Inappropriate and Unacceptable Use of the Internet

The following on-line activities are **not permitted;**

- Searching, viewing and/or retrieving materials that are not related to the aims of the curriculum.

- 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 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 e mail messages.)

- Publishing, sharing or distributing personal information about a user (such as home address, e mail address, phone number, etc)

- Any activity that violates a school rule.

- Using another user's password.

- Use of obscene or racist language.

- Harassing / insulting other users

Advice to Parents

Teachers and Governors of Drumahoe Primary School will endeavour to ensure that the pupils in their care use the Internet responsibly, according to the policy of the school. They will guide the children towards appropriate materials and monitor on-line activities.

While in school pupils' access to the Internet will be through a filtered service ensuring that, as far as possible, unsuitable material will be barred.

Outside school it is parents' responsibility to provide guidance in their children's use of the Internet. Parents do not usually permit their children to view unsuitable television programmes, films, videos, etc., and the same precautions apply to their use of the Internet. However, appropriate use at home will be beneficial to children educationally, and will often be a valuable aid to both homework and school work. We would advise t parents to provide a filtered Internet service for their children's use thus greatly reducing the chance of accessing unsuitable sites.

Some guidance which parents may find helpful

- Discuss with your child rules for using the Internet and decide together when, how long, and what is meant by appropriate use.

- Know the web sites that your child visits.

- Talk to your child about what they are doing and learning.

- Encourage your child **not** to respond to any unwelcome, unpleasant or abusive messages, and to tell you if they receive such a message.

- Discuss with your child the importance of **not** giving out **any** personal identifying information in any electronic communication on the Internet.

- Supervise your child's use of the Internet. It may be helpful to have the computer set up in a family room, if possible.

Useful websites -
http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Yourchildshealth andsafety/Internetsafety/DG_071138

http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

POLICY ON THE ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE INTERNET IN DRUMAHOE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The purpose of this document is to reflect the values of Drumahoe Primary School in relation to the Acceptable Use of the Internet.

WHAT IS THE INTERNET? The Internet is an electronic highway connecting computers and individuals all over the world. The educational value of appropriate information on the Internet is significant. However it also includes material that may be considered inappropriate to children's needs in primary school, and may be racist, inaccurate, abusive, profane, sexually orientated or illegal.

C2K All schools in Northern Ireland have access to the Internet, electronic mail and online computer conferencing through C2K. C2K has installed filtering software that operates by blocking inappropriate web sites and by barring inappropriate items and searches. However, it must be stated that no filtering service can be foolproof and so it is essential that users behave in a responsible manner according to the guidance given in the acceptable use of the resources, backed by these policy guidelines.

LOCATION AND SUPERVISION
Access to the Internet for pupils is available on computers in the classrooms and Resource Areas. These computers are in full view of people moving around these areas.

Pupils' use of the Internet, at school, will be supervised, where possible. Unsupervised use will only take place after a member of staff has given permission. Pupils will be reminded of what is considered acceptable.

Pupils must be aware of what constitutes appropriate use, and of the school policy.

STAFF Members of staff are encouraged to use the Internet as a resource in teaching and learning. They use the service to support the aims and objectives of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, to conduct research, and for contact with others in the world of education. All members of staff are expected to communicate in a professional manner. While normal privacy is respected and protected by password controls users may not expect files and messages stored on the network to be private as network administrators may review files etc to maintain system integrity.

PUPILS A Code of Practice Agreement form outlining appropriate Internet use is explained and reviewed each school year. Access to the Internet is a privilege that is given to pupils who act in a responsible manner. This privilege may be temporarily withdrawn if there is evidence of inappropriate use.
Sanctions in accordance with the school's discipline policy will be taken if the code of practice is breached.
Pupils will have the opportunity to take part in an Internet Proficiency programme which aims to help them develop safe and responsible behaviour when using the Internet and other interactive technologies.

PARENTS Parents will be advised that Drumahoe Primary School, through C2K, provides a filtered and monitored access to the Internet. Their attention will be drawn to the school's guidance and advice on its acceptable use.
Parents will be encouraged to use this guidance when allowing their children access to the Internet at home.

They will be requested to read the regulations laid down by the school and sign a declaration of agreement.

Appropriate and Acceptable

Use of the Internet

The following on-line activities are to be encouraged -

- Using Internet sites such as Grid-Club or BBC School sites to access programs that help to reinforce, inform, challenge and extend learning.

- Using the Internet to investigate and research school subjects, cross-curricular themes and topics related to social and personal development.

- Using the Internet to develop ICT skills and general research skills.

- Using e mail and computer conferencing for communication between colleagues, between pupil(s) and teacher(s), between pupil(s) and pupil(s), between schools and industry.

N.B. In the Foundation and Key Stage 1 classes the Internet will mainly be used to consolidate and extend learning through interactive games and activities that have been carefully selected by the class teacher.