

Scoil Mhuire Naofa
Carrigtwohill
Co Cork
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Scoil Mhuire Naofa
Carraig Thuathail
Co Chorcaí
021-4883271
Mobile: 085-8709935

Rolla: 18000w

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.

Scoil Mhuire Naofa 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
- Mobile Phone Rule
- Tablet Usage Policy

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 be provided for from Junior Infants – 6th class.

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 only enter internet sites that they are directed to by their teacher
5. Filtering software will be used to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material
6. Pupils will be taught to evaluate the content of internet sites
7. Teachers will be made aware of internet safety issues
8. Uploading and downloading of non-approved material is banned
9. Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis
10. The use of personal external storage devices or CD-ROMS in school requires a teacher's permission
11. 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
12. Pupils may not access the camera function on any device unless directed by their teacher

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L. Príomhoide: Val Quigley

Chairperson: Maurice O'Donoghue
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Mobile Phone Rule

Mobile Phones are discouraged in Scoil Mhuire Naofa because the school is unable to monitor or filter internet access on mobile data and also because the school is unable to monitor camera activity. The children have access to communication with their parents at all times via the school landline phone and school mobile phone. The Board of Management, however, have decided to allow children have a phone in school in exceptional circumstances. According to the Code of Behaviour this phone is to be turned off at all times. If a child is seen with a phone the phone will be confiscated and held in the Office until a parent comes to collect it.

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' names will not be published beside an individual photograph
4. Digital photographs, video clips and audio clips will focus on groups and group activities rather than on individual pupils
5. Pupils will be given an opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the school website
6. Teachers will select work to be published and decide on the appropriateness of such

Education and Internet Awareness

Scoil Mhuire Naofa will educate children on the safe, responsible use of the Internet. From time to time there may be speakers invited to address the children/Parents Association on the topic of Internet Safety. Cyber-bullying has become a significant threat for teenagers. Through education and awareness, we aim to limit our children's susceptibility to it as they progress to secondary school. 21st century life presents dangers including violence, racism and exploitation from which children and young people need to be protected. At the same time, they need to learn to recognise and avoid these risks – to become internet wise.

Resources

- NCTE (National Council for Technology and Education)
- PDST Technology in Education
- Use of www.webwise.ie
- Scoilnet (the school has an award winning website).

Filtering

'Filtering' is a term used to describe a way of limiting the content of web pages, emails, chat rooms and other electronic data to which users may be exposed. No filter is 100% accurate. The most effective filtering tool is adult vigilance.

The access to websites from all school computers is monitored and regularly reviewed by the NCTE CHECK. Websites are only allowed through following a verification of their suitability.

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Tablets

There is a class set of Tablets in the school. These are timetabled for usage in the classes at the teachers discretion. The Tablets are used solely for educational purposes. Privileges may be withdrawn for inappropriate use.

Legislation

The following legislation governs the use of the internet. Further information regarding the legislation may be obtained from the School if required:-

- Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003
- Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998
- Interception Act 1993
- Video Recordings Act 1989
- The Data Protection Act 1988

Support Structures

The school will inform students and parents of key support structures and organisations that deal with illegal material or harmful use of the internet.

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, according to the schools Code of Behaviour, 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.

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