

# Godstowe

## Acceptable Use of the Internet

### Why is Internet Use Important?

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The Internet is an essential element in 21st Century life for education, business and social interaction. It is an open communications channel allowing information to be transmitted to many locations in the world. Messages may be sent, ideas discussed and material published, with very little restriction. These features of the Internet make it an invaluable resource used by millions of people every day.

The purpose of Internet use in school is to promote pupil achievement, to support the professional work of staff and to enhance the school's management, information and business administration systems. Benefits of using the Internet in education are numerous.

The curriculum requires pupils to learn how to locate, retrieve and exchange information using ICT. Effective Internet use is an essential life-skill for all pupils and students to master.

### Internet and Email Access

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On occasion, pupils may be provided with unsupervised Internet access and, therefore, will be required to sign and return the attached form acknowledging their understanding of the school's policy on Internet use. The school will keep a record of which pupils have been granted Internet access and the Head of ICT will monitor these records.

In common with other media such as magazines, books and videos, some material available via the Internet is unsuitable for pupils. The school will take all precautions to ensure that users only access appropriate material. However, due to the international and linked nature of Internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never occur on a school computer. The school cannot accept liability for material accessed, or any consequences of Internet access.

If pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address) and content should be reported immediately to the Head of ICT or another member of staff.

Each pupil, from the Lower Thirds upwards, will have her own email address on the school's networked system. Pupils must not reveal details of themselves or others, such as their address or telephone number, or arrange to meet anyone in email communication. Pupils must immediately tell a member of staff if they receive any offensive messages.

Pupils will be made aware that the use of computer systems without permission or for inappropriate purposes could constitute a criminal offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

### Core Principles of Internet Safety

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In common with most technologies, Internet use presents risks as well as benefits. Pupils could be placed in inappropriate and even dangerous situations without mediated Internet access. To ensure responsible use and the safety of pupils, the school's policy is built on the following core principles:

#### Responsibility

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Internet safety depends on pupils themselves taking responsibility for their use of the Internet.

## Education

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Pupils in the Middle and Upper Divisions will discuss and learn about acceptable uses of the Internet and its possible dangers as part of the ICT curriculum. Pupils will know what to do if they come across inappropriate material when using the Internet.

## Technical Prevention

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The school invests in technical solutions that aim to prevent access to unsuitable material on the Internet, although it is accepted that no technical method can be 100% effective.

## Regulation

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Fair rules, written for pupils to read and understand, will be prominently displayed as a constant reminder of the expectations regarding Internet use. These rules are set out below, along with sanctions that may be applied if the rules are not followed:

*I will only use my own login and password, which I will keep secret.*

*I will only send email to people I know, or to addresses that I have been given by a teacher.*

*The messages I send will be polite and sensible.*

*When sending email, I will not give my home address or phone number, or arrange to meet someone.*

*I will not use Internet chat.*

*I will not attempt to visit sites on the Internet that I know or suspect to have inappropriate content.*

*If I see anything I am unhappy with, or I receive messages I do not like, I will tell a member of staff immediately.*

*I know that the school may check my computer files and emails and may monitor the Internet sites I visit.*

*I have read and I understand the sanctions section below. The consequences of breaking the rules are clear to me.*

## Sanctions

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- Violations of the above rules will result in a temporary or permanent ban on Internet use.
- Additional disciplinary action may be added at the discretion of the Headmaster.
- When applicable, police or local authorities may have to be involved.
- A log will be kept of all breaches of this policy.

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## Acceptable Use of the Internet

Please return this section to the School Office as soon as possible

### Pupils:

I have read the acceptable use of the internet policy and agree to abide by the regulations when using the school network.

Signed _____	Date _____
Print Name _____	Form _____

### Parents:

I have read through the acceptable use policy with \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name)  
and we understand the areas that it covers and the regulations it contains.

Signed _____	Date _____
Print Name _____	(Parent/Guardian)