



# Internet Acceptable Use Policy

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# Contents

1. Introduction
2. General Approach
3. Content Filtering
4. Internet Use
5. Email and Messaging
6. Social Media and messaging services for Staff and Students
7. Personal Devices
8. Digital Learning Platforms (including video conferencing)
9. Images and Video
10. Inappropriate Activities
11. School Websites
12. Cyberbullying
13. Permission Form

# General Approach

The aim of this Acceptable Use Policy is to ensure that students will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's digital resources in a safe and effective manner. The responsible use of internet and digital technologies, both online and offline and access is considered an integral part of teaching and learning. Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to agreed sanctions will be imposed.

It is envisaged that the school will revise the AUP at least annually. Before signing, the AUP should be read carefully to ensure that the conditions of use are accepted and understood.

When using the internet students, 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.
- Respect copyright and acknowledge creators when using online content and resources.

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

- Filtering software and/or equivalent systems will be used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software will not be permitted.
- The use of personal external digital storage media in school, requires school permission. Childrens' phones are prohibited unless in the case of an emergency where they should be stored in the office until home time.
- Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.
- Internet use within school will always be supervised by a teacher.

This Acceptable Use Policy applies to students who have access to and are users of the internet in Clogheen Kerrypike NS .

- It also applies to members of staff, volunteers, parents, carers and others who access the internet in Clogheen Kerrypike NS .

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

Clogheen Kerrypike NS 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 and other curriculum areas.
- Clogheen Kerrypike NS 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, ICT coordinator and Digital Learning Team.

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- Logs of reported incidents.
- Surveys and/or questionnaires of pupils.

The implementation of this Internet Acceptable Use policy will be monitored by school staff and coordinated by Ms. Julie Lyons-Murphy, ICT Co-Ordinator.

# Content Filtering

Clogheen Kerrypike NS has chosen to implement the following level on content filtering on the Schools Broadband Network:

- Level 4 This level allows access to millions of websites including games and YouTube but blocks access to websites belonging to the personal websites' category and websites such as Facebook belonging to the Social Networking category.

Students taking steps to by-pass the content filter by using proxy sites or other means may be subject to disciplinary action, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges, detention and, in extreme cases, suspension or expulsion.

# Internet Use

Students will not intentionally visit internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.

Students will be encouraged to report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in accordance with school procedures.

Students will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in school but outside the classroom to their class teacher or the principal

Students 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.

Students will use the Internet for educational purposes only.

Students will not engage in online activities such as uploading or downloading large files that result in heavy network traffic which impairs the service for other internet users.

Students will not download or view any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

Downloading by students of materials or images not relevant to their studies is in direct breach of the school's acceptable use policy.

Students will never disclose or publicise personal information or passwords.

Students will be aware that any usage of the internet and school's digital platform, including distributing or receiving information, school-related or personal, will be monitored.

- Use of file sharing and torrent sites is allowed with staff permission.

# Email and Messaging

- Downloading by students of materials or images not relevant to their studies is not allowed.
- Students will use approved class email accounts only under supervision by or permission from a teacher.

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

Students 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.

Students should avoid opening emails that appear suspicious. If in doubt, pupils should ask their teacher before opening emails from unknown senders.

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 face-to-face meeting with someone they only know through emails or the internet

Students will note that sending and receiving email attachments is subject to permission from their teacher

Students will not forward email messages or screenshots of emails or "reply all without the permission of the originator

Students must only use their school email for school related activities and for registering on school-based activities only. The use of personal email addresses is not allowed for school-based work.

Students should not use school email accounts to register for online services, social networking, apps or games.

Students should 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 report any such communications to a teacher.

All emails and opinions expressed in email are the responsibility of the author and do not reflect the opinion of the school.

# Social Media and messaging services for Staff and Students

The following statements apply to the use of messaging, blogging and video streaming services in Clogheen Kerrypike NS :

- Use of instant messaging services and apps including Snapchat, WhatsApp, Viber, etc. is not allowed in Clogheen Kerrypike NS .

All members of the school community must not use social media, messaging services and the internet in any way to harass, impersonate, insult, abuse or defame others.

Staff and students must not discuss personal information about pupils, staff and other members of the Clogheen Kerrypike NS community on social media.

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

Staff and students must not engage in activities involving social media which might bring Clogheen Kerrypike NS into disrepute.

Staff may take photographs of students for the purpose of sharing school events.



# Personal Devices

Students using their own technology in school should follow the rules set out in this agreement, in the same way as if they were using school equipment. Students using their own technology in school should follow the rules set out in this agreement.

The following statements apply to the use of internet-enabled devices such as tablets, gaming devices, smartwatch, in Clogheen Kerrypike NS :

- Students are only allowed to bring personal internet-enabled devices into Clogheen Kerrypike NS with expressed permission from staff.

# Digital Learning Platforms (including video conferencing)

Clogheen Kerrypike NS digital learning platform is owned and managed by the school. This platform will enable two-way interaction in the junior classes. From third class up teachers can share content with their classes but two-way interaction is disabled to prevent students from interacting with each other outside of school using the school platform.

Students must only use their school email for accessing the school digital learning platform.

Each user of the platform will be provided with their own unique login credentials.

Passwords for digital platforms and accounts should not be shared.

Personal email addresses should not be used when creating accounts on school digital platforms.

Prior acceptance from parents should be sought for student usage of the schools' digital learning platform.

# Images and Video

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

At Clogheen Kerrypike NS students must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.

Students taking photos or videos on school grounds or when participating in school activities is not allowed under any circumstances.

Staff may take photos for the purpose of promoting the school with parental consent. Parental consent for photos will be sought at time of enrolment. Staff may take photographs of students only through the teams' app or on a school iPad.

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

# Inappropriate Activities

The following table should help identify “inappropriate activities” in your school. You should add ticks to the relevant columns and then include the appropriate statements in the AUP policy. Users shall not visit Internet sites, make, post, download, upload, data transfer, communicate or pass on, material, remarks, proposals or comments that contain or relate to:

- Misuse and fraud legislation

# School Websites

Students 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.

Students will continue to own the copyright on any work published.

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

Webpages allowing comments or user-generated content will be pre-moderated and checked frequently to ensure that they do not contain any inappropriate or offensive content.

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 Clogheen Kerrypike NS web pages.

The Clogheen Kerrypike NS will avoid publishing the first name and last name of pupils in video or photograph captions published online.

The school will ensure that the image files are appropriately named and will not use students' names in image file names or ALT tags if published online.

# Cyberbullying

Engaging in online activities with the intention to harm, harass, or embarrass and another student or member of staff is an unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour, with serious consequences and sanctions for those involved.

Measures are taken by Clogheen Kerrypike NS to ensure that staff and students 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 cyberbullying even when it happens outside the school or at night. In addition, the Department of Education Anti-Bullying Procedure, 2013 defines cyberbullying as “placing a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or another public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour”

The prevention of cyberbullying is an integral part of the anti-bullying policy of our school.

Ratified by The Board of Management on 26 September 2022

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John Horgan  
Chairperson Board of Management

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Gerard Hartnett  
Principal

# Permission Form

Legislation 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 Acts 1988 to 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000 Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998 and Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 Children First Act 2015 Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 (Coco's Law) Criminal Damage Act 1991 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 Misuse of the Internet and digital technologies should be referred to in the school's Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy and related sanctions regarding misuse as appropriate should be outlined therein. The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities, including An Garda Síochána.

I agree to follow the school's Acceptable Use Policy on the use of the internet and digital technologies. I will use the internet and digital technologies including use of the Internet in a responsible way and obey all the rules explained to me by the school.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian : \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As the parent or legal guardian of the above student, I have read the Acceptable Use Policy and I understand that Internet access is intended for educational purposes. I also understand that every reasonable precaution has been taken by the school to provide for online safety but the school cannot be held responsible if students access unsuitable websites.

In relation to the school website, I accept that, if the school considers it appropriate, my child's schoolwork may be chosen for inclusion on the website. I understand and accept the terms of the Acceptable Use Policy relating to publishing students' work on the school website.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please review the attached school Internet Acceptable Use Policy, and sign and return this permission form to the Principal.

School Name: Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Class/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_



