BROMSGROVE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL THAILAND

WHOLE SCHOOL
E-SAFETY, DIGITAL LITERACY AND AI POLICY

Overview

Bromsgrove is committed to promoting the responsible and effective use of digital tools and technology. Digital literacy is an essential element of E-safety, by developing a positive attitude and the necessary key skills students can learn to use technology and the internet in an appropriate and positive way. E-safety, also known as online safety or internet safety, refers to the practice of safeguarding users, especially children and young people, when using digital devices and accessing the internet. The UK government provides comprehensive guidance on e-safety to ensure that individuals can navigate the online world safely and responsibly. This section outlines key e-safety guidelines at Bromsgrove International School Thailand (BIST) based on UK government recommendations.

Key Principles

Awareness: Educate students about potential online risks, including cyberbullying, online grooming, identity theft, and exposure to inappropriate content.

Prevention: Implement measures to prevent unauthorised access to personal information, such as strong passwords, privacy settings, and security software.

Responsibility: Encourage responsible digital citizenship, emphasising the importance of respectful behaviour, ethical conduct, and consideration for others online.

Response: Provide guidance on how to respond to online threats and incidents, including reporting mechanisms, seeking support from trusted adults, and accessing relevant resources.

Student Education

At BIST we integrate e-safety education into the curriculum through PSHE, BEAM, tutor time, and computing and Computer Science lessons. Our aim is to teach students about online safety, privacy, security, and digital citizenship through age-appropriate lessons and activities.

Scenario-Based Learning: we will often utilise real-life scenarios and case studies to illustrate potential online risks and to teach students how to recognise and respond to them effectively. These scenarios encourage critical thinking and problem-solving skills in digital contexts.

Digital literacy skills are integrated into the wider curriculum and taught in conjunction with e-safety, examples include:

- Students can learn to critically evaluate online sources for credibility and bias when conducting research and citing these sources.
- Students can use digital tools to visualise and solve complex problems, fostering computational thinking skills.
- Students can engage in virtual experiments and simulations to deepen their understanding of scientific concepts.
- Students can analyse digital media and its impact on society, developing media literacy skills.
- Students can learn how to search for relevant information at the correct level using different sources.

Digital literacy is also promoted through project-based learning experiences where students collaborate, create, and problem-solve using digital tools. For example:

- Students can collaborate on multimedia presentations using software such as Google Slides to demonstrate their understanding of a topic.
- Digital storytelling projects allow students to express their creativity while developing skills in digital communication and multimedia production.
- Coding projects encourage students to think algorithmically and develop computational thinking skills essential for success in the digital age.
- Use of Canva to create informative and aesthetic products.

Critical Thinking and Online Safety: BIST emphasises the importance of critical thinking and online safety in digital literacy education. In addition to the traditional curriculum through tutor time, Computer Science and BEAM students are explicitly taught to:

- Evaluate online information for accuracy, relevance, and credibility.
- Recognise and respond to cyberbullying, online harassment, and inappropriate content.
- Safeguard their personal information and practise responsible digital citizenship.

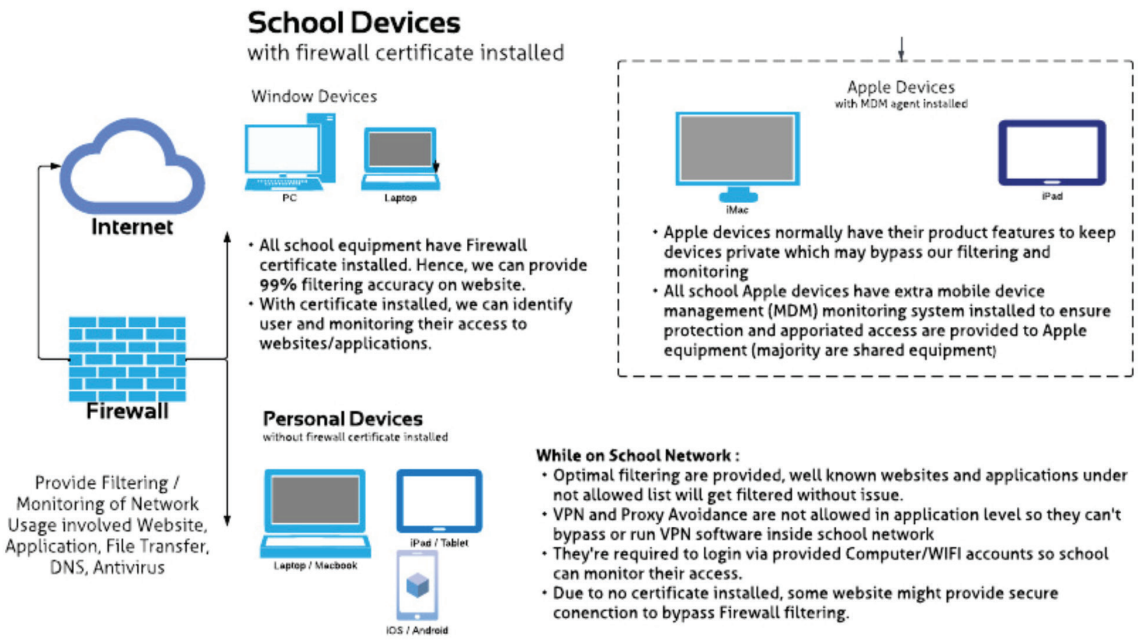
Parent and Community Engagement

Parent Workshops: We regularly organise workshops and informational sessions for parents and caregivers in the form of coffee mornings to raise awareness about e-safety issues and provide practical tips for supporting their children online. We also have infographics and information sheets that we share with specific parents and periodically with all parents. Our approach is to encourage families to discuss online safety openly at home and use these discussions to encourage safer internet practices at home.

School Policies and Procedures

An ‘Acceptable Use Agreement’ is within the student’s Learning Journals so that students are aware of expectations upon them.

The school has filters, blocking and monitoring procedures in place.to limit access within the schools internet systems. VPNs are blocked on the school network, school emails are blocked from registering to unauthorised third party accounts and all school devices are fully filtered with certificates to decrypt all internet traffic.



The IT Department has set filters onto the system to block as much harmful or inappropriate content as possible.

Within boarding access to games and specific applications are limited to the free time within the boarding schedule. This supports the boarding team to monitor the students use of games and applications. Students are aware of the parameters of use.

The IT Department works in conjunction with the DSLs to flag concerning internet searches and blocked content records are shared on a regular basis for the DSLs to review. The DSL will then investigate any concerns reported and follow up as necessary.

Ongoing Review and Improvement and Staff Development

Teaching staff, the DSL and the IT Department regularly review the filtering and monitoring systems in place and consider new and emerging threats, technological advancements and changes in legislation.

BIST provides ongoing professional development opportunities for teachers to enhance their own digital literacy skills and integrate technology effectively into their teaching practice. This includes development time sessions, requested CPD courses and collaborative planning sessions focused on innovative uses of technology in education.

Conclusion

By following these e-safety guidelines based on UK government guidance, BIST aims to create a safe, supportive, and inclusive online environment where students can explore, learn, and connect responsibly. Through education, engagement, and proactive measures, we strive to empower our school community to navigate the digital world with confidence and resilience.

Date of Policy Implementation: May 2024 MBo
Next Review Date: May 2025