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**Safer Internet Policy.**

**OVERVIEW**

Fillies GFC has made significant investment in information technology and computer systems to support teaching and learning and to give learners the opportunity to seek information and carry out research. Access to the internet carries with it the danger that learners could find and view material that is unsuitable for them or that they could be put at risk from unwanted and inappropriate contacts. This policy seeks to ensure that the internet is used appropriately for learning but with safeguards to protect learners from harm.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To ensure that learners’ access to inappropriate sites and locations is restricted.

2. To ensure that the use of the internet is for proper purposes relating to Fillies GFC homework club.

3. To protect children from harm and upset that could be caused through giving them access to inappropriate sites, materials, images and contacts.

4. To make learners aware that there are inappropriate sites that are harmful and which must be avoided in school, in Fillies GFC homework club and at home.

5.To encourage learners to report immediately any inappropriate sites, materials or contacts that they find on the internet, either at school, Fillies GFC homework club or at home.

**STRATEGIES**

1. Appropriate firewalls will be put in place and must be enabled at all times on all the homework club computers.

2. Staff must always check that firewalls are in place before learners are allowed to access the internet.

3. Staff must not under any circumstances, or at any time, disable- or bypass- firewalls on any Fillies GFC-owned computer.

4. Learners must be supervised by adults at all times when they are given access to the internet.

5. Staff must only use computers for homework purposes. Homework club computers used by staff at home or in school must not be modified or used for personal use.

6. If learners bring digitally stored information into school on disk or on pen drive or by other means, staff must check the suitability of the information before it is played on homework club computers.

7. Learners must be encouraged to notify staff if, they at any time, they come across unsuitable material on a computer.

8. Staff must notify the manager/committee immediately if they find unsuitable or inappropriate material on a computer or storage device.

**OUTCOMES**

Learners and staff will be able to enjoy and use the homework club computers to enhance learning and to access useful educational information and materials, without risk of harm or upset.