

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Scope

This policy governs the use of the Internet and all Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by members of the public.

Introduction

The Internet is a valuable research and information tool which is provided of charge by South Tyneside Libraries or other public access locations to its members although charges may apply for printing or for purchase of storage media. This is an integral part of our information provision, complementing that of the printed word.

The Library Service or other public access locations do not deny legitimate access to information by any member of the public, but recognises that such a resource is potentially open to misuse and abuse. The following policy has been produced in order to safeguard the interests of the Library



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Disclaimers

All adult users, and the Parent or Legal Guardian of users under the age of 16 will be responsible for any information retrieved from the Internet at a Public Access Terminal. The Library Service and South Tyneside Council accepts no responsibility for:

- Inappropriate material, which has not been blocked by filtering software used.
- For the nature, or the accuracy of the information accessed and retrieved.
- Technical malfunctions that may prevent access to ICT facilities.
- Any material downloaded from the Internet on to any storage device that may contain a computer virus or other malicious code; or for any subsequent damage to other computers.
- Security of sites visited or purchase made.

South Tyneside Council accepts no responsibility for the misuse of any confidential information sent over the Internet. Please ensure that any transactions are secure; if in any doubt do not proceed with the transaction.

Unacceptable Use

The following activities are deemed unacceptable and are prohibited.

- Violations of copyright, patent or other intellectual property, or similar laws or regulations, such
 as the installation or distribution of "pirated" or other software products that are not appropriately
 licensed.
- Unauthorised copying of copyrighted material including, but not limited to, digitization and



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Inappropriate material is defined as anything that could disturb, cause offence or harassment, encourages criminal or terrorist activity; or is illegal.

This includes but is not limited to material that is racist, pornographic, hate related, defamatory, libellous, offensive, encourages criminal or terrorist activity, could contribute to harassment or could be offensive to other users.

Monitoring

Please note - that all sessions may be monitored for security and compliance purposes.

Compliance

Library staff or other public access locations staff can at any time suspend the facility of any user they suspect of failing to comply with these terms.

Repeat offenders breaking the terms of this agreement may have their access permanently removed.

Data Protection

The Library Service and other public access locations are bound by the regulations of the Data Protection Act (1998) and will not release information on the use of specific Internet resources by members of the public except as required by law to disclose the commission of an offence, or for the purpose of the management of the public use of the Library Service or other public access locations.

Children and young people under 16

The Library Service and other public access locations do use filtering software but cannot guarantee that all unsuitable material will be screened. The Library Service or other public access locations cannot be held responsible for any material accessed and strongly advises that the Parent or Legal Guardian fully acquaints himself or herself with the Internet <u>before</u> signing the consent form.

Parents and Legal Guardians must assume responsibility for deciding which resources are appropriate for their child, and guide their child in the use of the Internet and the materials they may or may not access.

Children under the age of 8 will be allowed ICT and Internet access but <u>only</u> if accompanied by a Parent or Legal Guardian on each visit.

South Tyneside Council expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of its public ICT facilities at any location in the Borough.