

St. Brigid's National School



Internet Acceptable Usage Policy

Educationalists believe in the benefits of curriculum-based internet use. The purpose of the Internet Acceptable Usage Policy is to ensure that pupils will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's internet resources and will be protected from harmful and illegal use of the Internet.

St. Brigid's National School will employ a number of strategies to maximise learning opportunities and reduce risks associated with the Internet. These strategies are as follows:

- Acceptable Usage Policy
- Education
- Filtering/Monitoring

Pupil Access to the Internet

The school is pleased to offer the internet as an available resource to both pupils and teachers for reference purposes, researching project materials, playing interactive educational games, learning to touch-type and for lesson reinforcement. Access to online resources will enable pupils to explore thousands of libraries, databases and bulletin boards throughout the world.

Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation for living and working in this information age. The school will integrate such information as appropriate within the curriculum and staff will provide guidance and instruction to pupils in the appropriate use of such resources, as outlined in this policy. Pupils' use of telecommunications and electronic information will only be permitted upon submission of permission and agreement forms by parents of pupils.

1. Pupils will not be given access to the Internet without teacher supervision.
2. Internet will be used for educational purposes only.
3. Internet sessions will always be supervised by a teacher.
4. Pupils will seek permission before entering any Internet site, unless previously approved by a teacher.
5. Filtering software will be used to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material. The school will use the Internet provided and filtered by the NCTE (National Centre for Technology in Education).
6. The school will regularly monitor pupils' internet usage.
7. Pupils will receive training in the area of internet safety.

St. Brigid's National School



8. Pupils will be taught to evaluate the content of internet sites.
9. Teachers will be made aware of internet safety issues.
10. Uploading and downloading of non-approved material is banned.
11. Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.
12. The use of personal floppy disks, external storage devices or CD-ROMS in school requires a teacher's permission.
13. Pupils will observe good 'netiquette' (etiquette on the internet) at all times and will not undertake any action that may bring a school into disrepute.
14. Pupils do not have permission to access 'YouTube'.

Email

Pupils are not allowed to use email at school.

Internet Chat

Students are not permitted to use internet chat rooms.

School Website

Pupils may create projects, artwork, writing or audio-visual recordings which would be suitable for publication on our school's website. Designated teachers will manage the publication of material on the school website adhering to the stipulations below.

1. Personal pupil information, home addresses and contact details will not be published on the school website.
2. Class lists will not be published.
3. Pupils' full names will not be published beside their photograph
4. The school will use digital photographs, video clips and audio clips to demonstrate pupils' work, activities and achievements.

St. Brigid's National School



5. Pupils will be given an opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the school website
6. Teachers will select material to be published and decide on the appropriateness of such
7. Permission to publish a student's work will be sought from pupils/parents/ guardians. This permission may be withdrawn at any time
8. Pupils will continue to own the copyright on any work published.

Sanctions

If a pupil deliberately misuses the internet or email, is found running searches on inappropriate topics or attempting to access inappropriate/unsuitable websites, this will result in disciplinary action, including the withdrawal of access privileges. Parents/guardians will receive notification of misuse by a pupil. Further misuse will result in longer withdrawal of access privileges, as seen fit by the school staff.