



LITTLE SWANS INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

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RATIONALE:

Technology particularly the internet plays an increasingly important part in our society today. Children experience this both directly and indirectly, at home children may watch their parents/carers ordering online, banking and sending emails. They may have also seen older family members use the internet for entertainment, such as playing games or downloading music.

There are many benefits for young children learning via the internet. It can be a useful source of information for staff as well. Helping staff to research activities in response to children's interests. It offers access to a vast range of resources providing children with more opportunities to learn. For example, staff can download samples of music from other cultures, pictures of castles or short videos of mini beasts to support and enhance children's learning. The internet offers a wide variety of games at various levels, to allow for differentiation. These can offer new ways to stimulate children's interest and motivate them towards learning.

However there are also some potential problems, including unsuitable sites, aggressive advertising, pop-up windows showing adult content and links to other sites not suitable for children and their learning. The internet contains vast amounts of information on virtually every subject imaginable. Just as a library has sections which appeal to different readers, not all the information on the internet may be suitable for young readers. Some of the content may be unreliable or misleading.

AIMS:

The policy guidelines which follow are designed to promote safe use of the internet by young children at the nursery.

- To ensure internet access enhances the pupils' learning experiences
- To ensure internet access is used appropriately
- To provide staff with a clear procedure for accessing the internet while accompanying children to the library and using ICT equipment in the nursery which provides access to the internet

PROCEDURE:

- Permission should be obtained from parents before using the internet with their child at the nursery. This is sought during registration and then confirmed twice a year during parent evening sessions unless there are special circumstances.
- Staff must supervise young children's use of the internet at all times. Where applicable staff should use age appropriate learning to teach the children about keeping safe while on line.

Little Swans Day Nursery/ Internet Policy

- Children will only be able to access the internet when they are using the whiteboards in nursery and IPADS, appropriate filters, restrictions and passcodes have been applied to prevent unsuitable use.
- Staff should check the content of websites before using them with young children. Sites should be appropriate for age and stage of development.
- Staff should check the source of the information
- No pre-school children will have direct access to email within the nursery

If staff have any concerns while supporting the children with ICT, these concerns must be passed directly onto management. This policy is to be implemented alongside the e policy and mobile phone policy at the nursery and will be reviewed annually.