

# **I.C.T. POLICY**

## **BELIEF STATEMENT**

Bangor Grammar believes that:

- ICT literacy is a key skill in developing pupil learning and is becoming as important as literacy in language and application of number. Therefore the ability of pupils to effectively use ICT to deepen and develop their learning is of utmost importance.
- ICT can encourage pupils to become more independent in their own learning by developing their skills in finding and using appropriate information. This in turn can help develop skills that will contribute to the life-long learning of pupils.
- ICT can provide access to sources of information beyond the normal scope of the school.
- All pupils are entitled to access to computers where this will further or deepen their learning and understanding.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### *AIMS*

It is the aim of the school:

- To develop and extend the individual ICT skills of all pupils.
- To use ICT skills learned through ICT classes to enhance, enrich and extend learning in other curriculum subjects.
- To encourage pupils to recognise and be confident with the appropriate uses of ICT.
- To increase pupil motivation and self-esteem by improving the presentation of their work.
- To use ICT, when appropriate, to improve the learning experiences of all pupils.

### *OBJECTIVES*

The School seeks to achieve these aims through developing:

- Pupil knowledge and understanding of ICT technology used to promote their ICT skills so that they are at a level appropriate to their age and ability.
- Links across the curriculum subjects so that pupils can not only further their knowledge of ICT skills but also deepen their knowledge of other areas of study.

- Pupil understanding of the benefits of using ICT both in the school environment and the wider world.

## **TARGETS AND TARGET SETTING**

We are currently reviewing ICT Provision using the framework provided by the Becta Self Review which will allow us to evaluate where we are currently in this area. The aim of this process is to help us to set clear targets for where we would like to get to and how we can get there. Following this review we will be setting the short, medium and long term targets required for us to achieve our vision of ICT provision at Bangor Grammar School

## **STAFF**

All staff use ICT regularly in the course of their normal duties. The following staff have particular responsibilities with regards to certain areas of ICT provision.

The Senior Teacher with responsibility for ICT is responsible for the purchase of ICT equipment throughout the school, for the implementation of the ICT Policy and the AUP, and, in conjunction with the Head of ICT, for Key Stage 3 ICT Assessment and staff development in the use of ICT.

The C2K Manager is responsible for liaising with C2K on ICT related issues and ensuring that staff are kept up to date with changes to and trained in the use of the C2K managed services.

The Head of ICT is responsible for the curricular provision of ICT in school and, in conjunction with the Senior Teacher with Responsibility for ICT for Key Stage 3 ICT Assessment and staff development in the use of ICT.

ICT Subject Leaders, work with the Head of ICT to co-ordinate Key Stage 3 ICT Assessment. They work within departments to encourage the consistent use of ICT and further develop staff ICT skills.

The ICT Technician is responsible the smooth running of the school networks and related hardware and software. They work closely with the Senior Teacher with Responsibility for ICT and the Head of ICT.

## **PROMOTING THE SUBJECT WITHIN THE SCHOOL / CROSS-CURRICULAR THEMES -**

ICT is promoted as a cross curricular theme in the school. All subject areas are required to include ICT in their curriculum materials and schemes of work. Each department has been surveyed to ascertain the current position of ICT provision in the relevant schemes of work. This procedure is carried out periodically to assess the development of ICT provision in the school. Each Head of Department has been made aware of his or her responsibility with regard to ICT provision in the curriculum of their subject and support has been offered to departments where necessary.

This support has included the providing each department with sample ICT assignments as suggested by CCEA. These assignments are subject based and

provide Teacher and Pupil notes on the purpose of the assignment and how to carry it out. Departments were encouraged to use these assignments where no ICT assignments were included in schemes of work. Staff training is also provided to introduce new network procedures or how to use software and hardware as appropriate.

It has been suggested that each department should include an ICT based assignment as a benchmark assignment for each year group and the implementation of this strategy would help meet the requirement of ICT provision in subject areas.

## **ICT IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

At present there exists a statutory requirement on schools in Northern Ireland to 'provide pupils with opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and to apply these in a range of subjects.'<sup>1</sup> Currently in Northern Ireland there is no provision at Key Stage 3 for ICT to be taught as a specific subject, instead it is intended that ICT be included in the curriculum as a cross-curricular theme.

With these requirements in mind each subject area in the School has been encouraged to build ICT into their Programmes of Study. This should take the form of at least one ICT based assignment in the Scheme of Work for each year group. It is intended that, across the whole school curriculum, these assignments will address the 5 'E' requirements (explore, express, exchange, evaluate and exhibit) and each of the 7 levels.

Alongside this cross-curricular approach, ICT is taught as a discrete subject in Year 8. The rationale behind this approach is that the timetabled ICT classes provide pupils with the opportunities to learn and develop the skills necessary to operate the computers and use the various software packages available. This means that a subject teacher should not have to use valuable teaching time showing a class how to use a particular piece of equipment or a software package. This means that the time pupils spend using the computers is focused on completing the task at hand rather than learning ICT skills.

## **ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES**

The Northern Ireland (Revised) Curriculum places a requirement on schools to assess and report on progress in the cross curricular skill of Use of ICT. A department has been given the task of reporting on this skill in each year group in Key Stage 3. Two departments in each year group are to be asked to assess progress through the levels once these levels are agreed. To aid with this Year 8 pupils, as part of their ICT lessons, have produced an ePortfolio to allow them to store all ICT assignments. Records, indicating progression through the levels will be stored in a folder in the Staff Resources drive of the C2K network.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Teacher's Handbook – Accreditation of Information Technology Assessment', produced by CCEA 1997 ISBN 1 85678 949 7 – p.3

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

### ***VISUAL IMPAIRMENT***

The literacy and numeracy problems experienced by visually impaired people are likely to include:

- a lack of reading, writing and numeracy practice
- difficulty in scanning pages or even in scanning words

Computers are used to provide alternative methods of reading and recording work. The high contrast print is easier for pupils to see than handwriting and pupils who need to use large print on a computer screen. Podcasting is used as an alternative means of providing information.

### ***HEARING IMPAIRMENT***

ICT can be of particular benefit to people with a hearing impairment because it allows them opportunity to extend their language skills by use of pictures, text etc. without being dependent on the spoken word.

### ***DYSLEXIA***

ICT can motivate learners with dyslexia to acquire skills for reading, spelling, writing and maths. Word processors with spell checkers, glossaries and thesauri can all help pupils master literacy skills as they aid punctuation, encourage word recognition and help pupils to extend their vocabulary by enabling them to use the words they want to use rather than the ones they can spell.

## **EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES**

The school has the following ICT resources available for teaching ICT

- Across the school we have a whole school network of 165 PC's (C2K network PC's). These PC's have a large number of software packages that can be allocated for pupil and staff use. The network is connected to the internet via a broadband connection.
  - Room 30 – 33 PC's, B&W Laser printer, data projector
  - Room 129 – 20 PC's, B&W Laser printer, data projector
  - Room 130 – 22 PC's, B&W Laser printer and scanner, data projector
  - Library – 26 PC's, Colour Laser printer

- Art has a cluster of 4 PC's with access to an A3 scanner
- Business Studies – 22 PC's with a B&W Laser printer
- The remaining C2K PC's are spread throughout the school, many as teacher workstations.
- Technology have a legacy network of 25 PC's which is run on a separate basis from the C2K network but shares the internet connection.
- Music has a separate suite of networked Apple Macs.

Resources are maintained and replaced as required through the provision of:

- An annual budget allocated from the school. This budget is for the following purposes:
  - Purchase of ICT equipment to replace stock and upgrade equipment as and when necessary.
  - General maintenance of the ICT facilities including repairs and replacement of hardware when necessary.
  - Purchase of consumables for the general running of the ICT suites including paper, ink and toner, etc.
  - Purchase of additional hardware requested by departments or for whole school use.
  - Purchase of additional software packages to aid teaching of ICT or other subject areas.

## **EQUIPMENT AND NETWORK SECURITY**

### **1.1. Virus Check and Firewall**

#### **C2K PC's**

All of the C2K PC's in school are maintained under the C2K maintenance contract and are administered as part of the C2K WAN service for Northern

Ireland. This means that these machines are automatically protected by both anti-virus software and by firewall software as this is provided by C2K.

Legacy PC's

All legacy PC's are connected through the internet link in the school and as such they much conform to C2K guidelines for anti-virus protection.

## 1.2. Password Security

C2K PC's

On entrance to the school new staff and boys in Year 8 all boys are provided with an initial password for the C2K system as provided by C2K. On their first attempt to log onto the network users are prompted to change their password to a password of their choice. These passwords must be at least 8 characters long. Once a term all users are required by the C2K system to change their password and each new password must be unique and the same password cannot be reused. Users may change their own password at any time if they feel that their password security has been compromised this can be done by the user themselves or by contacting one of the Network Administrators in school.

Legacy PC's

The Technology department currently has a legacy network that is run separately from the C2K system. This network is not connected to the C2K system and only functions within the environs of the technology department. They currently use a user and password system whereby each class in a year group has a common login username and password. Individual users do not have their own login details, although there are plans in place for the login system to be brought in line with the C2K system. It is intended that this work would be undertaken by the ICT Technician from the SEELB during the 2006/07 academic year.

### 1.2.1. Portable School ICT Equipment, e.g. Laptops, Data Projectors, etc.

School laptops should be brought into school (at least once a week) to be connected to the C2K system. This is necessary to ensure that the network software and anti-virus protection is kept up to date. Software should not be installed on the school laptops unless the user has a valid license for the software. Users should also note that only school related software packages should be installed on the laptops to conserve disk space.

Equipment located in departments is to be used under the direction of the Head of Department and according to recognised user instructions.

Centralised equipment held in the ICT Administrator's office is to be borrowed for school use only and is recorded by the C2K Administrator in their Daily Diary (located in the Administrator's office).

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Due regard is paid to health and safety regulations and fire/emergency procedures are clearly posted. Pupils are instructed about the necessary safety standards when using the PC suites, for example, no eating or drinking in the suites, no running, how to sit properly, taking breaks, etc.

Safety also takes into consideration the Internet and pupils are given advice and instructions on how they should use the Internet safely. Pupils also sign an Acceptable Use Policy which outlines safe use of the PC's in school and access to communication technologies.

Pupils are fully briefed on e-safety in Year 8 by their ICT teacher, and this is reinforced in ICT lessons. In addition, the Child Protection Officer provides an additional briefing.

### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

As ICT is a continually changing aspect of school life. The school aims to encourage and support staff to keep themselves up-to-date with developments in their subject area. The school provides internal training opportunities and encourages staff to avail of external training opportunities such as:

- RTU summer courses
- SEELB ICT training and ICT subject training
- Private training workshops

### **LEGAL CONSTRAINTS**

All users are expected to comply with the provisions of the following Acts of Parliament (or any re-enactment thereof) as well as all other relevant legislation and legal precedent:

Computer Misuse Act 1990

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988

Trade Marks Act 1994

Data Protection Act 1998

Copies of these documents are available online at <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>. Further advice should be obtained through the C2K Manager.

### **Note**

ICT is by its nature an ever changing area. As such, this policy is regularly updated and should be considered as a work in progress. Updated policies will be forwarded to all interested parties as and when appropriate.



## **WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY ON ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE INTERNET, VLE AND DIGITAL IMAGES**

### **What is the Internet and VLE?**

**The Internet** is an electronic information highway connecting many thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. This global "network of networks" is not governed by any entity. This means that there are no limits or checks on the kind of information that is maintained by, and accessible to, Internet and VLE users. The educational value of appropriate use of information and resources located on the Internet and VLE is substantial.

**A Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)** is a range of educational resources, comprising information, forums, quizzes and other online material provided to students as part of an online learning package.

### **Rationale for pupil use of the Internet and VLE**

Bangor Grammar encourages use by pupils of the rich information sources available on the Internet and VLE, together with the development of appropriate skills to analyse and evaluate such resources. On-line resources offer a broader range of up-to-date resources to pupils; provide an independent research facility; facilitate a variety of learning styles and abilities and encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning. Internet and VLE and e-mail literacy are fundamental requirements for all pupils as preparation for the Information Age – an era where ICT is a dominant factor in work and home life.

### **Networked Access to Internet and VLE**

In recognition of these benefits, Bangor Grammar in conjunction with C2K NI has invested in providing networked Internet and VLE Access to pupils free of charge at ??? stations on the school network, and is determined to provide high quality training for staff and pupils to make best use of these facilities. Pupils will be provided with appropriate training and guidance on how to use the Internet during ICT classes. Appropriate cross-curricular use of the Internet and VLE is encouraged.

### **How will pupils gain access the Internet and VLE at Bangor Grammar?**

- In ICT lessons
- Through subject use across the curriculum
- In the after-school Homework Club
- In the Sixth Form, during normal school hours and lunch-times for specified research purposes with the permission of a teacher

### **School website**

The school website is intended to:

- provide accurate, up-to-date information about our school;
- enable pupils to publish work for a very wide audience including pupils, parents, staff, governors, members of the local community and others;
- celebrate good work;
- provide pupils with the opportunity to publish their work on the internet;
- promote the school.

Parental permission will be needed before children's work can be published on the Internet. All classes may provide work for publication on the school web site and class teachers will be responsible for ensuring that the content of the pupils' work is accurate and that quality of presentation is maintained.

The points of contact on the web site will be the school address, telephone number and e-mail address.

Home information or individual e-mail identities will not be published. Staff will be identified by their title and surname unless they request otherwise. Permission will be sought from other individuals before they are referred to by name on any pages we publish on our web site.

School website address: [www.bangorgrammarschool.org.uk](http://www.bangorgrammarschool.org.uk)

### **Are there any dangers in using the Internet and VLE?**

Since the Internet and VLE is composed of information from a vast array of sources world-wide, it includes some material that is not of educational value in the context of the school. This material includes information that may be inaccurate, abusive, profane, sexually oriented, racist or illegal. In order to guard young people from any inherent dangers, it is the joint responsibility of school staff and the parent or guardian of each pupil to educate the pupil about his or her responsibility when using the Internet and VLE. The following policy sets out the policy for acceptable use of the Internet and VLE at Bangor Grammar.

### **Promoting Safe Working Practices**

During ICT lessons pupils will be advised of the Health and Safety issues surrounding the use of computer technology.

The guidance will focus on

- Posture and Seating
- Lighting
- Electrical Safety
- Keyboard Health and Safety
- Creating a Safe Working Environment

In addition, all staff will be made aware of Health and Safety requirements and receive a specific Health and Safety briefing.

## **Promoting Awareness with Parent, Governor and Community**

Bangor Grammar school is committed to ensuring all stakeholders are made aware of the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy will be:

- Disseminated to new parents
- Disseminated to new governors
- Available on the school web site

# **BANGOR GRAMMAR POLICY FOR THE ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE INTERNET AND VLE**

## **1. For Pupils**

a) Pupils are responsible for good behaviour on the Internet and VLE just as they are in the classroom or a school corridor. General school rules apply. In addition, a number of rules relating to use of the Internet and VLE also apply. An acceptable use policy is made available to all computer users at Bangor Grammar school.

b) Bangor Grammar has implemented a filtered Internet and VLE service through C2K NI and a filtered e-mail service (as recommended by UK government) through C2K NI. Pupils are **not permitted** to use any other e-mail service during use of the Internet and VLE in school. **Internet and VLE and e-mail services are monitored and are not therefore private – Internet and VLE activity and e-mail messages can be viewed at any time.**

c) Students at Bangor Grammar should **know and understand** that no Internet and VLE user is permitted to:

- retrieve, send, copy or display offensive messages or pictures;
- use obscene or racist language;
- harass, insult, bully or attack others;
- damage computers, computer systems or computer networks;
- violate copyright laws;
- use another user's password;
- trespass in another user's folders, work or files;
- intentionally waste resources (such as on-line time and consumables);
- use the network for unapproved commercial purposes.
- Use ICT resources in any way that contravenes Health and Safety guidelines

d) Access to the Internet and VLE requires parental permission and a signed declaration by pupils agreeing to the school rules for use of the Internet and VLE.

e) Bangor Grammar will ensure that all pupils understand how they are to use the Internet and VLE appropriately and why the rules exist. Pupils will be directed to the pupil version of this policy on first using the Internet and VLE, and during subsequent sessions as changes are made/issues arise.

f) The Internet and VLE is provided for pupils to conduct research and communicate with others. While the use of information and communication technologies is a required aspect of the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum, access to the Internet and VLE and C2K NI remains **a privilege and not a right**. It is given to pupils who act in a considerate and responsible manner, and will be withdrawn if they fail to maintain acceptable standards of use.

g) During school hours teachers will guide pupils towards appropriate materials. Outside school hours families bear responsibility for such guidance as they must also exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio, and other potentially offensive media.

h) When using the Internet and VLE at Bangor Grammar, all users must comply with all copyright, libel, fraud, discrimination and obscenity laws.

## **2. Examples of Acceptable and Unacceptable Use**

### **a. On-line activities which are encouraged include, for example:**

- the appropriate use of email and computer conferencing for communication between colleagues, between pupil(s) and teacher(s), between pupil(s) and pupil(s), between schools and industry;
- use of the Internet and VLE to investigate and research school subjects, cross-curricular themes and topics related to social and personal development;
- use of the Internet and VLE to investigate careers and Further and Higher education;
- the development of pupils' competence in ICT skills and their general research skills.

### **b. On-line activities which are not permitted include, for example:**

- searching, viewing and/or retrieving materials that are not related to the aims of the curriculum or future careers;
- copying, saving and/or redistributing copyright protected material, without approval;
- subscribing to any services or ordering any goods or services, unless specifically approved by the school;
- playing computer games or using other interactive 'chat' sites, unless specifically assigned by the teacher;
- using the network in such a way that use of the network by other users is disrupted (for example: downloading large files during peak usage times; sending mass email messages);
- publishing, sharing or distributing any personal information about a user (such as: home address; email address; phone number, etc.);
- sending or receiving unsavoury, insensitive, offensive or obscene e-mails
- any activity that violates a school rule.
- using any equipment to photograph, record or video any school activity for which explicit permission has not been given
- using or distributing any material relating to school activities, pupils or staff for which explicit permission has not been given
- engaging in any activity that is harmful of or hurtful to others

## **3. Sanctions**

a) Violation of the above rules will result in a temporary or permanent ban on Internet and VLE use.

b) Additional disciplinary action may be added in line with existing school rules on inappropriate language or behaviour. (see table)

## **Appendix 1 - Categories of Misconduct**

<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3 Misconduct</b>	<b>Level 4</b>
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<b>Misconduct</b>	<b>Misconduct</b>		<b>Misconduct</b>
	<i>Repetition of level 1 misconduct or not responding to previous sanction</i>	<i>Repetition of level 2 misconduct or not responding to level 2 sanction</i>	<i>Repetition of level 3 misconduct or not responding to level 3 sanction</i>
Lateness to class	Swearing	Fighting	Theft
No homework	Out of bounds	Leaving school without permission/signing out	Truancy
Not prepared for class/games	Not signing in late	Bullying	Sectarianism
Incorrect uniform Inappropriate wearing of hair	Ignoring safety rules	Lying to a member of staff	Racism
Littering	Disobedience to a member of staff/prefect	Forging of notes/signatures	<u>Inappropriate use of camera/video phone/recording device</u>
Eating outside designated areas	<u>Inappropriate use of internet</u>	Inappropriate conduct in front of staff/other pupils	Graffiti/defacing school property
Inappropriate behaviour in class Inappropriate behaviour in library	Mobile phone misuse within class	Cheating/plagiarism	Alcohol/Drug abuse
Inappropriate behaviour outside of class/in corridors	Piercings	<u>Inappropriate material (eg of a pornographic or offensive nature)</u>	Smoking
Lack of cooperation in class/back chat.		Missing class/games without permission	Inappropriate conduct harming the image of the school
Shouting out inappropriately Failure to sign out of study Yr 13/14 Inappropriate use of Yr13/14 centre		Misbehaviour in school or whilst travelling to or from school in association with a school activity that puts other pupils or staff at risk.	Persistent failure to respond to guidance and correction
Work related deadlines not met		Lateness to school (5 times in any four week period)	Inappropriate behaviour to a member of staff/prefect
Inappropriate entry into and/or when leaving a class			Systematic bullying
Chewing gum Spitting			Persistent lateness (if two cycles of Early Doors has already been completed)

c) Where applicable, police or local authorities may be involved.

#### **4. Location and Supervision**

a) Internet and VLE access for pupils at Bangor Grammar is located in the highly used ICT classrooms, the library and in some subject departments around the school. All such machines are in full view of people circulating in the area.

b) While using the Internet and VLE at school, pupils **should, where possible**, be supervised directly by a member of staff. Independent electronic research requires specific teacher permission and research must be conducted in designated curricular areas only. In all cases, pupils should be reminded of their responsibility to use these resources in line with the school policy on acceptable use.

c) Users will be made aware that the school has the ability to review files and communications to ensure that users are using the system responsibly. All uses of the Internet and VLE are logged and all sites visited by individual users are recorded. All e-mails can be read. While normal privacy is respected and protected by password controls, as with the Internet and VLE itself, **users must not expect Internet and VLE activity, e-mail or files stored on school servers to be absolutely private.**

#### **5. Staff Use of Internet and VLE**

a. Teacher use of the C2K NI services by the Northern Ireland education community must be in support of the aims and objectives of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. C2K NI supports the implementation and sharing of effective practices and collaborative networking across the province, as well as nationally and internationally. Staff are encouraged to use C2K NI resources in their teaching and learning activities, to conduct research, and for contact with others in the education world.

b. All school staff (both teachers and support staff) are expected to communicate in a professional manner consistent with the rules of behaviour governing employees in the education sector.

c. . Staff are actively discouraged from communicating with pupils using social network sites or other technologies outside of school.

The Staff Acceptable Internet / Network Use Policy is published in the Staff Handbook and is attached as Appendix 2 at the end of this document.

## 6. Acceptable Use of Digital Images of Pupils

All staff should follow the guidance below when dealing with taking, display storage and use of photographs and digital images of pupils.

### Taking of Photographs/Video of Pupils

Staff should continue normal practice. Parents will be informed in writing and asked to give their consent to a range of such activities. Staff will be advised of those parents who withhold permission in due course.

### Display/use of Photographs/Video of Pupils

Staff should continue normal practice for using photographs for display purposes in school. For displays/use outside school or where staff require additional guidance on the display/use of photographs the Principal or a member of the SMT **should be consulted**.

### Storage of Photographs/Video of Pupils

It should **not be** normal practice to store digital images of pupils (however obtained) on school or personal laptops as a matter of course for **prolonged** periods of time. As a result staff should ensure that:

1. Any image/s of a pupil/s (from camera, scanner or other source) that is/will be stored digitally should be stored on CD-ROM. Technical support will be available from the ICT department to assist in the transfer of existing/new images to CD-ROM.
  2. After initial use by staff the CD-ROMS containing images of pupils should be passed to the school librarian for cataloguing and **centralised long-term storage**. Catalogued CD-ROMs will be available to **staff only** via normal library loan procedures.
  3. After initial use by staff digital images of pupils should be **deleted from laptops as soon as possible**.
  4. Staff should not pass images of students via e-mail, CD-ROMs etc to third parties without consulting the Principal
  5. Traditional photographs of pupils should continue to be stored within departments using scrapbooks or a suitable alternative.
- If you require further advice consult the Principal or a member of the SMT. This guidance will be reviewed on an annual basis.

## 7. Information for Parents

Parents are informed **in writing** of the school policy on acceptable use of the Internet and VLE, and asked for permission for their child/ren to use the Internet and VLE. Students are also required to sign an undertaking agreeing to their proper use of the Internet and VLE. Details of the letter sent to parents and additional guidance information is included in the appendix to this policy. In addition to the above parents are given the following guidance by Bangor Grammar School:

1. A home computer with Internet and VLE access should be situated in a location where parents can monitor access to Internet and VLE and e-mail. Computers should be fitted with suitable anti-virus, anti-spyware and filtering software.
2. Parents should agree with their children suitable days/times for accessing the Internet and VLE. Internet and VLE/e-mail usage can add significantly to your phone bill. Off-peak calls (after 6pm daily and weekends) are cheaper, but the cost of Internet and VLE access still needs to be carefully considered.
3. Parents should discuss with their children the school rules for using the Internet and VLE and implement these at home. Parents and children should decide together when, how long, and what comprises appropriate use;
4. Parents should get to know the sites their children visit, and talk to them about what they are learning;
5. Parents should consider using appropriate Internet and VLE filtering software for blocking access to unsavoury materials. Further information is available from Parents' Information Network (address below);
6. It is not recommended that any child under 16 should be given unmonitored access to newsgroups or chat facilities;
7. Parents should ensure that they give their agreement before their children give out personal identifying information in any electronic communication on the Internet and VLE, such as a picture, an address, a phone number, the school name, or financial information such as credit card or bank details. In this way they can protect their children (and themselves) from unwanted or unacceptable overtures from strangers, from unplanned expenditure and from fraud.
8. 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 and VLE service connection provided by the school or by C2K, they should immediately inform the school.

**Further free advice for parents is available from the following sources:**

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> - a website designed to inform children of the potential

Hazards involved with online chatrooms.

<http://www.parentsonline.gov.uk/> - promotes home school links by helping parents understand the role of Information Communications Technology (ICT) in learning.

[www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)

<http://www.wiseuptothenet.co.uk/> - The Home Office guide to Internet safety with downloadable leaflets for parents

<http://www.getnetwise.org/> - information about filtering programs for home use

## **Protecting Your Home Computer**

To protect a home computer, parents are advised to ensure the following items of software are installed on their home computers:

- Anti Virus Software: a free anti-virus software is available from AVG or Microsoft Security Essentials
- Anti Spyware Software: a free anti-virus software is included with Windows 7, Windows Vista and Windows XP (Service Pack 2 onwards). It is called Windows Defender.
- Filtering Software a free filtering software is provided by K-9 Bluecoat filtering software [www.k9webprotection.com/](http://www.k9webprotection.com/)

**This policy acknowledges and complies with DENI circulars 1999/25 and 2007/01 on the subject of Acceptable Use of the Internet and VLE for Schools and the Acceptable Use Policy developed by National Association of Co-ordinators and Teachers of IT**

## Appendix 1

### Student Internet Permission Form

Dear Parent,

#### *Internet Permission Form*

You will, I am sure, already be aware that the Internet is the global network of computers which provides almost limitless access to unnumbered sources of information. As part of Bangor Grammar School's ICT strategy we offer pupils supervised access to a *filtered* Internet service provided by C2k, the organization responsible for providing an ICT management service to every school in Northern Ireland. Before being allowed to use the Internet in School, all pupils need to obtain parental permission and both they and you should sign and return the enclosed form as evidence of your approval and their acceptance of the school policy and rules which govern their access.

Access to the Internet will enable pupils to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with other Internet users throughout the world. Whilst our aim for Internet use is to further educational goals and objectives, families should be warned that there is, of course, material potentially available, which may contain illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or offensive items.

We believe that the benefits to pupils from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, far exceed any potential disadvantages. We have, therefore, put in place a filtered Internet and e-mail service to minimize the dangers of pupils gaining access to unsuitable material. In addition a clear set of rules and procedures for pupil use has been implemented. Ultimately, however, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the school supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

During school, teachers will guide pupils towards appropriate and relevant materials. Clear rules and procedures are in place for proper use. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with other information sources such as television, telephones, films, radio and other also potentially offensive media. Home use of the Internet by children can be educationally beneficial, and can make a useful contribution to home and school work. It should, however, be supervised, and parents should be aware that they are responsible for their children's use of Internet resources at home.

In addition to the enclosed guidance documents free advice for parents is available from the following sources:

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> - a website designed to inform children of the potential hazards involved with online chatrooms.

<http://www.parentsonline.gov.uk/> - promotes home school links by helping parents understand the role of Information Communications Technology (ICT) in learning.

[www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)

<http://www.wiseuptothenet.co.uk/> - The Home Office guide to Internet safety with downloadable leaflets for parents

<http://www.getnetwise.org/> - information about filtering programs for home use

We would be grateful if you could read the enclosed guidance documents and then complete the permission form which follows.

Yours sincerely

S D Connolly  
Headmaster

Please complete and return this form to the Induction Interview.

## **Internet Parent Permission Form**

Name of Pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Pupil**

As a school user of the Internet, I agree to comply with the school rules on its use. I will use the network in a responsible way and observe all the restrictions explained to me by the school.

Pupil Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Parent**

As the parent or legal guardian of the pupil signing above, I grant permission for my son to use electronic mail and the Internet. I understand that pupils will be held accountable for any use of the Internet in School or outside School when it is deemed to have an impact on the School or its pupils. I also understand that some materials on the Internet may be inappropriate and offensive and I accept responsibility for setting standards outside School for my son to follow when selecting, sharing and exploring computer information and media.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Additional Advice for Parents with Internet access at Home**

1. The computer with Internet access should be situated in a location where parents can monitor access to Internet. Computers should be fitted with suitable anti-virus, anti-spyware and filtering software.
2. Parents should agree with their children suitable days/times for accessing the Internet. If using dial-up accounts, Internet usage can add significantly to your phone bill. Off-peak calls (after 6pm daily and weekends) are cheaper, but the cost of Internet access still needs to be carefully considered. Fixed-price broadband services represent the best value for money.
3. Parents should discuss with their children the school rules for using the Internet and implement these at home. Parents and children should decide together when, how long, and what comprises appropriate use;
4. Parents should get to know the sites their children visit, and talk to them about what they are learning;
5. Parents should consider using appropriate Internet filtering software for blocking access to unsavoury materials. Further information is available below.
6. It is not recommended that any child under 16 should be given unmonitored access to newsgroups or chat facilities;
7. 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. In this way they can protect their children (and themselves) from unwanted or unacceptable overtures from strangers, from unplanned expenditure and from fraud.
8. 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.

### **Further free advice for parents is available from the following sources:**

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> - a website designed to inform children of the potential hazards involved with online chatrooms.

<http://www.parentsonline.gov.uk/> - promotes home school links by helping parents understand the role of Information Communications Technology (ICT) in learning.

[www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)

<http://www.wiseuptothenet.co.uk/> - The Home Office guide to Internet safety with downloadable leaflets for parents

<http://www.getnetwise.org/> - information about filtering programs for home use

## **Protecting Your Home Computer**

To protect your home computer, parents are advised to ensure the following items of software are installed on their home computers:

- Anti Virus Software: free anti-virus software is available from AVG
- Anti Spyware Software: free anti-virus software is included with Windows Vista and Windows XP (Service pack 2 onwards). It is called Windows Defender.
- Filtering Software free filtering software is provided by K-9 Bluecoat filtering software [www.k9webprotection.com/](http://www.k9webprotection.com/)

## **Appendix 2**

### **Staff Acceptable Internet / Network Use Policy**

Computer and network access, including internet access, is designed to provide staff with a valuable educational resource for the benefit of the pupils and to support the delivery of the curriculum. It should also enhance teaching, research, preparation,

provision of classroom materials, administration and management, as well as facilitate the sharing of resources, communications and co-operation within and between departments. Members of staff are responsible for their own communications and their use of the network.

This policy is designed primarily to help and protect staff in their use of network material and to clarify what the school considers to be acceptable practice. Staff should be aware that files stored on school servers and computers [including laptops] will not be regarded as private. The school reserves the right to monitor, review and examine the internet history, usage, communications and files of all users, and, where it deems it to be necessary, will intercept and delete material on school laptops, servers, network devices and e-mail systems, which it considers inappropriate, and prohibit the use of such material.

The school expects and requires all users to comply with the standards outlined in this policy and to follow its protocols.

### **Use of the network will imply acceptance of this policy.**

#### **General Protocols**

- All uses of the system, including all internet activity, which occurs during the school day, between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm, must be relevant to the delivery of the curriculum and to the general life of the school. Users should, at all times, exercise extreme caution in the type of material downloaded and viewed.
- Access to the network should only be made via the user's authorised account and password, which should, **in no circumstances**, be made available to any other person inside or outside the school. The school's C2K managers will have access to all users accounts on the network.
- Users are responsible for all e-mails sent and for any contacts which may result in e-mails being received.
- Standards of expression and conduct, which apply in hard copy communications from the school, should also apply in all electronic communications. No material which would reflect badly upon the school's reputation, including defamatory messages, indecent material, pornography, offensive language or images, should be sent from the school's system.
- All laws, including those of copyright, should be respected in internet and network use. Copyrighted or unlicensed software should not be unlawfully duplicated.
- Only software approved by the school's C2K managers may be used on the school's system and equipment, including laptops. Prior approval must always be sought. Unauthorised software installation, which may cause a laptop or computer to fail, will incur a charge from Sx3 for repair.
- Activity which threatens the integrity or security of the school system, such as the unauthorised installation of software or hardware, or which compromises other systems, is forbidden.
- The use of the internet to access inappropriate material (e.g. pornographic, racist or otherwise offensive material) is forbidden.

#### **Data Security**

- All staff share the school's responsibility under data protection legislation.

- Information about the school, and its pupils, must be closely safeguarded. Care should be taken to ensure that information held on school systems, including laptops, is not lost, disclosed, modified without authorisation or accessed by third parties.
- Computers, including laptops, must never be left unattended in an open classroom or other insecure location.
- Users of the school network are responsible for the security of their computers / laptops and should NEVER leave the computer unattended when logged on to the network.

Security of data requires that the user locks, logs off or shuts down the station **every time** the computer is unattended. The SIMS Launcher, in particular, must be closed down every time a station is left unattended. **At the end of the working day, each station must be shut down to enable the backup of files to proceed.**

### **Security of Equipment**

- It is important that staff exercise due care to ensure that school IT equipment is protected from damage or theft.
- Laptops should be kept in a locked cupboard or locked room overnight or when not in use for long periods of time. Laptops must never be left unattended in a car and must be kept out of the reach of children.
- Theft or loss of school equipment must be reported immediately to a C2K manager.

### **Access to data/information**

- If files, belonging to another member of staff, are inadvertently accessed, it must be reported immediately to a C2K manager, so that corrective action may be taken to protect the accessed files.

### **Viruses**

- All staff should be aware of the potential damage that a virus can do to the school's IT infrastructure. Extreme caution should be exercised when importing files on to the school's network from another system. Any staff member, who becomes aware of a virus outbreak, should immediately contact a C2K manager.
- C2K updates the virus software daily. In the interests of the integrity of the network, Laptops must be connected to the network in school **once a week** to ensure updates are downloaded.

### **Use of Social Networking websites and online forums**

Staff must take care when using social networking websites such as Facebook or MySpace or when gaming on the internet, even when such use occurs in their own time using their own computer. Social Networking sites invite users to participate in informal ways that can leave users open to abuse, and often make little or no distinction between adult users and children.

Staff should not allow any pupil to access personal information you post on a social networking site. In particular:

- Staff **should not** add a pupil to their 'friends list'.
- Staff **should not** communicate with or compete with or against a pupil when gaming on the internet.

- Staff **should** ensure that personal information is not accessible via a ‘Public’ setting, but ensure it is set to a ‘Friends only’ level of visibility.
- Staff should avoid contacting any pupil privately via a social networking website, even for school-related purposes.
- Staff should take steps to ensure that any person contacting them via a social networking website is who they claim to be, and not an imposter, before allowing them access to their personal information.

Staff should also take care when posting to any public website (including online discussion forums or blogs) that their comments do not harm their professional standing or the reputation of the school – even if their online activities are entirely unrelated to the school.

- Unless authorised to do so, staff **must not** post content on websites that may appear as if you are speaking for the school.
- Staff should not post any material online that can be clearly linked to the school that may damage the school’s reputation.
- Staff should avoid posting any material clearly identifying themselves, another member of staff, or a pupil, that could potentially be used to embarrass, harass, or defame the subject.

### **Use of Email**

All members of staff with a computer account are provided with an e-mail address for communication both internally and with other e-mail users outside the school. The following considerations must be made when communicating by email:

- E-mail has the same permanence and legal status as written hardcopy (paper) documents and may be subject to disclosure obligations in exactly the same way. Copies of e-mails may therefore have to be made available to third parties. Staff **must** be cautious when sending both internal and external mails. The professional standards that apply to internal memos and external letters must be observed for e-mail.
- E-mail to outside organisations has the same power to create a binding contract as hardcopy documents. Check e-mail as carefully as written contracts, always use a spell checker and, where appropriate, obtain legal advice before sending. Staff **must not** purchase goods or services on behalf of the school via e-mail without proper authorisation.
- E-mail is not a secure method of communication, and can be easily copied, forwarded and archived. Unless explicitly authorised to do so, staff **must not** send, transmit, or otherwise distribute proprietary information, copyrighted material, trade secrets, or other confidential information belonging to the school.
- Having an external e-mail address may lead to receipt of unsolicited e-mail containing offensive and/or sexually explicit content. The school, in conjunction with C2K, will take measures to minimise the receipt and impact of such content, but cannot be held responsible for material viewed or received by users from the Internet.
- Staff must not send chain letters or unsolicited commercial e-mail (also known as SPAM).

## Supervision of Pupil Use

- Pupils **must** be supervised at **all** times when using school computer equipment. When arranging use of computer facilities for pupils, staff must ensure supervision is available.
- Supervising staff are responsible for ensuring that the separate Acceptable Use Policy for pupils is enforced.
- Supervising staff **must** ensure they have read and understand the separate guidelines on e-safety, which pertains to the child protection issues of computer use by pupils.

## Privacy

- Use of the school computer system, including your email account and storage areas provided for your use, may be subject to monitoring by the school to ensure compliance with this Acceptable Use Policy and applicable laws. This may include remote monitoring of an interactive logon session. In particular, the C2K does keep a complete record of sites visited on the Internet by both pupils and staff, however, usernames and passwords used on those sites are NOT monitored or recorded.
- Staff should avoid storing sensitive personal information on the school computer system that is unrelated to school activities (such as personal passwords, photographs, or financial information).
- The school may also use measures to audit use of computer systems for performance and diagnostic purposes.
- **Use of the school computer system indicates your consent to the above described monitoring taking place.**

## Confidentiality and Copyright

- Staff must respect the work and ownership rights of people outside the school, as well as other staff or pupils.
- Staff are responsible for complying with copyright law and licenses that may apply to software, files, graphics, documents, messages, and other material you wish to use, download or copy. Even if materials on the school computer system or the Internet are not marked with the copyright symbol (©), they should assume that they are protected under copyright laws unless there is an explicit permission on the materials to use them.
- Staff **must** consult a C2K Manager before placing any order of computer hardware or software, or obtaining and using any software they believe to be free. This is to check that the intended use by the school is permitted under copyright law (as well as to check compatibility and discuss any other implications that the purchase may have). Do not rely on the claims of suppliers, who do not have specific knowledge of the school's systems.
- As per the standard staff contract, any invention, improvement, design, process, information, copyright work, trade mark or trade name made, created or discovered by a member of staff during the course of their employment in any way affecting or relating to the business of the School or capable of being used or adapted for use within the School shall be immediately disclosed to the School and shall to the extent permitted by law belong to and be the absolute property of the School.

By storing or creating any personal documents or files on the school computer system, staff grant the school a non-exclusive, universal, perpetual, irrevocable, and royalty-free license to use, copy, and distribute those documents or files in any way the school sees fit.

### **Reporting Problems with the Computer System**

It is the job of the C2K Manager to ensure that the school computer system is working optimally at all times and that any faults are rectified as soon as possible. To this end:

- Staff should report any problems that need attention to a member of IT support staff as soon as is feasible. Problems that seriously hinder their job or teaching and require immediate attention should be reported by telephone or e-mail.
- If a member of staff has lost documents or files, they should report this as soon as possible..

### **Reporting Breaches of this Policy**

All members of staff have a duty to ensure this Acceptable Use Policy is followed. Staff **must** immediately inform the C2K Manager, or the Headmaster, of abuse of any part of the computer system. In particular, they should report:

- any websites accessible from within school that they feel are unsuitable for staff or student consumption;
- any inappropriate content suspected to be stored on the computer system. This may be contained in e-mail, documents, pictures, etc;
- any breaches, or attempted breaches, of computer security; or
- any instance of bullying or harassment suffered by them, another member of staff, or a pupil via the school computer system.

Reports should be made either in person or via email. All reports will be treated confidentially.