

Internet policy

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As part of the school's education programme we offer pupils access to the internet. This allows student's access to a large array of online educational resources that we believe can greatly enhance students' learning experiences.

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 document is read carefully, signed by a parent / 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 schools Acceptable Use Policy. Please indicate below whether or not you accept the terms and conditions of the Acceptable Use Policy.

This policy is to ensure the safe and effective use of the internet by all students in St. Peter's B.N.S.

Yours sincerely,

Emer Whyte

(Please sign the pupil information form if you would like your child to use computers in school)

The aim of the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) 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 to be both a school resource and a 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 Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to, this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions (as outlined in the AUP) will be imposed.

Before signing, the AUP should be carefully read to ensure that the conditions of use are accepted and understood.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP)

The school will employ a number of strategies in order to maximise learning opportunities while at the same time reducing risks associated with the internet. These strategies are as follows:

1. Filtering software and / or equivalent systems will be used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
2. The school will regularly monitor pupils' internet usage.
3. Up-loading and down-loading of non-approved material will not be permitted.
4. The use of personal floppy disks or CD-ROMs in school will require approval from the class teacher.
5. Students will observe good etiquette on the internet at all times and will not undertake any actions that might bring the school into disrepute.

World Wide Web

1. Students will not (nor try to) visit internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.
2. Students will use the internet for educational purposes only.
3. Students will never disclose or publicise personal information over the internet.
4. 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.

Legislation

The school will keep copies of legislation relating to use of the internet which teachers, students and parents should familiarise themselves with.

These will include:

1. Data Protection Act 2003
2. Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998
3. Interception Act 1993
4. Video Recording Act 1989
5. The Data Protection Act 1998.

Sanctions

Misuse of the internet may result in disciplinary action, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges and in extreme cases, suspension. The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities.