



Scoil Mhuire agus Íde

**Newcastlewest,
Co. Limerick**

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

FOR

SCOIL MUIRE AGUS ÍDE

Reviewed December, 2014

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP)

An Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is a document that lays down the rights, privileges, responsibilities and sanctions associated with access to, and use of, the Internet in our school. This policy has been agreed upon by staff, parents, pupils and management and will be reviewed periodically.

This policy document also contains a parental/student acceptance slip, and a covering letter to parents/guardians explaining the purpose of our school's AUP.

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 Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions - as outlined in the AUP - will be imposed.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

The original Draft Policy document was drawn up in November, 2004. This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 8/02/'07
Reviewed December 2014

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.
- Filtering software and/or equivalent systems will be used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
- The school will regularly monitor pupil's Internet usage.
- Students and teachers 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 storage drives requires a teacher's permission.
- Students will observe good 'netiquette' (i.e. etiquette on the Internet) at all times and will not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute.
- In light of DES circular 045/2013, cyberbullying is explicitly dealt with in our Anti-Bullying policy., which is reviewed on an annual basis. This states that: "the placing of offensive, hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour".

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.

Email

- Students will use approved class email accounts under supervision by or permission from a teacher.
- Students will not send or receive 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 details, such as addresses, telephone numbers or pictures.
- Students will never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they only know through emails or the Internet.

- Students will note that sending and receiving email attachments is subject to permission from their teacher.

Internet Chat

- Students will only have access to chat rooms, discussion forums or other electronic communication forums that have been approved by the school.
- Chat rooms, discussion forums and other electronic communication forums will only be used for educational purposes and will always be supervised.
- Usernames will be used to avoid disclosure of identity.
- Face-to-face meetings with someone organised via Internet will be forbidden.

School Website

- Pupils will be given the opportunity to publish projects, artwork or schoolwork on the school website.
- 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. Instead 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 will provide information on the following legislation relating to use of the Internet which teachers, students and parents should familiarise themselves with:

- Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003
- Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998
- Interception Act 1993
- 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.

This policy was reviewed by the Board of Management on 9th December 2014

Signed: _____
Chairperson of the Board

Signed: _____
Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1

Letter to Parents

Re: Internet Permission Form

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As part of our school's education programme we offer students supervised access to the Internet. This allows students 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 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 home, and see if there is any way you could make it safer for your own family.

Yours sincerely

Permission Form

Please review the attached school Internet Acceptable Use Policy. Sign and return this permission form to your Year Head.

Name of Student: _____

Class: _____

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 the rules explained to me by the school.

Student's signature: _____

Date: _____

As the parent or legal guardian of the above student, 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 Scoil Mhuire agus Íde to provide for online safety but the school cannot be held responsible if students access unsuitable websites.

I accept the above paragraph: Yes / No

(Please circle as appropriate)

IO

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 school's website. I understand and accept the terms of the Acceptable Use Policy relating to publishing student's work on the school website.

I accept the above paragraph: Yes / No

(Please circle as appropriate)

Signature: _____

Date: _____