Guidelines for Safe and Effective Use of Internet and Digital Technologies in Schools and School Buses.

The potential of Information technology as a valuable learning resource is immense. However, if children use the internet without safety awareness, they may fall prey to illegal activity or abuse such as cyber bullying, fraud or something even more serious. Hence, awareness of internet safety norms is absolutely indispensable to make children free to explore knowledge without feeling intimidated. Increasing proliferation and sophistication of various electronic devices makes it all the more obligatory for schools to control and monitor their use by students.

2. Schools/ parents need to promote a safe and secure educational environment for effective teaching and learning and to discourage children from actions detrimental to themselves, their peers and the value system. Schools and parents are, thus, advised to take the following measures to pre-empt any inappropriate and illegal activity through IT enabled devices:

   a. Educate children for the safe and effective use of the Internet.
   b. Make children explicitly aware of the rule for the acceptable use of the Internet and display rules in this regard prominently.
   c. Install effective firewalls, filtering and monitoring software mechanisms in all the computers and regularly review filtering and blocking policies and procedures. Various types of unsolicited contents available on internet must be blocked.
   d. Configure end user computer devices with parental control filters / Antivirus of appropriate standard.
   e. Make children using the Internet to work in highly-visible areas of the school/ home.
   f. Supervise and monitor all online activities in the light of educational objectives.
   g. Allow Children to access only pre-selected websites appropriate to their age group.
   h. Use only the licensed version of softwares.

3. Schools are also directed to scrupulously follow the directions regarding restriction of using Mobile Phones in school environments to ensure safety of children.

4. It is informed that **carrying electronic communication devices including those that can store/record/play audio-visual content; transmit or receive images; or provide unfiltered connection to the Internet such as iPads, DVD/CD players, game consoles, handheld PC, smart phones, laptops, tablet or any other gadget with similar capabilities of data storage/transmission is not permitted in school and school bus without prior permission and verification of school authorities.**

6. It is reiterated that unmonitored use of any electronic communication device is strictly prohibited in school and school bus and any reported violation in this regard would attract disciplinary action from CBSE.