Gulf Asian English School

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CYBER SAFETY POLICY 2024-2025

Introduction

The internet is an incredible platform for children to learn, express themselves and have fun, but it also has its dark side. Not everything on the internet is safe and can be trusted. Even though the benefits outweigh the potential dangers, parents and guardians must be aware of the real risks that children may be exposed to online.

This policy contains some general recommendations on how to protect the students and staff against most common cyber security threats.

Aims of the Cyber Safety Policy

- Protecting and educating students and staff in their use of technology.

- Informing teachers and parents/guardians about their role in safeguarding and protecting students at school and at home.

- Putting policies and procedures in place to help prevent incidents of cyber-bullying within the school community.

- Having effective and clear measures to deal with and monitor cases of cyber-bullying.

Gulf Asian English School ensures that:

- Students will be made aware of acceptable and unacceptable Internet use.

- Students will be taught, where appropriate, to be critically aware of the materials/content they access online and be guided to validate the accuracy of information.

- Students will be educated about the effective use of the Internet.

- Students will be taught how to evaluate Internet content by ICT teachers.

- Students will be taught how to report unpleasant Internet content to their class teacher or supervisor.

- The school Internet access is designed expressly for student use and includes filtering appropriate to the needs of our students.

- Where students are allowed to freely search the internet, staff should be vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites they visit.

- The use of Internet-derived materials by students and staff complies with copyright law.

- All students and staff understand the importance of password security and the need to log out of accounts.

Social networking and personal publishing:

The school has a duty of care to provide a safe learning environment for all its students and staff and will ensure the following:

- Blocking student access to social media sites within school boundaries.

- Educating students about why they must not reveal their personal details or those of others, or arrange to meet anyone from an online site.

- Educating both students and staff as to why they should not engage in online discussion revealing personal matters relating to any members of the school community.

- Educating both students and staff about ensuring all technological equipment is always password/PIN protected.

- Informing staff not to accept invitations from students or parents/guardians on social media.

- Informing staff about regularly checking their security settings on personal social media profiles to minimize risk of access of personal information

Parents' Role at Home

- It is important that you are aware of your child's internet activities including the social media channels they utilise, games or other online activities they are involved in. Being aware of your child's online activities will help you identify possible threats to educate and advise your child accordingly.

- Keep the computer in a central place, where everyone can see what's on the screen.

- Stay involved (without stepping on their toes constantly) on what they are doing online – especially if it's got to do with searching and looking for new information etc.

- Tell them the "No-Can-Go" sites and "No-Can-Play" games rules ahead of time. Check out which sites they want to access, or which games they want to play and tell them if they are acceptable or no-go zones, until they reach a certain specified age.

- Set time limits. Giving kids unlimited access to online causes unlimited problems for parents. Tell them how many hours they have a week.

- Explain online habits. Explain strangers often play pretend games and they are not really who they claim to be. Explain how sometimes a nine year girl from the US is really a 50 year old man from Bangkok. They need to be clearly told that no matter how interesting or "just like me" the stranger sounds like, they are not to respond.

- Switch Safe Search on as a setting. It's great that most inappropriate content does get filtered by Etisalat or du here in UAE, but there are many slip ups and search results may often have content that's not age appropriate.

- Remind them that they should not engage in any form of cyber bullying – even in jest. They should not do anything online that they would be ashamed of doing in real life.

- Beyond online, watch what content you have on your computer. Often we receive email that is not age appropriate for our children, but we leave that in our mailboxes or desktops. Set the example, clean up.

- If your children have started to do their homework online, or are gathering information, researching facts etc., explain to them clearly how they should not "copy and paste" (plagiarize) content for their homework, unless they mention sources etc. Their teachers should help them understand this, but you should make it clear that this is not on.

- There are parental control tools available to help and protect your children from harmful and inappropriate online content. Phones, Tablets, Game Consoles and other devices that connect to the internet have parental control settings.

- Be involved. Be courteous. Be alert. Show on-going interest in what they are playing, reading, and doing online. And always remind them that there is life (and a wonderful one) outside that screen.

Parents are expected to ensure that their ward(s) do not carry devices or electronic goods of any form without the express written approval of the Supervisor concerned. They must at all times demonstrate restraint and respect for the members of the school community, including all students and personnel while using social media. Parents must not breach confidentiality, defame or make threats to any person in the school community.

CYBER SAFETY COMMITTEE (2024-2025)

OVERALL IN CHARGE: Ms SHUBA DAVIS (ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR)

COORDINATORS: Ms SYEDA FATIMA (HOD- COMPUTER SCIENCE)

Mr SHOUKATH ALI (IT IN CHARGE)

MEMBERS		
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1	Ms HANNAH SUPREETHI	ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR
2	Ms NITHA ANISH	TEACHER -COMP SCIENCE
3	Ms SREEPRIYA	TEACHER- COMP SCIENCE
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5	Ms SAADIYA BASHIR	TEACHER- COMP SCIENCE