Headteacher: Mrs N Sansom

Cedar Avenue, Upminster, Essex. RM14 2LW
Phone: 01708 225186   Web: www.branfil.com   Email: office@branfil.havering.sch.uk

10th September 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

At Branfil we promote the use of ICT to enhance learning and feel it is vital to provide our children with a secure knowledge of how to keep themselves safe when using technology and the internet.

Digital technologies have become integral to the lives of children, both within and outside of school. Technology can be a powerful and inclusive tool for education that helps to stimulate discussion, promote creativity and support effective learning. Young people should have an entitlement to safe internet access at all times and be equipped with the knowledge of how to become responsible digital citizens. As we move ahead in this unprecedented time of a 'new normal', technology will become even more vital to help our children access remote learning when needed.

To support our online safety curriculum at Branfil, we are asking that every child in the school reads and signs the attached Acceptable Use policy. Please note that we ask for Acceptable Use policies to be signed on an annual basis so the policy you can find attached to this letter has been updated since last year in order to reflect the findings of online safety research carried out by the London Grid for Learning. This policy outlines how we expect our children to behave when they are online, and/or using school networks, connections, internet connectivity and devices, cloud platforms and social media both when on school site and outside of school. This year's policies also make reference to remote learning.

We also ask for you to read through and sign the attached parents/carers Acceptable Use policy which helps us to continue to work in partnership to support your child with their online safety understanding and development.

These Acceptable Use policies intend to ensure:
- that children will be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other communications technologies for educational, personal and recreational use;
- that school systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk;
- that parents and carers are aware of the importance of online safety and are involved in the education and guidance of young people with regard to their online behaviour.

Please read the Acceptable Use policy with your child and ensure they have a good understanding of each of the points. Both signed policies and the acknowledgment slip below need to be returned to school by **Friday 20th September via the year group email** (typing in the signature space is acceptable since the email will be returned from your email address).

Further information about online safety can be found on our website: http://www.branfil.com/key-information/online-safety.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sansom (Headteacher)
Miss Tuck (Computing and Online Safety subject leader)

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Please sign below to acknowledge receipt of this Acceptable Use Policy:

I know that my child,_____ in class_____, has signed an Acceptable Use policy and will receive online safety education to help them understand the importance of safe use of technology and the internet – both in and out of school.

I understand that my child's activity on the school's systems will be monitored and that the school will contact me if they have concerns about any possible breaches of the Acceptable Use Policy.

I will encourage my child to adopt safe use of the internet and digital technologies at home and will inform the school if I have concerns over my child's online safety.

Parent/carer name: …………………………………………………….

Signed: …………………………………………………….

Date: …………………………………………………….