



LITTLE SWANS INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

September 2014

Reviewed by Samantha Tranter: Nursery Manager

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 to, 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. 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

PROCEDURE:

- Permission should be obtained from parents before using the internet with their child.
- Staff must supervise young children's use of the internet.

- Children will only be able to access the internet when they visit the library as part of their curriculum. At present this happens once a month for each pre -school group.
- Library staff will log nursery staff onto the system to access the internet, staff will be logged out at the end of each session.
- 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.
- Computers at the library have filtering software installed to block unsuitable content; this should be checked at each visit.
Staff should be aware that despite the best endeavours to ensure security, it may still be possible that some unsuitable content could be accessed. Any breaches of this security should be reported immediately to library staff, so this can be investigated and the problem rectified.
- No pre- school children will have direct access to email within the nursery and when attending the library.

Policy of South Yardley Library September 2014

- Children are logged on to the websites, that are appropriate to their development and **do not** contain any inappropriate language or content.
- The use of social networks is **not allowed**.
- When the equipment is being used the children **are expected** to be sensible and careful to avoid any accidental damage.
- If staff members notice anything that is offensive on the websites **it will** be reported immediately to staff at the library who will investigate the matter, the children **will be** logged of the site.
- If the rules are broken children **will be** took off the computers.
- The children **will be** expected to behave appropriately **without** causing any disturbance to other users of the library.
- No personal information about the children will be displayed on the computers.
- Images of the children **will not** be uploaded on to computers, unless prior permission is received from parents.
- Staff will ensure that children **are not** exposed to unsuitable material on the internet and ensure that any films or material shown to children are age appropriate.
- The library's rules **will be** adhered to when the children attend their sessions.

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.

Miss Tranter Nursery Manager
September 2014

