



## GROUVILLE SCHOOL



**Well-being and achievement are at the heart of Grouville School so that we can all develop as Life Long Learners and take responsibility for ourselves and the community.**

*As a Rights Respecting School our philosophy is underpinned by the values and principles of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).*

### THE NEW JERSEY COMPUTING CURRICULUM

Dear Parents

The following letter aims to explain the changes to the Computing Curriculum in Jersey and outline how we are responding as a school. Due to the seriousness of the issues we have to cover, the tone of this letter might appear a little 'heavy', however we hope you understand the importance of ensuring the safety of our children in the digital world, balanced with access to, and enjoyment of, these technologies, so please bear with us and read to the end!

Digital technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people, both within schools and elsewhere. These technologies are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. These technologies can stimulate discussion, enhance creativity and promote effective learning. Young people should have an entitlement to safe internet access at all times.

At Grouville we currently provide access to IT in our computer suite, we will soon be trialling use of E-readers in Year 5 and a class set of ipads will be in use in school from January. The Education Department also plans to have wifi operational in all island schools from January.

The new Jersey Computing Curriculum now comprises of 3 strands

- i) ICT Skills – how to use software such as Microsoft Office and Adobe Photoshop
- ii) Computing – from Year 1 children are taught age-appropriate programming and algorithms
- iii) Digital Citizenship (formerly e-safety)

In teaching the Digital Citizenship strand we aim for children at Grouville School to:

- i) Know how to be safe online
- ii) Understand the other potentially negative sides of the new technologies, such as cyberbullying, viewing inappropriate content, receiving targeted marketing, the dangers of plagiarism etc
- iii) Understand clearly the consequences and impact of their actions online
- iv) Be respectful and confident users of technology

### Launch of Responsible Use Agreements

In light of these changes, we have reviewed our Computer Code of Conduct (now called Responsible Use Agreements - RUAs) across the school, as it is crucial we keep up-to-date with the pace of new technologies. We have prepared different RUAs for KS1 and KS2, appropriate to their age.

We are also raising the profile of Digital Citizenship across the school, with assemblies, displays and time to discuss Digital Safeguarding issues.

We appreciate that both the RUA documents are quite detailed, however there are now so many different aspects of Digital Safeguarding to cover, that we need to be thorough! Our RUAs are written in line with the

recommendations of the UK Internet Safety Tool '360 Degree Safe', which is endorsed by the Education Department.

Please spend time going through the Responsible Use Agreement with your child to ensure that our expectations are clear to everyone. This may be an opportunity to discuss not only expectations at school, but also any issues you may have about the use of technologies at home.

We would like you to sign and return the attached RUA before the end of this term. Unfortunately if the documents are not returned by **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**, then we will have to deny your child access to our computer network until the RUA is completed.

Below are a list of resources that may be useful in discussing safe computer use at home and school

[www.es.sch.je](http://www.es.sch.je) – a newly-created website on the VLE containing links to online e-safety resources

[www.thinkyounow.co.uk](http://www.thinkyounow.co.uk) – child friendly online safety site

[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) – how to set up parental controls for various providers

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2014/aug/11/how-to-keep-kids-safe-online-children-advice> - a useful article from The Guardian

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13910067> - Newsround advice page

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2014/quiz> - Online Quiz

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/games/beaker-you-choose> - Tracy Beaker Internet advice for Year 5/6

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/teachers/ks1/sourcesDuck2/index.htm> - For younger children - Digiduck has to make a big decision!

***On a lighter note, we would like to invite you to a PARENTS' WORKSHOP on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Do you know your Snapchat from your Instagram? Your Facebook from your Facetime? Are you shopping online safely and securely? Are you confident guiding your child through murky online waters?***

***If not, then this is the workshop for you!***

***We are delighted to welcome back Lorraine Fiander-Hill to talk about all these issues on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.***

***There will be a Q&A session to clear up any queries you have.***

If you have any concerns or questions about any of the issues in this letter, or attached RUA, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jo Nayar - Computing and Digital Safeguarding Co-ordinator