



Scoil Náisiúnta Inse Rátha, Little Island National School.
Tel: 021 – 4354087.

Principal – Micheál Rea

COMPUTER AND INTERNET POLICY:

As part of the school's education programme we offer pupils supervised access to computers, iPads and the Internet.

This allows students vast educational opportunities by helping them for example, to locate material that meets their educational needs, communicate with subject experts and participate in school projects with students in similar circumstances or from different cultures. In addition to the educational aspects of the Internet, students will learn valuable skills for participation in the information age, such as Microsoft Office, which may be useful for their chosen career.

The Internet is a global computer network, which is not controlled by any organisation. Usage of the Internet therefore requires responsibility on the part of the user and the school. These responsibilities are outlined in this Policy. It is important that this policy is read carefully and signed by a parent or guardian.

We appreciate that parents and guardians are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the school supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to allow access to the Internet as defined by the school's Computer and Internet Policy.

This is an important document for the following reasons:

- It educates students, parents and teachers about the potential of the Internet as a valuable learning resource.
- It defines the parameters of behaviour and specifies the consequences of violating those parameters.
- It identifies the school strategy on promoting the safe use of the Internet and addresses the risks associated with its use.
- It provides schools with legal protection from liability.

The aim of this Policy is to ensure that pupils will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's Computer and Internet resources in a safe and effective manner. Internet use and access is considered a school resource and privilege.

Therefore, if the school's policy is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

School's Strategy

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

General

- Teachers will discuss the appropriate use of computers, iPads and the internet with their class and inform them of the rules and sanctions associated with this area in line with our Code of Behaviour and this policy.
- 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. This is currently set to NCTE level 4 *



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[<http://www.ncte.ie/Broadband/ContentFiltering/> for more information on NCTE Content Filtering].

- Students and teachers will be provided with training in the area of Internet safety [see www.webwise.ie].
- Uploading and downloading of non approved software will not be permitted.
- Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.
- Children may not use personal floppy discs or USB keys due to the possibility of transferring viruses.
- 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.

WorldWideWeb

- Students will not visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials while in school – these sites are blocked by NCTE Schools Broadband Content Filtering.
- 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.

E-Mail

- Students will use approved class email accounts under supervision by or permission from a teacher.
- Students will not send or invite 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 meeting with someone as part of a class activity.
- Students will note that sending and receiving email attachments is subject to permission from their teacher.

School Website

- Pupils will be given the opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the World Wide Web.
- The publication of student work will be co-ordinated by a teacher.
- Digital photographs, audio or video clips of students will be published on the school website in an educational context only.
- Personal pupil information will be omitted from school web pages.
- Pupils will be included in photographs of groups of children and will not be named in those photographs. A child's name may be used without a photograph.

Sanctions

Misuse of Computers or Internet may result in disciplinary action as per our Code of Behaviour, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges and, in



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extreme cases, suspension or expulsion. The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities.



Ratified By Board of Management:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

I have read and understood the Computer and Internet Policy of Scoil Inse Rátha, Little Island and:

I agree ..

do not agree ..

to allow my child(ren) have access to Computers, iPads and the Internet in school, as laid out in this policy.

Name of Child(ren): _____

Signature of Parent: _____

Print name: _____

Reviewed 16th June 2015