**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 Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions – as outlined in the AUP – will be imposed.**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 school and parent representatives will revise the AUP annually. 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 maximize learning opportunities and reduce risks associated with the Internet. These strategies are as follows:**

* **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 pupils’ 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.**
* **Students will observe good “netiquette” (ie. etiquette on the Internet) at all times and will not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute.**

**Internet Use**

* **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 publicize 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 approved class e-mail 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 personal details, such as addresses or 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 not have access to chat rooms, discussion forums or other electronic communication forums in the school.**

**School Website**

* **The publication of student work will be co-ordinated by a teacher.**
* **Digital photographs, audio or video clips of individual students will only be published on the school website where parents have given consent, and children will not be named alongside the image. Photographs, audio and video clips will mostly 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**
**Information on the following legislation relating to use of the Internet is available online, which teachers, students and parents should familiarize themselves with:**

* **Data Protection Acts 1988 & 2003**
* **Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998**
* **Interception Act 1993**
* **Video Recordings Act 1989**
* **Irish Data Protection Act 2018**
* **EU GDPR regulation 2018**

**Support Structures**

**From time to time, the school will host an internet safety information presentation for all 2nd to 6th Class students, which will inform students of ‘trend’ internet use and of key support structures and organisations that deal with illegal material or harmful use of the Internet. Cyber Safety is also taught within the school Stay Safe Programme and Webwise material at an age appropriate level.**

**Sanctions**

**Misuse of the Internet may result in disciplinary action, 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.**

**Permission Form/ Consent**

**Consent for Internet Acceptable Use Policy is now included as part of the new enrollment forms since Jan’19. All other pupils given updated Parental Consent form (June 2019) to complete, to bring into alignment with new enrollment forms & policy, which include ‘Consent for Internet Acceptable Use.’**