

Internet Acceptable Usage Policy

Ballyfacey N.S.

18257N

Introduction

In the 21st Century, the Internet has become a very useful learning tool for pupils. It provides access to a wealth of information whilst also allowing people to communicate with their peers. It lends itself to learning opportunities for children to hone their research skills and helps children's development of ICT learning which will benefit them greatly moving into the future. It must be stated however, that some Internet content is unsuitable for children. It is for this reason that the procedures outlined in this policy are followed in Ballyfacey N.S.

Pupils' use of the Internet

Whilst using the Internet at school pupils are expected to use appropriate behaviour at all times. A child's access to the Internet shall be withdrawn where the suitable behaviour and following of teacher instruction is not acceptable. Parents/guardians will receive written notification of misuse by a pupil.

Ballyfacey N.S. uses a filtering service provided by the PDST who provide the school's Broadband service. It must be noted that no filtering service completely safe and therefore pupils will be supervised at all times when using the Internet.

Teachers will do their best at all times to ensure that pupils understand that the following instances are unacceptable behaviour when it comes to using the Internet:

- Use of the Internet for any illegal activity including attempted accessing of other computers.
- Retrieving, sending, copying or displaying inappropriate messages or images.
- Use of offensive language.
- Use of any social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, twitter, etc.
- Damage to computers, devices or network systems through vandalism, use of virus software, etc.
- Violation of copyright laws.
- Use of another pupil's login details, passwords, etc.
- Viewing of or interference with the work, files or folders of others.

Management of Internet Use by Pupils:

- Use of weekly timetabling for class use of laptops and other devices.
- Teaching staff will select suitable sites and applications, which will support pupils' development and learning.
- At times staff may provide suitable sites or applications to families to further support pupil learning at home where appropriate.

Safe Use of the Internet:

Internet access in school will be supervised. Teachers will ensure that pupils understand appropriate use of the Internet and are aware of the rules. Pupils will be encouraged regularly to report any material of an inappropriate or discomforting nature.

Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying lessons and workshops will be used to ensure that pupils understand the importance of reporting Cyber Bullying as well as the steps they should take if they encounter Cyber Bullying issues.

Use of Email and/or messaging by Pupils:

The sending of personal emails by pupils when using the school's Internet service is prohibited. This same rule also applies to any messaging application which pupils may be familiar with while using school laptops and devices.

Use of personal devices in School brought in from Home:

To protect children from a safeguarding standpoint, the bringing to school of personal technological devices is not permitted. This applies to all school tours or other outings too.

The school will provide any technological devices to support pupil learning as necessary.

School Website

Designated staff will manage the publication of material on the school website.

- Personal pupil information, home addresses and contact details will not be published on the school website.
- Class lists will not be published.
- Pupils' full names will not be published beside their photograph – consent for pupils' images to be displayed on the school website will be sought from all families.
- Teachers will select work to be published and decide on the appropriateness of such.

Guidance for Parents in relation to ICT in the Home:

Teachers will be responsible for pupil use of appropriate material on the Internet during school hours.

Outside of school hours, it is responsibility of parents or guardians to provide similar guidance of when it comes to their child(ren)'s Internet usage.

It is important for parents/ guardians to note that domestic Internet service providers may not have filters in place and therefore it may be necessary for parents to set appropriate parental controls on individual technological devices.

Recommendations to support home use of Internet by pupils:

It is important to discuss safety measures around the use of the Internet with children. This should include clear direction around what is deemed appropriate use.

Monitoring of sites/ applications used by children and discussion around what they are learning from use of same.

Teachers will stress the importance of children never passing on personal identifying information on the Internet such as addresses, phone numbers, images, school name or financial information such as credit card or bank details. It is highly advisable that parents/ guardians also provide similar advice around how children protect themselves from strangers during online activity.

It is very important that parents/ guardians stress to their child(ren) the significance of not replying to any messages, links or images received online that are in any way inappropriate, abusive or threatening in nature. A child should always a trusted adult if they receive content of this nature.

Children's use of the Internet at home can be equally useful to school usage of online content but this does require adequate supervision.

Review and Implementation

This policy was reviewed in December 2021. It is due to be reviewed again in the school year 2023-24 or sooner if circumstances necessitate a review. This policy is available to view for all parents and staff on the school website.

Signed: Deanna O'Sullivan

Chairperson

Date: 21/12/21

Signed: Tommy O'Gorman

Principal

Date: 20/12/21