



Acceptable Usage Policy for Internet Use

Aims

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Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions – as outlined in the AUP – will be imposed.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 regularly. Before enrolling, the AUP should be read carefully to ensure that the conditions of use are accepted and understood. It is assumed that the parent accepts the terms of the AUP unless the school is specifically notified.

School's Strategy

The school employs 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 from the NCTE is used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
- The school will regularly monitor pupils' Internet usage.
- Pupils 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 memory sticks and other digital storage media in school requires a teacher's permission.
- Pupils will treat others with respect at all times and will not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute. (see Anti-Bullying Procedures)

World Wide Web

- Pupils will not intentionally visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.
- Pupils will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in accordance with school procedures.
- Pupils will use the Internet for educational purposes only during class time. During Golden Time, they may be allowed to use the Internet for entertainment purposes. However, all web sites will be vetted by the class teacher.
- Pupils will not copy information into assignments and fail to acknowledge the source (plagiarism and copyright infringement).
- Pupils will never disclose or publicise personal information.
- Downloading materials or images not relevant to their studies, is in direct breach of the school's acceptable use policy.
- Pupils 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.



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Distance Learning

Distance Learning Guidelines

- Each staff member has been issued with a secure school domain email address which they can use to make contact with parents.
- Seesaw is the application that the school will use for distance learning.
- All email communication with staff members must be from parents, not children, through the dedicated email address
- For face to face communication (video conferencing) the initial contact will be set up using the staff member's email and the parent's email.
- Although communication using a mobile phone is not the first resort, in the rare exception where it is necessary, staff members should change their settings on their phones so the recipient of the call sees "No caller ID".
- Students are expected to uphold the same appropriate, safe and courteous conduct online as is expected offline.
- Students will only have access to chat rooms, discussion forums, messaging or other electronic communication that have been approved by the school and sanctioned by the class teacher, i.e. Google Meet, Zoom, Class Dojo, Seesaw and Google Classroom.
- On the application Seesaw, teachers will select the option where only the teacher can view the pupils work and there is only interaction between the pupil and the teacher.
- Pupils will be permitted to upload pictures of their faces on Seesaw where it is a secure platform and only the teacher can see it.
- These services, although not owned by St. Patrick's NS, form part of our web services and all content that is placed on these services falls under this policy.
- Any electronic forms of communication will only be used for educational purposes.
- In advance of using these communication forums, parental permission for the child is required. Furthermore, as the links for lessons are being communicated through parents, the cover note will state that by virtue of the children logging in to the resource, permission is assumed.
- It is the duty of the Parents to supervise children on their end.
- Usernames and passwords will be used to avoid disclosure of identity where possible.
- St. Patrick's NS cannot accept responsibility for the security of such online platforms in the event they are hacked

Email / Internet Chat

- Pupils will use approved class email accounts under supervision by or permission from a teacher.
- Pupils will not send or receive any material that is illegal, obscene, defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.
- Pupils will not reveal their own or other people's personal details, such as addresses or telephone numbers or pictures.
- Pupils will never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they only know through emails or the internet.
- Pupils will not post photographs of their own or other family members faces.
- Pupils will note that sending and receiving email attachments is subject to permission from their teacher.
- Pupils will not have access to chat rooms, discussion forums, messaging or other electronic communication for except when arrangements are made and under supervision of staff and parents.

Web 2.0

With the advent of Web 2.0, the Internet has become a two way communication system for the school and the wider community. Services such as YouTube, ClassDojo, Facebook (Parent Association), Wordpress, Twitter and other social media are being used by the school to communicate with parents and also for parents to communicate with the school. These



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services, although not owned by St. Patrick's N.S., form part of our web services and all content that is placed on these services falls under this policy. For example, any content on the school's Twitter account follows the same safety rules, e.g. the showing of photographs, video, etc.

The safety of our children on the web is of utmost importance so the following rules apply to the school and parents. Web 2.0 is open to potential dangers when used inappropriately. We would ask:

- Many social media sites have minimum age requirements. While the school will not monitor this, we would advise parents to not allow their children to have personal accounts on Facebook, Twitter, etc. until they are the appropriate age. Many social media sites will be used by teachers in class, for example, Twitter. However, all interactions will be under the supervision of the teacher. Children will not be allowed to use their own personal accounts for social media.
- Please do not "tag" photographs or any other content which would identify any children or staff in the school.
- If you are uploading a photograph, please ensure that it does not identify the child in any way. Please make sure photograph size is kept as small as possible (no bigger than 1200 pixels)
- Please ensure that online messages and comments to the school are respectful. Any messages written on social media are treated in the same way as written messages to the school.
- Avoid any negative conversations about children, staff or parents on social media accounts. If you have an issue with something in the school, social media is not the place to raise it. Comments of this nature will be deleted.
- Please do not request to "friend" a member of staff in the school. The staff would like to keep their personal lives personal. It may be awkward for a staff member to be asked to ignore a Facebook or other social network request.
- Failure to keep the above rules will result in a permanent ban to our social media accounts.

School Website

- Please note that the following points apply to the school's web site and social media profiles, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.
- Pupils will be given the opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the World Wide Web in accordance with clear policies and approval processes regarding the content that can be loaded to the school's website
- The website will be regularly checked to ensure that there is no content that compromises the safety of pupils or staff.
- Website using facilities such as guestbooks, noticeboards or weblogs will be checked frequently to ensure that they do not contain personal details
- The publication of pupil work will be co-ordinated by a teacher.
- Pupils' work will appear in an educational context on Web pages
- The school will endeavour to use digital photographs, audio or video clips of focusing on group activities. Photographs, audio and video clips will be used. Video clips will not be password protected.
- Personal pupil information including home address and contact details will be omitted from school web pages.
- The school website will avoid publishing the first name and last name of individuals together in a photograph.
- The school will ensure that the image files are appropriately named – will not use pupils' names in image file names or ALT tags if published on the web.
- Pupils will continue to own the copyright on any work published.

Personal Devices

Please see mobile device policy for further information.



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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 Act 2018
- Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998
- Interception Act 1993
- Video Recordings Act 1989
- The Data Protection Act 1988

Support Structures

The school will inform pupils and parents of key support structures and organisations that deal with illegal material or harmful use of the Internet. An external facilitator will visit the school every two years to carry out workshops with pupils from 3rd-6th class and with parents.

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.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management:

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____



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