Northumberland

County Council

**HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL ST. ANDREW’S CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL**

Trajan Walk Heddon-on-the Wall Northumberland NE15 0BJ

Telephone 01661 853350

Mr A Wheatley: Headteacher

www.heddon-school.co.uk twitter @HeddonSchool

     

 8th September 2014

**Use of the Internet by Learners.**

Dear Parents,

As part of the Government’s ongoing drive to personalise learning and to support learning opportunities within the school, your child, will at appropriate times, use the Internet as a source of information, a communications tool and a publishing medium.

The Internet has become a major source of educationally useful material and the primary distribution medium for a wide range of organisations. The potential to support the learning of your child and the class teachers is very significant and will continue to develop.

There are well published concerns regarding access to material on the Internet that would be considered unsuitable for school children. Whilst it is impossible to ensure that pupils will never access such material, the school, in liaison with Northumberland Local Authority, is taking all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of a pupil accessing unsuitable material.

This includes:

* Use of a filtered Internet service to screen and preventing access to websites containing inappropriate material.
* Use of all chatrooms and Social Networking sites are prohibited in school.
* All Internet access during school hours will be supervised by a member of staff or other responsible adult.
* Policy Central Enterprise tracking software is installed on all curriculum machines to enable to school to identify which sites have been visited and which items have been searched for as well as to monitor Internet access.
* Direct teaching to the children about how to remain safe while using the Internet.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the School’s rules for Acceptable Internet Use. All users of school computer equipment are expected to abide by these rules. Users not abiding to these rules may have their right to use the computer systems withdrawn. For some offences the Police or other Authorities may have to be informed. These rules are expanded upon within the School’s Internet Access Policy which is available on request from the school.

The school has a website that includes information about many aspects of school life. Following Safeguarding guidelines, the school may publish pictures or work relating to your child, however, should a picture be used then no child would be named as part of the work. Please could you indicate your willingness for your child to have either work or unnamed photographs published on the website as requested.

The School does run E-Safety sessions for parents and carers. Please contact Mrs Abbott to find out more.

Should you wish to discuss any issues raised by this letter further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,

Mr. A. Wheatley

Headteacher

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**Parental Consent Form – Use of Internet.**

Child’s Name: …………………………………………………….

Class: ………………………………………………………………

As parent / carer of the above child, I give permission for my child to use computer systems to access the Internet and e-mail. I have read the attached letter and understand that the school will endeavour to take all reasonable steps to restrict access to unsuitable material on the Internet. I have read the attached Rules for Acceptable Use and understand that children will be held accountable for their own actions.

Signature of Parent / Carer: ……………………………………… Date: ……………………………..

I **give** / **do not give** permission for work or unnamed photographs of my child to be used on the school website.

Signature of Parent / Carer: ………………………………………. Date: …

With compliments,

Mr. A. Wheatley

Headteacher