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Internet Acceptable Use Policy

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School Name	St Brigid's J.N.S.
Date of Commencement	11/12/2019
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General Approach

The aim of this Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to ensure that pupils will benefit from the learning opportunities offered by the school's internet resources in a safe and effective manner.

Internet use and access is considered a school resource and privilege. If the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege may be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

When using the internet pupils, parents and staff are expected:

- To treat others with respect at all times.
- Not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute.
- Respect the right to privacy of all other members of the school community.

This Acceptable Use Policy applies to pupils who have access to and are users of the internet in St Brigid's J.N.S.

- It also applies to members of staff, volunteers, parents, carers and others who access the internet in St Brigid's J.N.S.

Misuse of the internet may result in disciplinary action, including written warnings and withdrawal of access privileges. The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities.

St Brigid's J.N.S. implements the following strategies on promoting safer use of the internet :

- Pupils will be provided with education in the area of internet safety as part of our implementation of the SPHE curriculum.
- Internet safety advice and support opportunities are provided to pupils in St Brigid's J.N.S.
- St Brigid's J.N.S. **participates in Safer Internet Day activities** to promote safer more effective use of the internet.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed annually by the following stakeholders:

- Board of Management, teaching staff, and support staff.

Should serious online safety incidents take place, Maeve Cloke should be informed.

The implementation of this Internet Acceptable Use policy will be monitored by Orla Fitzgerald.

Content Filtering

St Brigid's J.N.S. has chosen to implement the following level on content filtering on the Schools Broadband Network:

- Split Level - This level allows different filtering levels for different ages / stages and different groups of users; staff / pupils / students etc.

Web Browsing and Downloading

Pupils and staff 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 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 use the school's internet connection only for educational activities.

Email and Messaging

Pupils will not send any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

Pupils should immediately report the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication.

Pupils should avoid opening material that appears suspicious. If in doubt, pupils should ask their teacher before opening emails from unknown senders.

Social Media

Staff and pupils must not use social media and the internet in any way to harass, insult, abuse or defame pupils, their family members, staff, other members of the St Brigid's J.N.S. community

Staff and pupils must not discuss personal information about pupils, staff and other members of the St Brigid's J.N.S. community on social media.

Staff and pupils must not use school email addresses for setting up personal social media accounts or to communicate through such media.

Staff and pupils must not engage in activities involving social media which might bring St Brigid's J.N.S. into disrepute.

Personal Devices

The following statements apply to the use of internet-enabled devices such as tablets, gaming devices, and digital music players in St Brigid's J.N.S. :

- Pupils are not allowed to bring personal internet-enabled devices into St Brigid's J.N.S..

Images & Video

Care should be taken when taking photographic or video images that pupils are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.

At St Brigid's J.N.S. pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.

Taking photos or videos on school grounds or when participating in school activities is allowed once care is taken that no harm is done to staff or pupils of St Brigid's J.N.S.

Permission from parents or carers will be obtained at enrolment before photographs of pupils are published on the school website.

Pupils must not share images, videos or other content online with the intention to harm another member of the school community regardless of whether this happens in school or outside.

Sharing explicit images and in particular explicit images of pupils and/or minors is an unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour, with serious consequences and sanctions for those involved. Sharing explicit images of other pupils automatically incurs suspension as a sanction.

Cyberbullying

When using the internet pupils, parents and staff are expected to treat others with respect at all times.

Engaging in online activities with the intention to harm, harass, or embarrass another pupil or member of staff is absolutely unacceptable.

Measures are taken to ensure that staff and pupils are aware that bullying is defined as unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time. This definition includes cyber-bullying.

Isolated or once-off incidents of intentional negative behaviour, including a once-off offensive or hurtful text message or other private messaging, do fall within the definition of bullying and will be dealt with, as appropriate, in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.

The prevention of cyber bullying is part of the anti-bullying policy of our school.

School Websites

Pupils will be given the opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the internet in accordance with clear policies and approval processes regarding the content that can be loaded to the school's website.

The website will be regularly checked to ensure that there is no content that compromises the safety, privacy, or reputation of students or staff.

The publication of student work will be coordinated by a teacher.

Personal student information including home address and contact details will not be published on St Brigid's J.N.S. web pages.

The St Brigid's J.N.S. will avoid publishing the first name and last name of pupils in video or photograph captions published online.

Permission Form

The school will provide information on the following legislation relating to use of the Internet which teachers, students and parents should familiarise themselves with:

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

Ratified by the BOM on

Signed: _____ (Chairperson)

Signed: _____ (Principal)

Next review date: Third term 2025/2026