

Medway Grid for Learning

Policies and Guidance



Guidance relating to pupil viewing of websites featuring pro and anti-abortion material

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Introduction

This document is intended to provide general information and guidance related to connecting school LANs to the broadband Grid for Learning network, and running school systems and servers effectively to deliver a reliable, high performance service. It also provides specific policies adherence to which is necessary for the smooth and effective running of the whole network.

1 Guidance

Young people need to have information on a wide range of issues relating to sex and sexuality, taking into consideration the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the 21st Century. Access to a wide range of Internet sites is fundamental to current learning and exchange of ideas and beliefs, developing each young person's involvement in their own learning.

As young people mature, so their opinions are formed. Access to some websites as part of a whole school Citizenship programme enables them to explore and discuss current issues in a planned and supported environment. Websites promoting a specific view are by nature designed to be persuasive and, at times judgemental.

A core aspect of using the Internet to research a broad range of views is to enable students to develop their powers of discrimination. This will provide pupils with essential tools for accessing and intelligently using the positive aspects of the Internet whilst being able to discard that which they find inappropriate.

All school staff are aware of the issues involved in using web-based sources of learning and will continue to take this into consideration when planning and delivering the curriculum. Outside visitors and speakers will have liaised closely with the school when preparing activities related to sensitive issues.