Internet Acceptable Use Policy

St. Flannan's National School

Content

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

GENERAL APPROACH

The aim of this Acceptable Use Policy is to ensure that students will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's digital resources in a safe and effective manner. The responsible use of internet and digital technologies, both online and offline and access is considered an integral part of teaching and learning. Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to agreed sanctions will be imposed.

It is envisaged that school and parent representatives will revise the AUP at least annually. Before signing, the AUP should be read carefully to ensure that the conditions of use are accepted and understood.

When using the internet students, parents and staff are expected:

- To treat others with respect at all times.
- Respect copyright and acknowledge creators when using online content and resources.

The school employs a number of strategies in order to maximise learning opportunities and reduce risks associated with the Internet. These strategies are as follows:

- Filtering software and/or equivalent systems will be used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software will not be permitted.
- Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.
- Internet use within school will always be supervised by a teacher.

This Acceptable Use Policy applies to students who have access to and are users of the internet in St. Flannan's N.S.

It also applies to members of staff, volunteers, parents, carers and others who access the internet in St. Flannan's N.S.

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

St. Flannan's N.S. implements the following strategies on promoting safer use of the internet:

- Pupils will be provided with education in the area of internet safety as part of our implementation of the SPHE and other curriculum areas.
- Teachers will be made aware of continuing professional development opportunities in the area of internet safety.
- St. Flannan's N.S. participates in Safer Internet Day activities to promote safer more effective use of the internet.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed annually by the following stakeholders:

Board of Management, teaching staff, and pupils.

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- Logs of reported incidents.
- Monitoring logs of internet activity (including sites visited).
- Internal monitoring data for network activity.
- Surveys and/or questionnaires of pupils.

Should serious online safety incidents take place, the principal should be informed.

The implementation of this Internet Acceptable Use policy will be monitored by the assigned postholder.

CONTENT FILTERING

St. Flannan's N.S. has chosen to implement the following level on content filtering on the Schools Broadband Network:

Split Level- This level allows different filtering levels for different groups of users; staff/students etc. Teachers may access YouTube from their teaching devices but children will not be enabled to access the same website from their school devices.

Students taking steps to by-pass the content filter by using proxy sites or other means may be subject to disciplinary action, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges, detention and, in extreme cases, suspension or expulsion.

INTERNET USE

Students will not intentionally visit internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.

Students will be encouraged to report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in accordance with school procedures.

Students will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in school but outside the classroom to the assigned postholder.

Students will use the Internet for educational purposes only.

Students will not download or view any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

Downloading by students of materials or images not relevant to their studies is in direct breach of the school's acceptable use policy.

PERSONAL DEVICES

The following statements apply to the use of internet-enabled devices such as tablets, gaming devices, smartwatches, in St. Flannan's N.S.:

- Students are not allowed to bring personal internet-enabled devices or e-readers into St. Flannan's N.S.
- The wearing of smartwatches in school is prohibited. The wearing of Fitbit type fitness trackers that DO NOT have audio and video recording capabilities is permitted.
- If a child brings a personal device to school, the teacher will retain it for the duration of the school day, and return it to the student at the end of the school day.

DIGITAL LEARNING PLATFORMS (INCLUDING VIDEO CONFERENCING)

Remote Learning Policy: This Acceptable Use Policy is also implemented for remote learning in the event that school has to move to an online platform.

IMAGES AND VIDEO

Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of students are published on the school website.

INAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES

- Promotion or conduct of illegal acts, e.g. under the child protection, obscenity, computer misuse and fraud legislation
- Harmful content or threatening behaviour, including promotion of physical violence or mental harm
- Use of social networking sites, instant messaging and online forums
- Any other activity considered questionable

CYBERBULLYING

This type of bullying is increasingly common and is continuously evolving. It is bullying carried out through the use of information and communication technologies such as text, social media, e-mail, messaging, apps, gaming sites, chat-rooms and other online technologies. Being the target of inappropriate or hurtful messages is the most common form of online bullying. As cyberbullying uses technology to perpetrate bullying behaviour and does not require face to face contact, cyber-bullying can occur at any time (day or night). Many forms of bullying can be facilitated through cyber-bullying. For example, a target may be sent homophobic text messages or pictures may be posted with negative comments about a persons sexuality, appearance etc.

Access to technology means that cyberbullying can happen around the clock and the students home may not even be a safe haven from such bullying. Students are increasingly communicating in ways that are often unknown to adults and free from supervision. The nature of these technologies means digital content can be shared and seen by a very wide audience almost instantly and is almost impossible to delete permanently. While cyberbullying often takes place at home and at night, the impact can also be felt in school.

In accordance with the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Schools, St. Flannan's N.S. considers that a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or other public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.

When using the internet students, parents and staff are expected to treat others with respect at all times.

Engaging in online activities with the intention to harm, harass, or embarrass another student or member of staff is an unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour, with serious consequences and sanctions for those involved.

Measures are taken by St. Flannan's N.S. to ensure that staff and students are aware that bullying is defined as unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time. This definition includes cyberbullying even when it happens outside the school or at night. In addition the Department of Education Anti-Bullying Procedures, 2013 defines cyberbullying as "placing a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or another public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behavior.

The prevention of cyberbullying is an integral part of the anti-bullying policy of our school.

The local community Garda will be invited to speak with pupils about online safety as part of the Garda Schools Programme.

Policy Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 20th February 2023.

Signed: _____ Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: _____

Next Review:

PERMISSION FORM

Legislation

The school will provide information on the following legislation relating to use of the Internet which teachers, students and parents should familiarise themselves with:

- Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

- Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000

- Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998 and Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017

- Children First Act 2015

- Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 (Coco's Law)

- Criminal Damage Act 1991

Support Structures

The school will inform students and parents of key support structures and organisations that deal with illegal material or harmful use of the Internet.

Sanctions

Misuse of the Internet and digital technologies should be referred to in the school's Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy and related sanctions regarding misuse as appropriate should be outlined therein. The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities, including An Garda Síochana.

I agree to follow the school's Acceptable Use Policy on the use of the internet and digital technologies. I will use the internet and digital technologies in a responsible way and obey all the procedures outlined in the policy.

Student's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian : _____

Date: _____

As the parent or legal guardian of the above student, I have read the Acceptable Use Policy and 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.

Parent's/Guardian's
Signature: _____

Date: _____

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

School Name: St. Flannan's National School

Name of Student: _____

Class/Year: _____

Student: _____

AUP USER AGREEMENT- SCHOOL STAFF AND VISITORS

As a school user of the network and internet at St. Flannan's N.S., I have read and understood the Acceptable User Policy (AUP) for the use of the internet in St. Flannan's N.S., and by signing it, I agree to abide by the policy as stated and to accept any sanctions which may be imposed due to misuse of the internet and non-adherence to the AUP. I agree to follow the school rules on its use. I will use the network in a responsible way and observe all the restrictions explained in the AUP. I agree to report any misuse of the network to the school Principal or the ICT Coordinator. If I do not follow the rules, I understand that this may result in loss of access to the internet/computer network as well as other disciplinary action.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____