as Showbie as a means to view, complete and upload work.
- Inclusion in government initiatives.
- Educational and cultural exchanges between pupils world-wide.
- Access to experts in many fields for pupils and staff.
- Staff professional development through access to national developments, educational materials and best curriculum practice

HOW THE INTERNET WILL ENHANCE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Our school Internet access is designed expressly for pupil use and includes filtering appropriate to the age of our pupils. Pupils will be taught what is acceptable and what is not acceptable and given clear objectives for Internet use. Adults will guide pupils in online activities that will support the learning outcomes planned for the class. Pupils will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location and retrieval.

EVALUATING INTERNET CONTENT

If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address) and content must be reported to the school technician, DSL or DPO (Chris Connell) depending on the severity of the content. It will also be picked up by our monitoring service Sensio. St John Vianney Catholic Primary staff and pupils use Internet derived materials within copyright law. St John Vianney Catholic Primary School will be taught to be critically aware of the materials they read, acknowledge the source of the information and to respect copyright law when using Internet material in their work.

MANAGING WEBSITE CONTENT

The point of contact on the Web is the school address, school email and telephone number. Staff and pupils' home information will not be published. The school is responsible for all changes to the school website with support from the website provider if needed. Content is changed and amended by members of staff only, with username and password access. Web site photographs that include pupils will be selected carefully and will not identify individual pupils by name. Children will only be referred to by first names anywhere on the website but never in conjunction with their photograph, particularly in association with published work. Written permission will be obtained from parents on the school admission form before photographs and work of pupils are published on the school website. The Headteacher will take overall editorial responsibility and ensure content is accurate and appropriate. The school website is used to update news, events and publish photos and class work. All photos and children's work added by classes will be uploaded by members of staff only. The school's SLT, in conjunction with the school's IT manager, will have responsibility for monitoring web filters on a regular basis and will report to the Headteacher on a regular basis. Should any safeguarding concerns arise, the DSL should be informed immediately using the standard safeguarding concerns systems.

COMMUNICATION WITH PUPILS – PAST & PRESENT

All staff recognise the risks and dangers of forming on-line "friendships" or entering into communication with parents/carers and pupils. This could lead to professional relationships being compromised and allow themselves to be placed in vulnerable situations possibly leading to serious allegations. Online friendships and communication with present pupils is strictly not allowed and communications with past pupils under the age of 18 is not permitted. (See Guidance on the use of social networking sites and other forms of social media which supports this policy).

INTERNET ACCESS WITHIN LESSONS

Access to the internet is an integral part of lessons at St John Vianney. Lessons across all subjects often make use of apps, websites and online learning platforms to enhance teaching and learning. At Key Stage 1 and EYFS, access to the Internet will be by adult

demonstration followed by directly supervised access to specific, approved on-line materials. Key Stage 2 children all have their own Chrome Books with internet access. Within lessons pupils are allowed to use provided links and websites independently, online learning platforms and search engines in the presence of an adult. All Chrome books can be monitored through the use of Senso. At St John Vianney we teach the children to use a variety of search engines such as "Google". Senso filter is enabled at all times even when using a search engine. This is monitored weekly by the SLT/DSL and reported to governors on a regular basis. Staff are also taught about the need for vigilance at all times and the importance of immediate reporting of any searches that may cause concern.

ASSESSING RISKS

In common with other media such as magazines, books and video, some material available via the Internet is unsuitable for children. Staff at St John Vianney will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that pupils access only appropriate material. However, due to the international scale and linked nature of Internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never appear on a school computer. Neither the school nor MAC can accept liability for the material accessed, or any consequences of Internet access. The use of computer systems without permission or for inappropriate purposes could constitute a criminal offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990. Methods to identify, assess and minimise risks will be reviewed regularly. The Headteacher will ensure that the Internet policy is implemented and compliance with the policy monitored. The Headteacher will handle any Internet related complaints in accordance with school policy

INTERNET FILTERING

The school will work in partnership with parents, the MAC and the DFE guidelines to ensure systems to protect pupils are reviewed and improved. If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address) and content must be reported to the Computing coordinator, Head teacher or IT manager and in serious cases, the Internet Service Provider via the Head teacher. All Internet access at St John Vianney will be filtered through the SENSO proxy server. This facility can only be disabled by the IT manager or Headteacher in consultation with the HCCMAC. All staff will ensure that regular checks are made to ensure that the filtering methods selected are appropriate, effective and reasonable. Any material that the school believes is illegal must be referred to the HCCMAC.

INTRODUCING THE INTERNET POLICY

Rules for Internet access will be posted near or on all computer systems or in the classroom. Pupils will be regularly reminded of the rules and made aware that use of the Internet is reliant upon following these rules. These will also be covered during Online Safety lessons within the Computing Curriculum.

STAFF CONSULTATION

Staff have received training in the use of the school's internet systems, including monitoring and filtering in line with KCSIE 2023. All staff must accept the terms of the 'Internet Access Policy' and sign the Acceptable Use Policy Agreement before using any Internet resource in school. All staff including teachers, supply staff, classroom assistants and support staff, will be provided with a copy of the policy and are expected to follow its content.

MAINTAINING ICT SYSTEM SECURITY

The school ICT systems will be reviewed regularly with regard to security. Virus protection will be installed and updated regularly in accordance with HCCMAC instructions.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parent's attention will be drawn to the school's Internet Access Policy when children join St John Vianney Catholic Primary School. Internet issues will be handled sensitively to inform parents without undue alarm. St John Vianney Catholic School will always work in partnership with parents.

To Be read in conjunction with the MAC