

# **POLICY FOR THE ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE INTERNET IN ST. JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS.**

**Ratified by the Board of Management on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011.**

## **1. STUDENTS.**

When using the Internet, all students must comply with all copyright, libel, fraud, discrimination and obscenity laws. Access to the Internet and PC equipment within the school is for school related use only.

- Access will only be granted once a student has read the policy and a signed form received from the parent /guardian.
  - The school reserves the right to revoke all access in any event of a student breaches the policy.
  - Students are prohibited from installing and /or removing any software from the PC.
  - Students must keep personal credentials safe such as passwords etc.
  - Students are prohibited from circumventing or attempting to circumvent any of the controls put in place to secure the school's network, equipment and the individual using the PC.
  - Students must notify their computer teacher immediately in the event that they suspect something unusual present on the PC.
- a. Students are responsible for their good behaviour on the school networks, just as they are on and off school premises. Availability to use the school's computers is given to students who act in a considerate and responsible manner, and will be withdrawn if they fail to maintain acceptable standards of use.
- c. Students should know and understand that they are **not permitted** to:
- Retrieve, send, copy or display offensive messages or pictures.
  - Use obscene or racist language.
  - Harass, insult or attack others.
  - Damage computers, computer systems or computer networks.
  - Violate relevant laws including copyright.
  - Use another user's password.
  - Trespass in another user's folders, work or files.
  - Intentionally waste resources (such as on-line time and consumables).
  - Use the network for unapproved commercial purposes.

## **2. Location and Supervision**

- All students should be aware that the Internet service provided to staff and students in our school is a filtered service via the Department of Education and Skills. All users should be aware that the school and the Department of Education and Skills can and does track and record the sites visited, the searches made on the Internet and e-mails sent and received by individual users.
- Similarly, network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly. While normal privacy is

respected and protected by password controls, as with the Internet itself, users must not expect files stored on servers to be absolutely private.

- Internet access for students in the school will be available only on computers that are in highly-used areas of the school such as classrooms, libraries, study rooms, computer laboratories and media centres. Machines, which are connected to the Internet, must be in full view of the computer teacher.
- While using the Internet at school, students must be supervised. However, when appropriate, students may pursue electronic research independent of staff supervision provided specific permission has been approved by their computer teacher. In all cases, students are reminded of their responsibility to use these resources in line with the school policy on acceptable use.

### **3. Examples of Acceptable and Unacceptable Use**

a. On-line activities which are encouraged include, for example; the

- Use of email and computer conferencing for communication between colleagues, between student(s) and teacher(s), between student(s) and student(s), between schools and industry.
- Use of the Internet to investigate and research school subjects, cross-curricular themes and topics related to social and personal development.
- Use of the Internet to investigate careers and further and higher education.
- The development of students' competence in ICT skills and their general research skills.

b. On-line activities which are **not permitted** include, for example:

- 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 protected material, without approval.
- Subscribing to any services or ordering any goods or services, unless specifically approved by school management.
- Playing computer games or using other interactive 'chat' or 'social' sites.
- Using the network in such a way that use of the network by other users is disrupted (for example: downloading large files during peak usage times; sending mass email messages).
- Publishing, sharing or distributing any personal information about a user (such as: home address; email address; phone number, etc.).
- Any activity that violates a school rule.

**Advice for Parents can be accessed on our school's website at [www.droghedacbs.ie](http://www.droghedacbs.ie)**

## **ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR INTERNET USE IN ST JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL, DROGHEDA.**

### **INTERNET TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**1. Students are responsible for their own behaviour on school computers.**

**General school rules for behaviour in keeping with St. Joseph's Secondary School Behaviour Code apply.**

**2. The Internet is provided for students to conduct research. Access to the Internet is granted to students who agree to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Access is a privilege. Inappropriate use or behaviour on the part of a student will result in the cancellation of Internet privileges for the remainder of the year, no exceptions.**

**Inappropriate Use or Behaviour Consists Of:**

- **Intentionally damaging computers.**
- **Attempting to download or print material from the Internet without the teacher's permission.**
- **Consistently not attending to the teacher's instructions.**
- **Attempting to access inappropriate sites.**
- **Attempting to access e-mail or chat room accounts other than those associated with school-based assignments.**

**STUDENT'S SECTION:**

**I have read the POLICY FOR THE ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE INTERNET IN ST. JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS. I agree to follow the rules contained in this policy. I understand that if I violate any of these rules I will lose my Internet privileges for the remainder of the school year, and I may face other disciplinary measures.**

**Students Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**PARENT'S or GUARDIAN'S SECTION**

**As the parent or legal guardian of the student signing above, I have read the Internet Use Agreement and grant permission for my son to access the Internet. I understand that Internet access is designed for educational purposes. I also understand that St. Joseph's Secondary School cannot be held responsible for sites that are deemed as inappropriate but that the Staff of St. Joseph's Secondary School has taken every precaution within its power to provide for online safety. I understand that my son will be held responsible for violations.**

**Parent's / Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**