

e-Copyright Survey

Respondents were asked to answer questions honestly. There were 114 replies.

1. Is there a copyright expert in your school to whom you can go for advice?

Y	39%
Don't know	35%
N	26%

Comment: This result shows a need for wider circulation of copyright awareness amongst educationalists.

2. Does your school have blanket licences to:

- a) copy from books, newspapers and magazines for circulation in class;
- b) show slides of pictures or photos;
- c) relay videos and broadcasts;
- d) play CDs?

Don't know	36%
Y to a) mixed on rest	32%
N to all	32%

Comment: Virtually all schools have a CLA licence and most have an ERA licence. The uncertainty about this reflected here is likely to be typical.

3. Does any licence permit you to scan from print so you have copies you can show on a screen?

Don't know	54%
N	27%
Y	18%
N/A	1%

Comment: There is at present no scanning licence so this is an interesting result.

4. Would you normally expect to print out anything from any web page you like?

Y	82%
N	17%
Don't know	1%

Comment: One or two respondents qualified their answers by saying 'yes' if it was for private study. None said they would not make multiple copies or would not print more than a small percentage of a website.

5. Are students allowed to copy-and-paste anything from a web page into a document of their own?

Y	40%
N	39%
Don't know	17%
N/A	4%

Comment: Some respondents offered qualifications for the circumstances under which this would be allowed (e.g. if sources quoted). As with scanning, there is no existing licence that permits copy-and-paste.

6. When you hyperlink to another site on the web, do you have to ask permission?

N	56%
Don't know	34%
Y	10%

Comment: Hyperlinking has some grey areas of uncertainty. It is almost always acceptable to link to a site's front page. But links that appear to the reader to be part of your page are best not done without permission.

7. If a school child creates materials to post up on a website, whose permission do you need to get?

Don't know	40%
Parent	25%
Teacher/school	17%
Child	13%
N/A	5%

Comment: Parents should sign agreement forms.

8. When you use web teaching resources, do you always take a note of the full URL of the source?

Y	43%
N	35%
Sometimes	22%

Comment: Some said they did if it was for publication or if wanted to find it again (also might bookmark)

9. Do you normally read the copyright notices on websites you plan to use for educational purposes?

N	53%
Y	43%
Sometimes	4%

Comment: An honest result.

10. Do you forward educationally interesting emails to other colleagues?

Y	56%
N	39%
Don't know	5%

Comment: Emails belong to the person who wrote them and should technically not be forwarded without permission.

11. Who owns any lesson plans that you, as a teacher, post up on a website?

Don't know	37%
Inst. or school	28%
I do	25%
ISP	6%
N/A	4%

Comment: Some respondents realised that the answer here is dependent on the contract of employment. It is highly likely that the school would claim ownership.

12. What do you understand by the term 'fair dealing'?

Don't know	77%
Reply but wrong	18%
Good reply	5%

Comment: This was a purposely loosely-phrased question and the result reinforces a need for more copyright education in schools. Many of the 'don't knows' said they'd never heard the term.

Conclusion

These results are unsurprising and bear out anecdotal evidence that teachers and educators need more support in this complex and confusing area. The fact that these replies came from team leaders who are in the forefront of understanding the implications of technology in general – and the use of online learning materials in particular – suggests a real need for copyright education at all levels.

Recommendation

The DfEE could support road shows in schools to air the issues. It is important to do this in an engaging and friendly manner that constructively shows how education and culture depends on mutual respect amongst those who produce materials and those who use them.

The DfEE could also commission and produce a cartoon-based booklet for children.