Internet Policy and Computer Usage in the Foundation Phase.

In the Foundation Phase the learners do not have their own logons to the school server. They do not have their own email addresses for school and they do very little searching on the internet. We use designated logins that sets up Foundation Phase computers for safe and secure usage.

1. Aims and Objectives

Technology is changing so fast and as a result, is affecting nearly all aspects of our lives both at work and more and more, in our social and leisure activities. It is therefore so important that as educators we all endeavour to equip our children to participate in using technology, as much as possible in a rapidly-changing world.

In the Foundation Phase we endeavour to:
- To teach basic IT skills and to build on those basics, as far as possible in the Foundation Phase, in order to build confidence in individuals when handling software and hardware.
- Teach and encourage children to find, select and use information effectively to extend learning and knowledge
- Teach and encourage children to use Technology to communicate effectively and appropriately
- To use various applications and apply IT skills in a creative and artistic way
- To integrate and not isolate ICT into the classroom curriculum as much as possible
- To teach children the very basics of safety, security and confidentiality when using ICT.
- To use ICT as a teaching and a learning tool
- To teach children the basics of programming
- To expose learners to as many different IT applications as possible through work, research, computer aided learning tools, games, toys, interactive boards etc
- An attempt is made to focus on the IT skills that are visual and graphic, as children in the Foundation Phase are still in the "visual/concrete" stage of learning.

2. Teaching and learning style

As we aim to equip children with the skills necessary to use technology to become independent learners, the teaching style we adopt is as active and as practical as possible. At times there are instructional/ skills lessons which teach basic skills. These basic skills are needed in order to build on, and then apply to more advanced ICT activities. Then learners are encouraged to apply skills in different ways across the curriculum thus trying to achieve the above objectives.

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We use 3 websites in the Foundation Phase:-

1. Mathletics- This is a web site that access and usage is paid for and managed by the school and class teachers. It is a timetabled half hour subject slot. Learners get access from a link on the school intranet specifically set up for the JP logons, only used in the Foundation Phase lab. They then login using their own personal details. These details are available to them in their computer class and in their homework diaries. They can access it at home and this is encouraged. This website is a fabulous tool to aid the teaching of Maths. Teachers can set and monitor Maths activities, set tests and learners can practice Maths bonds competing live with children from all over the world. There is also a section with Maths games.

2. Purple Mash- This is a web site that access and usage is paid for and managed by the school and class teachers. Learners get access from a link on the school intranet specifically set up for the JP logons, only used in the Foundation Phase lab. They then login using their own personal details. These details are available to them in their computer class and in their homework diaries. They can access it at home and this is encouraged. Purple Mash has a wide variety of simplified educational applications for publishing activities, a design and make section, graphing tools, directional activities, music making applications, an animation section, a section to learn coding, a story making app and much more. There is also a game section that includes Maths games, an interactive city, and most importantly, a typing tutor.

3. Code.org- As computers and technology are becoming such a big part of our lives the importance of computer programming and coding becomes ever more important. In some countries it has become a timetabled subject in the Foundation Phase. Code.org is a free website that teaches learners basic coding. The school sets up the classes and Learners get access from a link on the school intranet specifically set up for the JP logons, only used in the Foundation Phase lab. They also require a personal password or picture to access their profile. These details are available to them in their computer class and in their homework diaries. They can access it at home and this is encouraged. They work at their own pace through a fun system that teaches coding.

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Thomas More College

KLOOF, KWAZULU-NATAL

The School for all Seasons

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—— Primary School ——

Foundation Phase

As children are just beginning to read our focus in the FP is as follows:-

Grade 0- Learners come to the computer centre for 30mins a week. The focus is on basic mouse skills and being familiar with basic processes related to graphics and shapes in Power Point. Lessons are linked to themes and phonics done in the classroom. Grade 0s have access to Purple Mash which is an educational website the school pays for. Access to this website is gained from a link on the Intranet and once the learner has logged on using their login details it is safe and age appropriate and educational.

Grade 1- learners come to the computer centre for an hour of skills and half an hour of Mathletics per week. Over and above the 3 websites available the learners work in Microsoft Power Point, Microsoft Word and Paint. They complete various activities that are linked to their classroom themes and phonics whilst learning computer skills.

Grade 2- learners come to the computer centre for an hour of skills and half an hour of Mathletics per week. Over and above the 3 websites available the learners work in Microsoft Power Point, Microsoft Word and Paint, and they build on the skills learned in Grade 1. They complete various activities that are linked to their classroom themes and phonics whilst learning computer skills. There is a big focus on design and creativity whilst applying computer skills. They also start to "google" and search for images. They also make a simple movie using basic animations in an application called 2 Create a super story.

Grade 3- learners come to the computer centre for an hour of skills and half an hour of Mathletics per week. Over and above the 3 websites available the learners work in Microsoft Power Point, Microsoft Word and Paint and they build on the skills learned in grade 2. They complete various activities that are linked to their classroom themes and phonics whilst learning computer skills. There is a big focus on design and creativity whilst applying computer skills. Grade 3s use search engines more and are very familiar with Power Point by the end of the year. In the last term of Grade 3, the learners build and programme the Lego Mindstormer robots. This teaches teamwork, problem solving, and most importantly programming. The robot will only do what they command it to do.

With the above understanding of what is taught in the Foundation Phase and what these learners have access to, it can be seen that a complicated Internet user policy is not necessary.

Internet safety and cyber bullying are discussed informally in the computer class.

Pupils and parents of grade 1-3 learners are required to sign the safety pledge below. This will be sent home after the relevant discussions are completed in class.
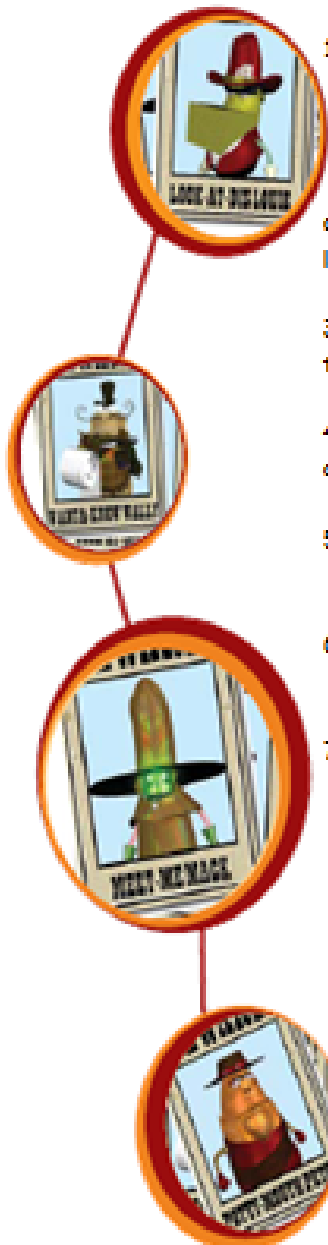
Policy drawn up by: K. Nicholas
Date:- 17/02/2015

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INTERNET SAFETY PLEDGE FOR JP

1. I will turn off my computer monitor right away and tell a trusted adult if anything makes me feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.

2. I will tell my parents, teacher or guardian if anyone online asks me my name, address, my telephone number or the name and location of my school.

3. I will tell my parents, teacher or guardian if anyone online asks to meet me in person.

4. I will not use rude or mean language at any time when using a computer.

5. I will not go onto the internet unless it is for a good reason or to serve a purpose.

6. I am lucky to have computers at school and I will always use, and look after them the way I know I should.

7. If I see or hear of anyone using a computer in the wrong way I will tell my parents, teacher or guardian, especially if someone will get hurt or into trouble.

Signed _____ Parent

Signed _____ Learner

Signed _____ Teacher

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