



Internet Acceptable Usage Policy

Educationalists believe in the benefits of curriculum based internet use. The purpose of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy is to ensure that pupils will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's internet resources and will be protected from harmful and illegal use of the internet.

S.N. Chóbh Chionn tSáile will employ a number of strategies to maximise learning opportunities and reduce risks associated with the internet.

These strategies are as follows:

1. Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP)
2. Education
3. Filtering/Monitoring

Sanctions:

If a pupil deliberately misuses the internet or email, this will result in disciplinary action, including the withdrawal of access privileges. Parents/Guardians will receive written notification of misuse by a pupil.

Internet:

1. Internet will be used for education purposes only.
2. Internet sessions will always be supervised by a teacher.
3. Pupils will seek permission before entering any internet site, unless previously approved by a teacher.
4. Filtering software will be used to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
5. The school will regularly monitor pupils' internet usage.
6. Pupils will receive training in the area of internet safety.
7. Pupils will be taught to evaluate the content of internet sites.
8. Teachers will be made aware of internet safety issues.
9. Uploading and downloading of non-approved material is banned.
10. Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.
11. Pupils will observe good 'netiquette' (etiquette on the internet) at all times and will not undertake any action that may bring a school into disrepute 'You Tube' (and similar sites) can be accessed only under the supervision and direction of the teacher.

Email:

At present, pupils do not have access to email however, should pupils be allowed to use email the following rules will apply-

1. Email will be used for educational purposes only.
2. Students will only use approved class email accounts under supervision by or permission from a teacher.
3. Pupils will not send or received any material that is illegal, obscene and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

4. Pupils will not reveal their own or other people's personal details e.g. addresses, telephone numbers, or pictures via school email.
5. Sending or receiving email attachments is subject to teacher permission.

Internet Chat:

Students are not permitted to use internet chat rooms.

School Website:

1. Personal pupil information, home addresses and contact details will not be published on the school website.
2. Digital photographs, video clips and audio clips will focus on groups and group activities rather than on individual pupils.

Education:

S.N. Chóbh Chionn tSáile will undertake an education programme to educate children on the safe, responsible use of the internet in order to become 'internet wise'.

Resources that may be used to implement this programme include:

- * NCTE Internet Safety Awareness Video
- * Use of the 'Kids' section on the www.webwise.ie website
- * SAFT Internet Safety Awareness Education Programme and exemplars.

S.N. Chóbh Chionn tSáile has filtering software. The access to websites from all school computers is monitored and regularly reviewed by the NCCA. Websites are only allowed through following a verification of the suitability.