



Derrylatinee

from little acorns

SAINT FRANCIS'

POLICY
On Use of Internet in Schools

Policy for the Acceptable use of The Internet in Schools

All schools have been provided with the Northern Ireland Network for Education (NINE) as their Filtered Internet Server

The importance of drawing up a policy for acceptable use of the Internet in Schools is paramount. The consequences of not having an effective policy in place can vary from the clogging of networks and the financial drain resulting from e.g. unsupervised surfing to the viewing, downloading and distributing of unsuitable and offensive material.

NINE Connect operates a filtering mechanism on both Internet searches and Internet mail. But a filtering service, no matter how thorough, can never be totally secure, and it is essential that Internet use is complimented by a well understood policy on acceptable use.

1. Staff and Pupils:

When using the Internet, all users must comply with all copyright, libel, fraud, discrimination and obscenity laws, and all school staff are expected to communicate in a professional manner consistent with the rules of behaviour governing employees in the education sector.

Pupils are responsible for their good behaviour on the Schools Networks. While the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is a required aspect of the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum, access to the Internet and to NINE Connect in school is a privilege, not a right. It is given to pupils who act in a considerate and responsible manner and will be withdrawn if they fail to maintain acceptable standards of use.

All staff are to ensure that pupils know and understand that no Internet user is permitted to:-

- (i) retrieve, send, copy or display offensive messages or pictures**
- (ii) use obscene or racist language**
- (iii) harass, insult or attack others**
- (iv) damage computers, computer systems or computer networks**
- (v) violate copyright laws**
- (vi) use another's password**
- (vii) trespass in another user's folder, work or files**

(viii) intentionally waste resources, e.g. on line time

(ix) use the network for unapproved commercial purposes

The use of the NINE Connect Services by the Northern Ireland Education Community must be in support of the aims and objectives set out in the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

2. Location and Supervision

It is an absolute requirement that only a filtered service provider is used by the school and that all staff and pupils are aware that the NINE Connect Service is one such filtered service suitable for primary schools. All users should be made aware that all sites visited, searches made on the Internet and e.mail sent and received are tracked and recorded.

Internet access for pupils will only be available on computers that are in highly used areas of the school, e.g. classrooms or computer rooms and are in full view of others circulating in this area.

While using the Internet pupils will be supervised. However, when appropriate and with permission, they may on occasions pursue electronic research through the NINE Connect Filtered Service. With independent research, pupils will be reminded of their responsibility to use these resources in an acceptable manner.

Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and to ensure the system is being used responsibly. While

normal privacy is respected and protected by password control, users must not expect files stored on NINE Connect Servers to be completely private.

3. NINE Connect

NINE Connect (Northern Ireland Network for Education) supports the implementation and sharing of effective practices and collaborative networking across the province, as well as nationally and internationally. All staff will be encouraged to use NINE Connect resources and as a resource for contacting others in the education world.

Electronic information handling , i.e. use of internet, e.mail and conferencing is now fundamental to the Information Age children will enter into, as future employees. It is a teacher's responsibility to give them a role model in appropriate and effective use of ICT and to provide pupils with a curriculum with ICT integrated into various aspects of it.

Examples of Acceptable and Unacceptable Use

On Line Activities which are encouraged include for e.g.

Use of e.mail and computer conferencing for communication between colleagues, between pupils and pupils, between pupils and teachers and between schools and industry

Use of Internet to investigate and research school subjects, cross curricular themes and topics related to social and personal development

Use of Internet to investigate careers

The development of pupils competence in ICT Skills, e.g. Word Processing , graphics, etc, and their general research skills

On Line Activities which are NOT permitted include for e.g.

- **Searching, viewing and/or retrieving materials that are not related to the aims of the Curriculum or future careers**
- **Copying/saving and/or redistributing copyright material without approval**
- **Subscribing to any services or ordering any goods or services, unless specifically assigned by the teacher**
- **Publishing, sharing or distributing any personal information about a user such as home address, e.mail address, phone number, etc**
- **Any activity that violates a school rule**

4. ADVICE FOR PARENTS:

While in school, teachers will guide pupils toward appropriate materials on the Internet. Outside school, parents or guardians bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they would normally exercise with information sources such as televisions, telephones, movies and other media.

Appropriate home use of the Internet by children can be educationally beneficial, and can make a useful contribution to home and school work. It should however, be supervised and parents should be very aware that they are responsible for their children's use of Internet resources at home.

Our school will advise parents that filtered services and monitored access for pupils is normal in the school setting.

PARENTS GUIDANCE:

- **Parents should discuss with their children the rules for using the Internet and decide together, when, how long and what comprises appropriate use**
- **Parents should get to know the sites children visit and talk to them about what they are learning**
- **Parents should ensure that they give their agreement before children give out personal identifying information on the Internet, such as a picture, an address or phone number or financial information such as bank or credit card details. This is to protect their children and themselves from unwanted or unacceptable overtures from strangers, from unplanned expenditure or fraud.**
- **Parents should encourage their children not to respond to any unwelcome, unpleasant or abusive messages, and to tell them if they receive any such messages or images.**

Approved by Governors: April 2017

Date of Next review: June 2018

**Signed:
Mrs McNeice
Phelim Marrison**

**Designated Teacher
Principal
Chair of Board of Governors**

