

St. Joseph's National School

Dublin Road, Longford. Tel: 043 3345700 Roll No.: 18178r
Email: stjosephsnslongford@gmail.com www.stjosephsns.ie



Internet & Parental Permission

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As part of the school's education programme we offer pupils supervised access to the Internet. This allows students' access to a large array of online educational resources that we believe can greatly enhance students' learning experience.

However, access to and use of the Internet requires responsibility on the part of the user and the school. These responsibilities are outlined below and it is important that this enclosed document is read carefully, signed and returned to the school reception as confirmation of your acceptance of our policy.

Although the school takes active steps to promote safe use of the Internet, it recognises the possibility that students may accidentally or deliberately access inappropriate or objectionable material.

The school respects each family's right to decide whether or not to allow their children access to the Internet as defined by this policy & the school's Acceptable Use Policy.

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Introductory Statement

This policy was drafted by the Digital Technologies (DT) postholder, principal, school staff, a representative group of parents and BOM input. The provision of DT resources and access to the Internet supports teaching and learning in St. Joseph's N.S., with rights and responsibilities for all users. The aim of this policy is to give guidance and direction for the acceptable use of internet for teaching and learning and communication as appropriate for parents and pupils in St. Joseph's. It is envisaged that the postholder, principal, together with staff, parents and Board of Management will review this policy on a regular basis in response to emerging technologies and issues arising.

St. Joseph's NS uses the internet, photographic and recording devices to support the provision of education for children and families. Parents/guardians are fully informed where technology is used as part of the curriculum or programme and how the internet is used as a learning tool. A Parent/Guardian Consent Form is provided by the school and must be completed and signed before any child can access the internet or has their photo or moving images taken or posted anywhere.

Rationale

St. Joseph's recognises that access to the internet gives our pupils and school community enhanced opportunities to learn, engage, communicate and develop skills that will prepare them for many aspects of life as well as enhancing the learning experience for pupils. To that end, the school provides access to DT and the internet to pupils. Photographs, video and audio recordings are increasingly used to document children's learning and development, to support quality assurance and to communicate with families and learning communities. The benefits of using the internet, photographic and recording devices for children's learning and development are many and varied. Interactive media – when used safely and appropriately with adults – can enhance learning and help to prepare young children for positive use of technology. Among the advantages for parents are that they can view and comment on records of activities and observations shared, and can add their own observations and/or videos of their child. They can be more informed and involved in their child's learning and development. In this way 'clear two-way channels of communication are fostered between the early-years setting, parents, families and children.'

This policy outlines the guidelines and behaviours that pupils and parents are expected to follow when using DT technologies for curricular and any other school related activities. St. Joseph's uses many forms of DT to support the implementation of the curriculum including (i) access to the Internet, (ii) use of desktop computers/laptops/tablet devices, digital imaging equipment and recording devices etc. The policy outlined in this document are intended to cover all online and offline technologies used in the school, not just those specifically mentioned.

Conditions for the Use of the Internet

The internet is accessible via St. Joseph's internal school network; in classrooms, school offices, via the laptops/iPads and via Wifi access points in specific areas of the school (NCTE School Broadband Service).

- Pupils will use the school's internet connection only for educational activities with the permission of and under the supervision of a member of the teaching staff.
- Pupils will normally use child friendly search engines & websites under the direction of teacher (e.g. Kidrex, Kiddle, DK Find Out, oxfordowl.co.uk etc).
- Pupils will not intentionally visit internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials; pupils must report accidental accessing of any inappropriate sites etc to teacher immediately.
- Pupils will not download or view any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.
- Pupils will not engage in online activities such as uploading or downloading large files.
- Downloading by pupils of materials or images not relevant to their specific area of study is only allowed under the supervision of and expressed permission of a teacher.

Access to the internet by children

- Pupils will not intentionally visit internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.
- Pupils will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in the classroom to their teacher.
- Pupils will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in school but outside the classroom to their class teacher.
- Pupils and staff will not copy information from the internet without acknowledging the creator and referencing the source of the content. They will use creativecommons.org when searching for images and the usage rights tab labelled for non-commercial use with modifications on the Google search tab also. All written work will be acknowledged in the reference section.
- Pupils and staff 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.
- Pupils will not download or view any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

- Use of file sharing and torrent sites is not allowed.
- Downloading by pupils of materials or images not relevant to their studies is not allowed.

Additional safeguards

- Appropriate filters are applied to all DT equipment used by children.
- Computers used by children are located in an open space with the monitor clearly visible.

Links with other School Policies

This policy is linked to the following school policies:

- Child Protection Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Anti Bullying Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- AUP Policy
- Remote Learning Policy
- Mobile Phone & Electronic Device Policy

Ratification of Plan

This plan was **ratified** by the Board of Management of St. Joseph's NS at its meeting on: 24.03.2021 and is subject to change, in light of any guidance or instruction received from Department of Education and Skills/HSE Public Health.

Signed: Mrs. O. Egan
School Principal

Date: 24.3.2021

Signed: Frank Geary
Chairperson Board of Management

Date: 24.03.2021