Blogging Policy Tetherdown Primary School

Contents

1. Aims and Objectives
2. E-Safety

Appendix 1: Blogging guidelines

Appendix 2: Guidelines for Teachers.

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Review Date:
Annie Ashraf

1. **Aims and Objectives**

Blogging at Tetherdown Primary is aimed at giving pupils a voice and an audience for their writing. We currently have a range of blogs from class to individual. We are using J2 webby as our blogging platform.

This policy will outline the safe management of setting up and running a blogging platform. A successful blog can:

→ Safely give your pupils a wider audience for their learning.

→ Encourage reluctant learners to participate and succeed, and allow able children to write challenging pieces.

→ Allow pupils to receive feedback safely from many different people

→ Allow the pupils to peer assess each other's learning

→ Encourage parental engagement

→ Provide a platform that can embed Web2.0/3.0 tools into

→ Promote the pupils' learning across the globe

2. E-Safety

Blogging involves pupils working on a blog whilst in school and also at home. To be able to post, pupils need to log into the blog either using an individual sign in or a class sign in. The advantages of individual sign in is that this gives more ownership to each pupil. The blog platforms allow accounts to have different permissions. All pupils are assigned as contributors. A contributor can submit a post for review, however, this will need to be authorised by the admin (class teachers) before it appears on the blog..

Tetherdown Primary School has sought permission for each child to have access to a blog, has sought permission to display the learning from each pupil, although it has been emphasised that no full names will appear on the blog.

Each pupil with a unique log in has been told to keep this private, if a pupil or parent thinks their log in needs changing, this can be done only be Lgfl administratator.. Parents and pupils are to contact the named admin should this need clarifying.

Using a blog safely is the most important thing about being a blogger. The following rules, if followed, will minimise any risks and will ensure that the pupils will stay safe whilst blogging.
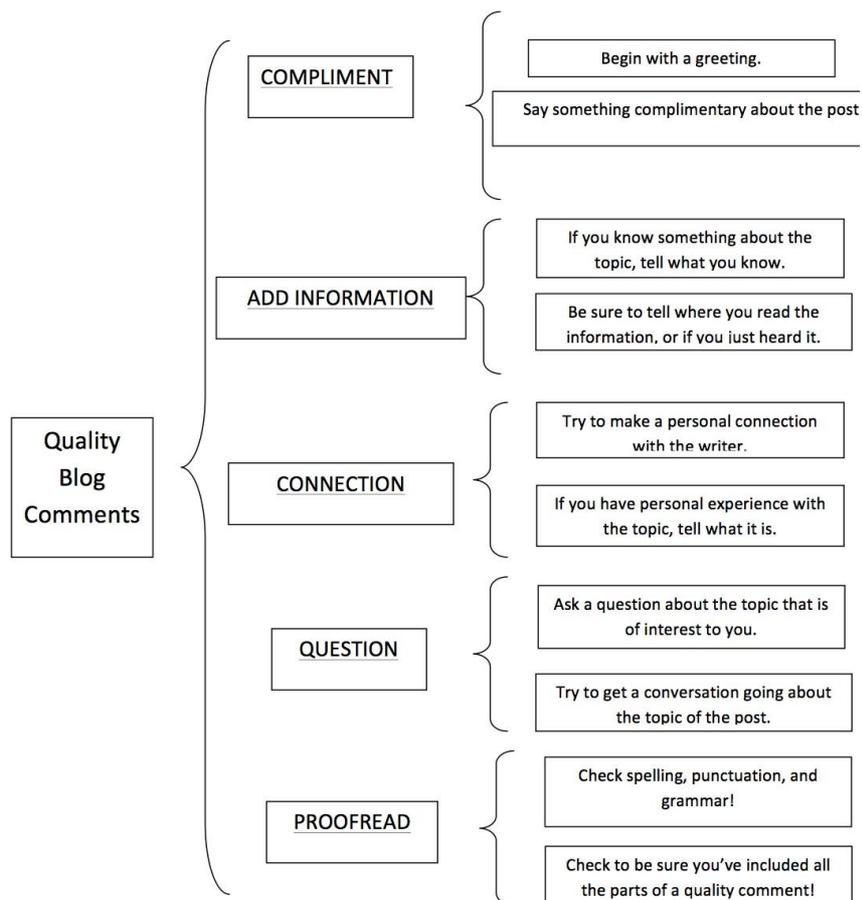
 Appendix 1- Blogging guidelines (also available on the blog) for children

Appendix 2: Blogging Administration Guidelines for Teachers

Appendix 1: Blogging guidelines for children.

Everyone is welcome to contribute to the blog as long as they follow our rules:

1. We respect each other's work. Always be polite.

2. We leave helpful comments that allow people to improve their writing.

3. We should use appropriate language and not use slang as the blog is part of our school work. The blog is not a chat room.

4. We never reveal personal details on the blog. We only use our first names.

5. We should never post photos or links to other websites unless we have permission from our teacher.

6. We should never pretend to be someone else on the blog.

Quality Blog Comments

COMPLIMENT
- Begin with a greeting.
- Say something complimentary about the post

ADD INFORMATION
- If you know something about the topic, tell what you know.
- Be sure to tell where you read the information, or if you just heard it.

CONNECTION
- Try to make a personal connection with the writer.
- If you have personal experience with the topic, tell what it is.

QUESTION
- Ask a question about the topic that is of interest to you.
- Try to get a conversation going about the topic of the post.

PROOFREAD
- Check spelling, punctuation, and grammar!
- Check to be sure you've included all the parts of a quality comment!

Appendix 2: Blogging Administration Guidelines for class teachers.

The blog admin is the class teacher. This responsibility as gatekeeper is key to ensuring safety for the pupils using the blog. The following guidelines should be followed if a successful flowing blog is to be achieved:

1. Visit the blog regularly. It is better to visit short and often than catching up once a week. Your bloggers will appreciate comments and posts being approved quickly!
2. If you use a shared computer, log out at the end of each session.
3. Promote the links on the class blog to the parents and the wider community.
4. A blog can take a while to gather momentum and an audience. Be patient... the audience will come!.
5. Mention the blog in assemblies and have it on display at parent evenings or school events, a blogging culture will soon be established!
6. Make sure each blog looks different in your school. This will help keep the interest high for the pupils from year to year.
7. Visit other blogs regularly and promote these to your class through links on your blog. What goes around comes around with blogging and strong loyal communities will form quickly.
8. Try using a free project like Quadblogging, 100wc. This will give your pupils a quick audience.