

Conditions of Use for Public Access to the Internet

Staffordshire County Council offers you free access to the resources of the Internet, subject to the following conditions. Access is available to users on the understanding that they have read and agreed to these "Conditions of Use".

Individual users of the Internet shall be responsible at all times for the manner in which they use this service. Any user not abiding by these conditions or behaving in a way which is not acceptable to other users, will be asked either to restrain their behaviour or leave the building. The following lists some of the actions which are not acceptable and may result in an individual Users Internet access being withdrawn.

- Access to any material that is unlawful or is likely to be considered offensive.
- Any wilful damage to the computer or network in line with the Computer Misuse Act 1990.
- Attaching any devices to the computer without prior consultation with staff
- Transmitting, copying or downloading of any material for any illegal or offensive purpose.
- Transmitting, copying, or downloading of any material without the permission of the copyright holder.
- Using the facilities for the transmission of "live" TV programmes.
- Behaving in a manner which is likely to cause offence or embarrassment to other Users.
- Allowing someone else to use the Internet using your Internet access permission.
- Sending and/or receiving e-mails which may be considered offensive, illegal, intimidating, discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic, defamatory, encouraging violence or hatred.

An Internet filtering system is in place to increase the level of Internet safety and there are reporting procedures in place for staff should any member of the public report a site that appears to be offensive. The categories that are restricted include:

- Pornography
- Drugs/ Substance Abuse
- Intolerance
- Violence.

All public access computers are monitored on a regular basis. SCC actively works with Staffordshire Police to ensure that any infringes constituting breaches of the law are reported to them.

In order to use this service you must first register as an Internet User by completing a separate application form and agreeing to abide by certain conditions concerning the use of the WWW (as detailed above). Permission, confirmed by the signature of a parent, carer or guardian on the application form, is required before children under the age of 16 may use the Internet. Although access to the Internet is via a filtered service this cannot be totally secure and parents, carers, and guardians are encouraged to also share in the young person's use of this facility.

Users of the service are warned not to enter into any legally binding agreement with any provider of services on the Internet unless they intend to be bound by its terms.

The County Council accept no responsibility or liability for any matter, claim, action, inaction proceedings, demand, damage, loss, cost, charge or expense which any person may suffer or incur, either directly or indirectly, through the use of this service.

The County Council does not have any control over the performance of the Internet and does not guarantee the availability of any particular web site.

You are responsible at all times for any access to the Internet made with your PIN. Do not let anyone else use your PIN as your Internet access is not, under any circumstances, transferable to any other person.

Staffordshire County Council wishes to encourage the use of the Internet (in libraries, one stop shops and youth centres) to inform, educate and entertain but seeks to ensure that these facilities are used in a positive way.