

St. Eithne's Policy on Acceptable Use of the Internet

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 Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions - as outlined in the AUP - will be imposed.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 AUP will be revised regularly. Before signing, the AUP should be read carefully to indicate that the conditions of use are accepted and understood.

School's Strategy

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

General

- Internet sessions will always be supervised by a teacher
- Security software will be used to attempt to filter and block inappropriate material.
- The school will regularly monitor pupils' Internet usage.
- Students will be provided with training in the area of Internet safety.
- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software will not be permitted.
- Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.
- The use of personal floppy disks or CD-ROMs in school requires a teacher's permission.
- Students will observe good "netiquette" (i.e. good manners on the Internet) at all times and will not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute.

World Wide Web

- Students will not 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.

E-mail

- Students will use the school e-mail account only under supervision by or permission from a teacher. There will be no personal e-mail accounts allowed in the school.
- Students will not receive or send any material that is illegal, obscene, defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.
- Students will not reveal their own or other people's personal details, such as addresses or telephone numbers or pictures.
- Students will never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone.
- Students will note that sending and receiving e-mail attachments is subject to permission from their teacher.

Internet Chat

- Students will not have access to chat rooms, discussion forums or other electronic communication forums that have not been approved by the school.

School Website

- Pupils will be given the opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the World Wide Web.
- The publication of student work will be co-ordinated by a teacher.
- Pupils' work will appear in an educational context on Web pages with a copyright notice prohibiting the copying of such work without express written permission.
- Digital photographs, audio or video clips of individual students will not be published on the school website without parental consent. Photographs, audio and video clips will focus on group activities. Video clips may be password protected.
- 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.

Legislation

The school can provide information on the following legislation relating to use of the Internet which teachers, students and parents can familiarise themselves with, if they so wish:

- Child Trafficking and Pornography Bill 1997
- 1993 Interception Act
- Video Recordings Act 1989
- The Data Protection Act 1988

Support Structures

The school will inform students and parents of key support structures and organisations that deal with illegal material or harmful use of the Internet.

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.