

Ringaskiddy Lower Harbour N.S.

Acceptable Use Policy

The aim of this 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 a school resource and privilege. Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions outlined in the AUP will be imposed.

It is envisaged that the BOM and Staff will revise the AUP regularly. Before signing, the AUP should be read carefully to indicate that the content is accepted and understood.

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.

- A teacher will always supervise Internet sessions.
- Websites will be previewed / evaluated using the NCTE's website evaluation model before being integrated into lessons.
- Access will be allowed only to a listed range of approved sites.
- A firewall is being used to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material and to block unsuitable sites. This is regularly updated.
- The school will regularly monitor and archive pupils Internet usage by checking user files, temporary Internet files and history files.
- Students and teachers will be provided with training in the area of research techniques specific to the Internet.
- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software will not be permitted.
- Virus protection software is used and updated regularly.
- The use of personal disks or memory sticks in school is not allowed by pupils, unless supervised or permission is given by the teacher.

World Wide Web

- Students will not knowingly attempt to visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.
- In the event of accidentally accessing any of the above sites, the Student will immediately turn off the monitor and report the incident to a Teacher.
- Students will not spend time on non-educational matters and will use the Internet for educational purposes only.
- Students will not upload, download or otherwise transmit material that is copyrighted.
- Students will not disclose or publicize personal or confidential information for example classmates' home addresses, telephone numbers, name and location of their school.
- Students will not examine, change or use another person's files, user name or passwords.
- Students will be aware that any usage, including distributing or receiving of any information, school-related or personal, may be monitored for unusual activity, security, and/or network management reasons.

Email

- Students will use approved class email accounts under supervision or permission of 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 refrain from sending on chain letters or forward messages without the permission of the sender.
- Students will not reveal their own or other people's personal details, such as addresses or telephone numbers or pictures.
- Students will not arrange to meet someone outside school via school email.
- Students will note that sending and receiving email attachments is subject to permission from their teacher.

Internet Chat

- Students will only have access to moderated chat rooms or discussion forums such as those found on the ScoilNet website, if the teacher so wishes.
- Moderated chat rooms, discussion forums and newsgroups will only be used for educational purposes and will always be supervised.
- User names will be used to avoid disclosure of identity.
- Face to face meetings with someone organised via Internet chat will be forbidden.

School Website

- Pupils will be given the opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the World Wide Web
- A teacher will coordinate the publication of student work.
- Pupils' work will appear in an educational context on web pages with a copyright notice prohibiting the copying of such work without express written permission.
- Photographs of individual students will not be published on the school website. Instead photographs will focus on group activities.
- Personal pupil information including home address and contact details will be omitted from school web pages.
- The pupil will continue to own the copyright on any work published.

Data Protection Act

The Data Protection Act 1998 was passed to deal with privacy issues arising from the increasing amount of personal information contained on computers. In accordance with the Act, the school only will only publish pupil information that is relevant to the context of the web page. Parents will be informed about pupil information on the school website.

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.