John Perry Primary School

Acceptable Use Policy (Internet Permission)

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INTERNET PERMISSION FORM

As part of the school's Information Technology (IT) programme we offer pupils supervised access to the Internet. This means pupils will be able to make use of the wealth of information available and use electronic mail (e-mail).

Our aim for Internet use is to help the children's learning. To protect pupils from unwelcome aspects, the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham centrally filter all Internet access using sophisticated software - this removes content that is not appropriate for children. Pupils will always be supervised when accessing the internet and teachers will guide children toward appropriate use. The school will take all reasonable precautions; however, families should be warned that some material may still be accessible which might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive.

Before using the Internet, all pupils must have permission from their parent(s)/guardian(s). Please sign and return the enclosed form to say you understand the school's policy on this matter. Junior children should also sign and return the pupil's section of the form. We believe that the benefits to pupils from access to the Internet exceed any disadvantages. Nevertheless, parents/guardians of pupils are responsible for deciding whether they would like their children to use the Internet. The school supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

Please read the enclosed information and then complete the agreement form, which is enclosed. If you would like to discuss this issue with the IT coordinator please make an appointment through the school office.

John Perry Primary School: A Parent's Guide To The Internet

1.   What is the Internet

The Internet is simply a worldwide network of computers, linked together with cables. In most cases, each of these computers are also linked locally to a number of other computers, in a **local network.** It is possible for someone using one of these computers to access information from any of the other computers. This system was established by those working in Universities and Government organisations for the fast and efficient transfer of information around the world, directly from one computer to another.

It is possible for other people, outside these local networks, to connect to the Internet by using standard telephone lines between their computers and those already connected to the Internet. A number of companies, known as Internet Service Provides (I.S.P.'s), specialise in providing this service.

2.   What is the World Wide Web?

To make the information on the Internet more attractive, and to assist people in finding information more easily, it is now possible for special pages of information to contain text, colours, an pictures, sound and even video. These pages, collectively, make up what is known as the World Wide Web. Most of these pages include information on the location of other pages on the World Wide Web, and it is possible to follow up links between pages with similar or related content. Moving from one page of another, regardless of where in the world they might be located, is called "browsing" or "surfing the net". Many of these web pages contain information that may be useful in the classroom, and it is presented in a way that is often easy to use.

3.   What is Electronic Mail (E-mail)

This is merely a way of sending messages from one person to another via the Internet. Each Internet user has a unique e-mail address (such as anybody@msn.com) and by sending a message to this address, the recipient can read the message the next time he or she connects to the Internet. Internet 3-mail addresses are usually provided along with a school's connection to the Internet although individual pupils will not necessarily have their own e-mail address.

4.   What are News Groups

These are collections of messages written for public readership rather than addressed to an individual. Each group of messages is about a particular subject or theme. Individuals can reply to these messages, and these replies are also public. In this way it is possible to follow a multi-way conversation about an important issue of
the day. At present there are more than 10,000 different topics available for discussion, from specialist science research, to support groups for asthma to fans of James Bond movies. Majority of the press concern for pornography on the Internet refers to news groups, but these are the easiest for educational Internet providers to police, and thus prevent access.

5.   What are the dangers of the Internet referred to in the media?

There is material on the Internet that would be offensive to most people, such as pornography, racist and fascist material. The educational Internet provision that is used at John Perry Primary School is filtered to remove known 'offensive' material. Regrettably, locations change frequently and there is too much undesirable content for this filtering to be 100% effective all of the time. The only way to entirely block access to this kind of material is to have a restricted range of pages available.
However, this might cause many of the advantages and dynamic nature of the Internet to be lost. An alternative system is to educate pupils and encourage an acceptable use policy and partnership between home and school in dealing with the less desirable side of Internet use.

6.   What is the filtering system

All web-based Internet access is filtered through sophisticated software and this is regularly updated, as undesirable sites become known about. As a general rule, all sites containing material considered unsuitable for access in schools are blocked. This would include sites containing material of a sexist or racist nature, and the sites promoting any kind of antisocial or illegal behaviour.

Any new unacceptable sites can be swiftly added to the filtering mechanism. Parents are urged to report any known locations to the school, in order to aid this process.

7. How can I get more information

There are many magazines in newsagents that cater for beginners-advanced use of the Internet. If you have any specific queries please write to the IT coordinator at the school who will endeavour to answer your questions.

JOHN PERRY PRIMARY: INTERNET PARENT PERMISSION FORM (KS1)

Please complete and return this form to the school.

To be filled in by Parent or Guardian

As the parent or legal guardian of the pupil signing above, I grant permission for my son or daughter to use electronic mail and the Internet which I understand that pupils will be held accountable for their own actions. I also understand that some materials on the Internet may be objectionable and as a parent I undertake to share responsibility with the school for setting standards concerning the behaviour of my child.

I understand and accept that the school will take all reasonable precautions to protect all pupils.

Parent Signature _____   Date _

Name of Pupil _____

Class _____

Home Telephone _____

_____

**ONLY FILL IN THIS SECTION IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO APPLY FOR
ACCESS FOR YOUR CHILD**

I do not wish to grant permission for my child to access the Internet at school. I realise that this may prevent my child from participating in some school activities.

Parent Signature _____   Date _

Name of Pupil _____

Class _____

Internet Permission Form KS1
JOHN PERRY PRIMARY: INTERNET PARENT PERMISSION FORM (KS2)

Please complete and return this form to the school.

To be filled in by Key Stage 2 Pupils

I agreed to follow the school rules when using the Internet at John Perry Primary School. I will use the network in a responsible way and observe all the restrictions explained to me by the school.

Pupil Signature _____   Date _

To be filled in by Parent or Guardian

As the parent or legal guardian of the pupil signing above, I grant permission for my son or daughter to use electronic mail and the Internet which I understand that pupils will be held accountable for their own actions. I also understand that some materials on the Internet may be objectionable and as a parent I undertake to share responsibility with the school for setting standards concerning the behaviour of my child.

I understand and accept that the school will take all reasonable precautions to protect all pupils.

Parent Signature _____   Date _

Name of Pupil _____

Class _____

Home Telephone _____

ONLY FILL IN THIS SECTION IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO APPLY FOR ACCESS FOR YOUR CHILD

I do not wish to grant permission for my child to access the Internet at school. I realise that this may prevent my child from participating in some school activities.

Parent Signature _____   Date _

Name of Pupil _____

Class _____

Internet Permission Form KS2

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