

Term	Definition
Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)	A policy that a user must agree to abide by in order to gain access to a network or the internet. In the school context, it may also cover how other communication devices, such as mobile or camera phones, can be used on the school, premises.
ALT tag	ALT tags, or alternative text tags, are typically used to provide further detail on an image on a web page. The text is seen when the image is being loaded, and is also often seen when a mouse is passed over the image.
Blog	A blog, also known as a weblog, is a form of online diary or journal. Blogs contain short or frequently updated posts, arranged chronologically with the most recently posted item appearing at the top of the page. In addition to text, blogs can contain, photos, images, sound, video, archives and related links, and can incorporate comments from visitors.
Bluetooth	Bluetooth is a telecommunications industry standard which allows mobile phones, computers and PDAs to connect using a short-range wireless connection.
Bookmarking	The process of storing the address of a website or internet document on your computer, so that you can find it again easily.
Browser	A piece of software that allows a user on to the world wide web. The two best known ones are Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator.
Caching	The process of temporarily storing files, such as web pages, locally to enable quick access to them in the future without placing demands on network resources.
Chatroom	A place where a user can communicate with people more or less instantaneously by typing messages which then appear on your computer screen, and are transmitted across the internet to be read by everyone else participating in the chat at that time. The conversation continues through the exchange of messages. Chat can either be moderated or un-moderated. In the latter case the conversation will be completely unsupervised. It is very easy to fake an identity when participating in a chat so be especially wary.
Email Groups	Email mailing lists on specific topics that users can subscribe to. Once subscribed the user receives all the messages sent to the group and anything the user sends in is similarly distributed. It is mainly used to conduct discussions about the topic of the mailing list.
Digital Video	Video captured, manipulated and stored in a digital format.
Discussion Forum/ Messageboard	A discussion site on the internet, often focusing on a special theme, where people can post messages online using the formats specified by the provider of this service. Some discussion forums require registration. Some forums contain an archive, which you can use to search for a given topic. Some forums are moderated where the administrator of the forum has the right to delete or edit any messages posted. or to ban abusive users.
Filtering	A method used to prevent or block users' access to unsuitable material on the internet.
Firewall	A network security system used to restrict internal and external traffic
Hacking	The process of illegally breaking into someone else's computer system, breaching the computer's security.
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	The computing and communications facilities and features that, in an educational context, variously support teachers, learning and a range of activities.
Instant Messaging	A form of chat. Generally a user joins a service (most popular is MSN) and then whenever they log on to the internet their name will appear in a central register. The user can then be contacted by anyone on the register and added to that person's contact list, although they will, of course, have to agree to accept their call. A user's email address must be known before they can be added to someone's list of contacts. With

	some of the more popular forms of instant messaging a user can join a club and all members of the club are notified when any other member logs on.
International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI)	A unique 15-digit serial number for mobile phones. When a phone is lost or stolen the number can be identified as invalid, so rendering the handset useless. It can be found by keying *#06# on your phone's keypad
Internet Service Provider (ISP)	A company providing a connection to the internet and other services, such as browser software, email, a helpline, web space and subscriber-only content
Newsgroups	Like an electronic bulletin board where people with common interests can keep in touch and up to date. You post to the newsgroup using a newsreader, a basic newsreader is included in Outlook Express. Newsgroups can also include video and music files for download.
Parental Control Software	Programmes that allow parents or other responsible adults to control various aspects of how a particular computer or network might interact with the internet. Some internet service providers offer free parental control software to members.
Peer-to-Peer (P2P)	P2P software allows users to search for files (such as music or videos) in specific folders of other users who are connected to the software. And therefore, also allows others to search the user's specified folders. These files are mostly copyrighted material and so illegal to download unless the user already owns a legally purchased copy. P2P networks are also littered with viruses.
Podcast	An audio file which can contain music, speaking or a mixture of the two. Can be made by anyone from large companies like the BBC to non-professional individuals. They can be downloaded and played through iTunes or on an iPod.
Pop-Up	A new window that opens on top of the active internet browser window. This window does not usually contain it's own web address, however in some cases it can do. Pop-ups that open without the user's request usually contain advertisements. Pop-up blockers are available as part of most browsers.
Social Networking Sites	Sites such as myspace or bebo which allow users to create an online profile that others can then search for and ask for permission to add that person to their list of friends. The online profile would usually include a photo, the user's age, gender, hometown and a list of their hobbies/favourite things. The user can also post a blog, music and video on their page. People on the user's friend list are allowed to send messages, leave comments or contact the user through instant messaging services.
Spam	Unsolicited junk email. The term is also used to describe junk text messages received via mobile phones. A related term SPIM (or spim), describes receiving spam via instant messaging.
Spoofing	Assuming the identity of someone else, using an email address either guessed or harvested from repositories of valid email addresses (such as the address book of a virus-infected computer). Spoofing is typically practised to veil the source of virus-laden emails, or, often, to obtain sensitive information from spam recipients, without revealing the source of the spammers.
Torrent	Torrents or torrenting is a form of downloading video and music files, like the material available through P2P. However, instead of connecting straight to another user's computer a central file is downloaded from a website which then anonymously connects the downloader to all the other people either sharing or downloading the file. Once again this material is illegal unless you own a legal version.
Trojan Horses	A virus that infects a computer by masquerading as a normal program. The program contains additional features added with malicious intent. Trojan horses have been known to activate webcams, for example, without the knowledge of PC users.

URL	An abbreviation for uniform resource locator, another way of saying address.
Virus	A computer program that enters a computer, often via email, and carries out a malicious act. A virus in a computer can corrupt or wipe all information in the hard drive, including the system software. All users are advised to guard against this by installing anti-virus software.
Webcam	A webcam is a camera connected to a computer that is connected to the internet. A live picture is uploaded to a website from the camera at regular intervals, typically every few minutes. By looking at the website you can see what the camera sees – almost as it happens.
Youtube	A site for watching video content. The site does warn users if a video they are about to view may be unsuitable for some users. Users can also subscribe which allows them to both upload their own videos (often videoblogs) and rate or comment on other users videos.