

Internet Policy

1. RATIONALE

The internet provides students with unprecedented opportunities to obtain information, engage in discussion, and liaise with individuals, organisation and groups world-wide so as to increase skills, knowledge and abilities.

2. GOALS

- 2.1 To develop skills in appropriate internet usage.
- 2.2 To improve student learning outcomes by increasing access to worldwide information.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 Our school actively supports access by students to the widest variety of information resources available, accompanied by the development of the skills necessary to filter, analyse, interpret and evaluate information encountered.
- 3.2 All students and staff at our school will have censorship filtered internet and email access. All students (grades 1-6) and staff will have their own password protected access account and log on. Such access is a privilege that infers responsibility, and not simply a right to be expected.
- 3.3 An ICT coordinator will be appointed, who will liaise with staff and the technical support technician to manage all email access, maintenance of the school's web site, web filters, and all other issues related to internet access by students.
- 3.4 The school undertakes to ensure that information published on the Internet by students or the school is of a high standard, and meets legal requirements and standards of general practice within the community in relation to copyright, safety and decency.
- 3.5 Students email access will be through a class mailbox in years F-3, while year 4-6 students will have their own email address (using DEECD's preferred web hosting organisation) that applies security measures and global filters.
- 3.6 All email accounts will be password protected and users will be responsible for clearing their mailboxes regularly.
- 3.7 Guidelines on access rights will be defined for different user levels. Restricted access shall be available to guest users for specific purposes only.
- 3.8 All students shall be responsible for notifying their teacher of any inappropriate material so that access can be blocked.
- 3.9 All staff shall be responsible for notifying the coordinator of any inappropriate material so that access can be blocked.
- 3.10 Consequences of publishing, accessing or failing to notify the coordinator of inappropriate material shall include the removal of access rights.
- 3.11 Acceptable Use Agreements will be signed by students and parents each year. This is required for students to gain access to the internet, or to publish work, photos or videos on the internet.
- 3.12 The school will offer to parents information evenings in regards to safe Internet safe in the home environment.
- 3.13 Privacy of students, parents, staff and other users must be recognised and respected at all times. When identifying students, only the student's first name and last initial will be used.
- 3.14 Teachers shall be responsible for making sure all work is screened for accuracy, appropriateness, grammar, spelling prior to publishing.

5. EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed by staff and the Education Sub Committee as part of the school's policy review process.