

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

The aim of this Acceptable Use Policy is to ensure that pupils will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's Internet resources in a safe and effective manner. Internet use and access is considered a school resource and privilege. Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions — as outlined in the AUP— will be imposed.

It is envisaged that the principal and Digital Committee will revise the AUP periodically. The AUP should be read carefully to ensure that the conditions of use are accepted and understood.

This version of the AUP was first created in September 2004 based on guidelines issued by N.C.T.E. (The National Centre for Technology in Education) and has been most recently revised in 2019.

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School's Strategy

The school employ a number of strategies in order to maximise learning opportunities and reduce risks associated with the Internet. These strategies are as follows:

General

- A teacher will always supervise, monitor and guide Internet sessions.
- Filtering software (from the N.C.T.E. and Ad Blocker on Google Chrome) will be used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software, photos or documents will not be permitted.
- Virus protection software, VIPRE, will be used and updated on a regular basis.
- Students will observe good 'netiquette' (i.e., etiquette on the Internet) on the Internet at all times, and will not undertake any actions that may bring themselves or the school into disrepute.

World Wide Web

- Due to web filtering from the N.C.T.E., students cannot visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.
- Students will use the Internet for educational purposes only.
- Students will be familiar with copyright issues relating to online learning.
- Students will never disclose or publicise personal information.
- Students will be aware that any usage, including distributing or receiving information school-related or personal may be monitored for unusual activity, security and/or network management reasons.

Social Media/ Email

- Students should not send or receive any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.
- Students should not reveal their own or other people's personal details, such as addresses or telephone numbers or pictures.
- Students should never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they only know through emails or the Internet.
- Students should note that sending and receiving email attachments is subject to permission from their teacher.

School Website/ School Blog

- Pupils will be given the opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the Internet.
- The publication of student work will be co-ordinated by a teacher.
- Digital photographs, audio or video clips of individual students will not be published on the school website. Instead photographs, audio and video clips will focus on group activities.
- Personal pupil information including home address and contact details will be omitted from school web pages.
- Pupils will continue to own the copyright on any work published.

Sanctions

Misuse of the Internet may result in disciplinary action, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges and, in extreme cases, suspension or expulsion. The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities.

Parental supervision is encouraged at all times in the home.

Ratification and Review

This policy was last reviewed (and updated as required) and approved by the Board in April 2019 and will be reviewed regularly.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Internet Permission Form

As part of the school's education programme we offer pupils supervised access to the Internet. This allows student's access to a large array of online educational resources that we believe can greatly enhance students' learning experience.

However, access to and use of the Internet requires responsibility on the part of the user and the school. These responsibilities are outlined in the school's Acceptable Use Policy (enclosed). It is important that this enclosed document is read carefully, signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the school.

Although the school takes active steps to promote safe use of the Internet, it recognises the possibility that students may accidentally or deliberately access inappropriate or objectionable material.

The school respects each family's right to decide whether or not to allow their children access to the Internet as defined by the school's Acceptable Use Policy.

Having read the terms of our school's Acceptable Use Policy, you may like to take a moment to consider how the Internet is used in your own home, and see if there is any way you could make it safer for your own family.

There are Internet Safety Resources available on the N.C.T.E.'s (National Centre for Technology in Education) website at www.ncte.ie/internetsafety

Yours sincerely

Hilary McBain

Principal



Please review the attached school Internet Acceptable Use policy, sign and return this permission form to the Principal

School Name: _____

Name of Pupil: _____

Class/Year: _____

Pupil

I agree to follow the school's Acceptable Use policy on the use of the Internet. I will use the Internet in a responsible way and obey all rules explained to me by the school.

Pupil's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

As the parent or legal guardian of the above pupil, I have read the Acceptable Use Policy and grant permission for my son or daughter or the child in my care to access the Internet. I understand that Internet access is intended for educational purposes. I also understand that every reasonable precaution has been taken by the school to provide for online safety but the school cannot be held responsible if pupils access unsuitable websites.

I accept the above paragraph I do not accept the above paragraph

(Please tick as appropriate)

In relation to the school website, I accept that, if the school considers it appropriate, my child's schoolwork may be chosen for inclusion on the website. I understand and accept the terms of the Acceptable Use Policy relating to publishing children's work on the school.

I accept the above paragraph I do not accept the above paragraph

(Please tick as appropriate)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____
