



St. Joseph's Adolescent & Family Service School
Roll No. 20153

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

The aim of this Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to ensure that students 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 Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions – as outlined in the AUP – will be imposed. There are no email facilities for students in the classroom computers.

Staff are bound by the acceptable use policy of St. Vincent's Hospital. (Appendix 1)

It is envisaged that the Board of Management will revise the AUP at regular intervals.

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.
- Net Nanny will normally be in operation in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material. Only the teacher may disable Net Nanny
- The school will regularly monitor students' Internet usage.
- Teachers will be updated on Internet Safety by the ICT manager in St. Vincent's Hospital.
- 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 floppy disks or CD-ROMs in school 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.
- Teacher will check the sites the students look up to ascertain that it is an appropriate site for the task in hand.

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.

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 chat will be forbidden.

Legislation

Information on the following legislation relating to use of the Internet, which teachers, students and parents should familiarise, themselves with will be available in the school:

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

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.

Policy completed: 14th November 2005

Ratified by Board of Management:

Signature of Chairperson:

Date:

Review Date: January 2007

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Internet Permission Form

As part of the school's education programme we offer students supervised access to the Internet. This allows students to access to a large array of online educational resources that we believe can greatly enhance their 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 their 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 own home, and see if there is any way you could make it safer for your own family.

Yours sincerely

School Principal

Permission to use the Internet Form

Please review the attached school Internet Acceptable Use Policy, sign and return this permission form to the Principal.

Name of student: _____

Student

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 follow all the rules explained to me by the school.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

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 young person 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 the school to provide for online safety but the school cannot be held responsible if students access unsuitable websites. I accept these conditions.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Acceptable use of Internet

Appendix 1

Acceptable use policy St. Vincent's Hospital

Appendix 2

Legislation relating to the use of the Internet

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Legislation relating to the use of the Internet

- Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003
- Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998
- Interception Act (Headings only)
- Video Recordings Act 1989 (Headings only)
- Data Protection Act 1988 (Headings only)