

TERENURE COLLEGE JUNIOR SCHOOL



INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

Terenure College Junior School acknowledges the educational value of Information and Communication Technology and recognizes its potential to enhance and support the curriculum and facilitate new learning environments.

AIM:

The aim of this **Internet Access Policy** is to ensure that pupils will benefit from the wide and varied learning opportunities offered by our school's Computer Resources in a safe and effective manner. Internet use and access is considered a school resource and asset.

GENERAL:

- Internet sessions will always be supervised by a teacher.
- Filtering software will be used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
- The school will regularly monitor pupils' Internet usage.
- Staff and pupils will be informed of good Internet practice, including use of e-mail. Internet users will not undertake any action that may bring the school into disrepute.
- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software will not be permitted.
- Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.
- The use of personal memory sticks or CD-ROMs in school requires a teacher's permission and scanning for viruses.

WORLD WIDE WEB:

- Staff and pupils will not visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, racist, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials or sites that may be deemed offensive.
- Pupils will use the Internet for educational purposes only.
- All users will be familiar with copyright issues relating to on-line learning.
- Pupils will never disclose or publicize personal information, for example: addresses or telephone numbers.
- All users will be aware that any usage, including distributing or receiving information, school related or personal, may be monitored for security and/or network management reasons.

E-MAIL:

- Pupils may use approved e-mail accounts assigned to their class under supervision. Students must use e-mail only under the direct supervision of a teacher. Staff or students will not send or receive any material that is illegal, obscene, abusive, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy, threaten or intimidate another person.
- 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 e-mails or the Internet.
- Students will note that sending and receiving e-mail attachments is subject to permission from their teacher.

INTERNET CHAT:

Students will only be permitted to access Internet Chat Rooms or Newsgroups which have been approved by the school.

SCHOOL WEBSITE:

Pupils may create projects, artwork or writing which would be suitable for publication on the World Wide Web. Such work will appear in an educational context on web pages with a copyright notice. The home addresses or telephone numbers of pupils will not appear with such work. Particular care will be taken where photographs of pupils are being used on the school website. Personal pupil information including home addresses, contact details, class group or teacher's name will be omitted from school web pages.

LEGISLATION:

The school conforms to the following legislation relating to use of the Internet which teachers, pupils and parents should familiarize 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

SUPPORT STRUCTURES:

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

SANCTIONS:

Our Internet Access Policy is an integral part of overall Junior School Policy. All pupils, staff and other users are required to follow the conditions laid down in this policy.

Misuse of the Internet may result in disciplinary action, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges and, in extreme cases, suspension.

The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities.

INTERNET ACCESS:

Connection to the Internet will be established at the commencement of each school day and will be disconnected after each school day.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Code of Discipline, Junior School Regulations and all other relevant School Policies.

