Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa

Acceptable Use Policy for Internet Usage

What is the internet?

The Internet allows students vast educational opportunities by helping them for example, to locate material that meets their educational needs, communicate with subject experts and participate in school projects with students in similar circumstances or from different cultures.   In addition to the educational aspect of the Internet, students will learn valuable skills for participation in the information age which may be used for their chosen career.

The Internet is a global computer network which is not controlled by any organisation. This means that information may change, disappear, be controversial or potentially harmful. Although the school actively seeks to promote safe use of the Internet through the use of filtering software from the National Centre for Technology in Education and adult supervision it recognises the possibility that students may accidentally or deliberately access objectionable material.

1. Usage of the Internet, therefore, requires responsibility on the part of the user in the school.   We appreciate that parents/ guardians are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the school supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to allow access to the Internet.
2. **E-Bullying:** E-Bullying is sending threatening or upsetting messages or images via text or e-mail Pupils use of the Internet is strictly supervised by teachers. The access to material is tightly controlled as is E-Bullying, which is strictly forbidden under the school's anti-bullying policy.

Statement:

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 Therefore, if the Acceptable Use Policy is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions will be imposed as outlined.

It is envisaged that school and Board of Management Representatives will revise this Policy as necessary. Parents/guardians are requested to read the school's Acceptable Use Policy for Internet Usage before signing the Internet Access Permission Form on enrolment. See Enrolment Policy.

Rationale

As the rationale for having an Acceptable Use Policy is primarily to promote good practice in the responsible and safe use of the internet, it is therefore an important document for the following reasons:

- It educates students, parents and teachers about the potential of the internet as a valuable teaching resource.

- It defines the parameters of behaviour and specifies the consequences of violating those parameters.

- It identifies the school strategy on promoting the safe use of the Internet and addresses the risks associated with its use.

- It provides schools with legal protection from liability.

School Strategy:

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

General:

- Internet usage is always supervised by a teacher.

- Filtering systems are used to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.

- The school regularly discusses and reviews pupils' internet safety.

- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software is not permitted.

- Virus protection software is used and updated on a regular basis.

- The use of personal CD-ROMS or USB keys is prohibited.

- Pupils observe good "netiquette" (etiquette on the Internet) at all times and will not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute. See "Internet Contract-Guidelines/Rules for Pupils" attached.

Mobile phones:
Mobile phones are prohibited in school.

World Wide Web:
Pupils:

- Pupils do not visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials. These are already blocked by software.

- Pupils use the Internet for educational purposes only.

- Pupils are familiar with copyright issues relating to online learning.

- Pupils are advised never to disclose or publicise personal information.

- Pupils are aware that any usage, including distributing or receiving information, may be monitored for unusual activity, security or networking management reasons.

School Staff:
- School staff may not use the Internet for personal use during school hours, with the exception of break times.

- School staff is strictly forbidden to access inappropriate material on the Internet at any time.

Internet Chat and Social Networking Sites:
- Chat rooms, social networking sites, discussion forums and other electronic communication forums are not permitted in the school.

School Web Site:
- Pupils are given the opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the school website.   (www.caimns.ie).

Legislation:
The school provides information on the following legislation relating to use of the Internet with which teachers, SNAs, students and parents should familiarise themselves:

- Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003
- Child Trafficking and Pornography Bill 1998
- 1993 Interception Act
- Video Recordings Act 1989
- The Data Protection Act 1988

All policies are available for perusal at all times on request.

Sanctions:
Misuse of the Internet will 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. All incidents of Internet Misuse will be documented in the Accident/Incident book.

Ratification
The revised Acceptable Use Policy for Internet was reviewed in February 2018 and ratified by the Board of Management on the 20th day of March 2018.

Signed: _____
          Chairperson Board of Management

Dated: 20th March 2018