

Appendix 4: Description of ICT applications

Technology/ Application	Description/ Usage	Benefits	Risks
Internet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables the storage, publication and retrieval of a vast range of information • Supports communications systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides access to a wide range of educational materials, information and resources to support learning • Enables pupils and staff to communicate widely with others • Enhances schools management information and business administration systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information is predominantly for an adult audience and may be unsuitable for children • The vast array of information makes retrieval difficult without good research skills and ability to critically evaluate information • Access to sites promoting illegal or anti-social activities, extreme views or commercial and gambling sites.
Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows written communications over the network and the ability to attach documents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables exchange of information and ideas and supports collaborative working. • Enhances written communications skills • A good form of communication for children with some disabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties controlling contacts and content • Use as a platform for bullying and harassment • Risks from unwanted spam mail, particularly for fraudulent purposes or to introduce viruses to systems • Hacking • Unsolicited mail.
Chat/instant messaging/ gaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chat rooms allow users to chat on-line in real time in virtual meeting places with a number of people; • Instant messaging allows real-time chat for 2 or more people privately with no-one else able to join. Users have control over who they contact through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances social development by allowing children to exchange experiences and ideas and form friendships with peers. • Use of pseudonyms protects the child's identity. • Moderated chat rooms can offer some protection to children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anonymity means that children are not aware of who they are really talking to. • Chat rooms may be used by predatory adults to contact, groom and abuse children on-line. • Risk of children giving away personal information that may

	“buddy lists”.		<p>identify or locate them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be used as a platform to bully or harass.
Social networking sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-line communities, including blogs and podcasts, where users can share text, photos and music with others by posting items onto the site and through messaging. • It allows creation of individual profiles. • Users can develop friends lists to allow access to individual profiles and invite comment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows children to network with peers and join forums to exchange ideas and resources. • It provides a creative outlet and improves ICT skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open access means children are at risk of unsuitable contact. • Risk of children posting unsuitable material on-line that may be manipulated to cause them embarrassment or distress. • Children may post personal information that allows them to be contacted or located. • May be used as a platform to bully or harass.
File sharing (peer-to-peer networking)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows users to share computer capability, networks and file storage. • Used to share music, video and other materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows children to network within a community of peers with similar interests and exchange materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal download and copyright infringement. • Exposure to unsuitable or illegal materials. • Computers are vulnerable to viruses and hacking.
Mobile phones and multi-media equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile phones now carry other functions such as cameras, video-messaging and access to internet and email. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide children with a good means of communication and entertainment. • They can also keep children safe and allow them to be contacted or stay in contact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their mobile nature makes supervision of use difficult leading to risks of unsuitable contacts or exposure to unsuitable material on the internet or through messaging. • Risk from violent crime due to theft. • Risk of cyberbullying via mobile phones.