

St. Augustine's College, Abbeyside, Dungarvan.



ACCEPTABLE INTERNET USE POLICY

Mission Statement

St. Augustine's College is a caring community committed to offering all of its students and staff, a happy and safe environment in which they can work, learn and play. We endeavour to facilitate the academic, personal, moral, spiritual and social development of each member of this school community. Our aim is to provide a balanced and well-rounded education for all our students.

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 Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions as outlined in the AUP will be imposed.

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

This version of the AUP was created in January 2004 by St. Augustine's Staff and Parents'

Council, and updated in April 2014 to reflect constant changes in this area.

School's Strategy

The school will employ a number of strategies in order to maximise learning opportunities and reduce risks associated with the Internet. This policy relates only to the internet provided by the school.

General

- Internet sessions will always be supervised by a teacher.
- Filtering software and/or equivalent systems will be used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
- The school/Agents will regularly monitor pupils' Internet usage.
- Students and teachers will be provided with training in the area of Internet safety.
- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software will not be permitted.
- Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.
- The use of personal memory sticks, CD ROMs, or other digital storage media, in school requires a teacher's permission.
- Students will observe good "netiquette" (i.e., etiquette on the Internet) at all times and will not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute.
- School has the right to clear school data storage on a regular basis, therefore Students are advised to back up data, especially examination material.

World Wide Web

- Students will not visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.
- Students are not permitted to use Social Networking Sites such as Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, MSN, (this list is not exhaustive) Please also refer to the School Code of Conduct regarding Mobile Phone/Devices.
- Students will use the Internet for educational purposes only.
- Students will be familiar with copyright issues relating to online learning.
- Students will never disclose or publicise personal information.
- 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.
- Students are not allowed access Proxy (sneak me in type) Websites.
- Use of School WIFI is not permitted by students.

Email

- Students will use approved class email accounts under supervision by or permission from 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 not reveal their own or other people's personal details, such as addresses or telephone numbers or pictures.
- Students will never arrange a face to face meeting with someone without parental permission.
- Students will note that sending and receiving email attachments is subject to permission from their teacher.

Internet Chat

- Students will only have access to chat rooms, discussion forums or other electronic communication forums that have been approved by the school.
- Chat rooms, discussion forums and other electronic communication forums will only be used for educational purposes and will always be supervised.
- Usernames will be used to avoid disclosure of identity.
- Face to face meetings with someone organised via Internet chat will be forbidden.
- Students are not permitted to use another student's password.
- Students are advised to change passwords on a yearly basis.

School Website

- Pupils will be given the opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the World Wide Web, with Principals permission.
- The publication of student work will be co-ordinated by a teacher.
- 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, audio and video clips on the school website will focus on group activities. Video clips may be password protected.
- Personal pupil information including home address and contact details will be omitted from school web pages.
- Pupils will continue to own the copyright on any work published.

Personal Devices

- Phones / I pod's / I pads/earphones /headphones etc. are not allowed (See Code of Conduct)
- The sharing of explicit images (sexting) and in particular the sharing of explicit images of pupils without their permission is unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour with serious consequences and sanctions for those involved.
It is against the law for minors to take explicit pictures of themselves and to share those images on the internet.

All incidences involving creating storing and sharing of explicit images of children under the age of seventeen will be reported to the Gardai and Tusla.

Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed regularly. In practice, this process should be coordinated by a core committee consisting of two staff members, two parents/guardians nominated by the Parent's Council and two students in consultation with the wider school community. On going review and evaluation should take cognisance of changing information, legislation, developments in the school based programme and feedback from parents/guardians, staff and students. The policy should be revised as necessary in the light of such review and evaluation and within the framework of school planning.

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.

Legislation

There is no specific legislation governing Internet safety at school level. Complicating this issue is the fact that the Internet functions in a global context whereas the law operates in a localised one. There are, however, a number of legislations that have relevance to Internet safety. They are briefly described as follows:

The Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998.

This Act legislates against anyone who knowingly produces, prints, publishes, distributes, exports, imports, shows, possesses or sells child pornography.

[http://www.irigov.ie/bills28/bills/ 1 997/7397/default.htm](http://www.irigov.ie/bills28/bills/1997/7397/default.htm)

1993 Interception Act.

(The Interception of Postal Packets and Telecommunications Messages Regulation Act 1993). This Act stipulates that telecommunication messages can be intercepted for the purpose of an investigation of a serious offence. Authorisations are subject to certain conditions.

[http:// 193.120.124.98/ZZA1OY1993S1.html](http://193.120.124.98/ZZA1OY1993S1.html)

Video Recordings Act 1989.

The 1989 Video Recordings Act prohibits the distribution of videos which contain obscene or indecent material which may lead to the depravation or corruption of the viewer.

[http:// 193.120.124.98/ZZA22Y1989.html](http://193.120.124.98/ZZA22Y1989.html)

The Data Protection Act 1988.

This Act was passed in order to deal with privacy issues arising from the increasing amount of information kept on computer about individuals.

[http:// 193.120.124.98/ZZA25Y1988.html](http://193.120.124.98/ZZA25Y1988.html)

Support Structures

Key support structures and organisations that deal with illegal material or harmful use of the Internet include the following

National Centre for Technology in Education (<http://www.ncte.ie/internetsafety>)

Provides information and advice on Internet safety issues for teachers and parents.

Hotline (<http://www.hotline.ie>)

Irish hotline for reporting online child pornography. Reports can be made by emailing report@hotline.ie or phoning 1890 610710 4,0

Internet Service Providers Association of Ireland (<http://www.ispai.ie>) An organisation that represents the Internet Service Providers industry at national, European and international level.

An Garda Síochána (<http://www.garda.ie>)

IAB (Internet Advisory Board) (<http://www.iab.ie>) An organisation that monitors developments regarding illegal and harmful use of the Internet.

Safer Internet Action Plan (<http://www.saferinternet.org>) The Safer Internet Action Plan is the European Union's response to promoting safety on the Internet, addressing the controversial issue of illegal, harmful and racist content.

Barnardos (<http://www.barnardos.ie>) Barnardos is a leading independent agency for children and families.

COPINE (http://copine.ucc.ie/conf_main.php3) The COPINE Project is an initiative which addresses the issue of child exploitation via the Internet.

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