RIGHTS RESPECTING USE OF THE INTERNET WORKSHOP

Introducing the Workshop

We are members of a rights respecting school. This means we all learn what human rights are. So we learn about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

But then, the important bit, we work out how to apply respect for those human rights in our daily lives. We - and that includes teachers and other adults - try at all times to live by human rights respecting values.

We think this is an important reason why this is an inclusive school, with good relationships, little or no bullying, where people feel confident that they and their views matter and where staff work with us to help us achieve our best. It also means that where we can, we speak up for and campaign for human rights where they are being denied or abused

We feel rights respecting must extend to the use of the internet.

We know there is a lot of concern amongst not just ourselves but parents and the police too about certain ways the internet is being used, such as cyber bullying and exposure to stuff that might be inappropriate. Recent reports express fears about the negative effect on the wellbeing not just of young people.

All these concerns involve abuse or denial of human rights.

So we have worked to produce a guidance for rights respecting use of the internet. This is about more than bullying. It is about applying the respect for the human rights that we are all entitled to enjoy, when we use the internet in general and social media in particular.

Just as being a rights respecting school requires everyone to be rights respecting - not just the young people -so this is true of the internet too.

All those involved in designing, writing and supporting websites should be required to know what human rights are and use them to guide their work.

We hope this workshop will help to take forward our project to map out what needs to be done to make rights respecting use of the internet a practical reality for all.