



BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL RIYADH

INTERNET POLICY 2008

The National Curriculum requires pupils to learn how to locate, retrieve and exchange information using ICT. In delivering the curriculum, teachers need to plan to integrate the use of communications technology such as web-based resources and e-mail. Computer skills are vital to access life-long learning and employment; indeed ICT is now seen as an essential life-skill.

Most technologies present risks as well as benefits. Internet use for work, home, social and leisure activities is expanding in all sectors of society. This brings young people into contact with a wide variety of influences, some of which – as in life generally – may be unsuitable. It is important that schools and parents adopt strategies for the safe and responsible use of the Internet.

The BIS Internet Policy is built on the following core principles:

GUIDED EDUCATIONAL USE

Significant educational benefits should result from curriculum Internet use including access to information from around the world and the abilities to communicate widely and to publish easily. Curriculum ***Internet use should be planned, task-orientated and educational within a regulated and managed environment.*** Directed and successful Internet use will also reduce the opportunities for activities of dubious worth.

RISK ASSESSMENT

21st century life presents dangers including violence, racism and exploitation from which children and young people need to be protected. At the same time they must learn to recognise and avoid these risks – to become “Internet Wise”. We need to ensure that they are fully aware of the risks, perform risk assessments and implement a policy for Internet use. Pupils need to know how to cope if they come across inappropriate material.

Pupils may obtain Internet access in the home. Ideally a similar approach to risk assessment and Internet safety should also be taken.

REGULATION

The use of a finite and expensive resource, which brings with it the possibility of misuse, requires regulation. In some cases, access within the school must simply be denied, for instance unmoderated chat rooms present immediate dangers and are usually banned. Fair rules, clarified by discussion and prominently displayed at the point of access will help pupils make responsible decisions.