



Internet Use Policy

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Introduction

Introduction

Avondale Primary School is pleased to offer students and staff, access to Internet and email facilities.

The Internet offers enormous potential benefits for teaching and learning. It offers a wealth of experiences that can be educationally rewarding and fun. Students can explore the world online through browsing web sites, visiting museums and libraries. They can access rich information resources to support research and investigations. They can also communicate and collaborate with people all over the world, as well as using the Internet to publish the results of their learning. The ability to actively participate in projects which open their classrooms to the world has a profoundly positive impact on students' learning experiences.

Our children face many more real dangers in their lives than inappropriate exposure to material on the Internet. We can't protect them from dangers by erecting barriers. We have to assist them in learning to make appropriate choices. Through a proactive curriculum, every effort will be made to ensure our children develop the skills needed to access appropriate and valid information.

For the purposes of this document, the term 'Internet' refers to the use of all electronic communications networks including, but not limited to; the Internet, School Intranet, World Wide Web, Email, Chat, News-groups and Bulletin Boards.

Acceptable Use

Acceptable Use

As a valuable resource, it is expected that students and staff will use the Internet in an appropriate manner and with educational purpose. Internet use is an increasingly vital educational resource. All users of the internet at Avondale primary School have a responsibility to use it in a manner that supports the educational role of the school. *Users should be aware that the school may monitor usage and will make enquiries and take appropriate action if unacceptable use is detected.*

Educational Purpose

Educational Purpose

Avondale Primary School's internet account has been established for the use of its staff and students. The term 'educational purpose' includes; classroom activities and collaborative work, high quality, self-discovery activities to acquire effective information skills, curriculum



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planning and career or professional development.

Unacceptable Use

Unacceptable Use

The following actions are considered unacceptable use of the Internet at Avondale Primary School:

Personal Safety

Personal Safety

- Never post personal contact information about yourself. Personal information includes your full name, address, telephone number and school address.
- Don't agree to meet with anyone you have met online without your parent's approval. Your parent/s should accompany you to this meeting.
- Tell your teacher about any message you receive that is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable.

Respect for Privacy

Respect for Privacy

- You will not post personal information about another person.
- You will not read another person's email.
- You will not repost a message that was sent to you privately without the permission of the sender.
- You will not post chain letters or engage in "spamming".
- Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.

Inappropriate Language

Inappropriate Language

- You will not use obscene, profane, vulgar, defamatory, threatening or disrespectful language.
- You will not engage in personal, prejudicial or discriminatory attacks nor post false or defamatory information about a person or organisation.
- You will not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending messages, you must stop.

Inappropriate Access

Inappropriate Access to Material

- You will not use Avondale Primary School's Internet account to access material that is profane or obscene, that advocates illegal acts or that advocates violence or discrimination towards other people. (e.g. Hate sites and literature)
- If you mistakenly access inappropriate information, you should immediately click on the window shade or minimize button to close the window and then tell your teacher.

Illegal Activities

Illegal Activities

- You will not attempt to gain unauthorised access to the Avondale PS computer networks or to any other computer systems via the Avondale PS account. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or access another person's files. These actions are illegal, even if only for the purposes of "browsing".
- You will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by any means, including the spreading of



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Copyright Infringement

computer viruses.

- You will not use Avondale Primary School's Internet account to engage in any other illegal act.

Copyright Infringement

See Software Copyright Policy

Limits & Security

System Limits and Security

- Check your email frequently, delete any unwanted messages promptly
- You are not permitted to download large files unless necessary. If necessary, download when the system is not heavily used (e.g. After 4pm) and remove the file from the system to a removable storage device (e.g. CD, zip disk)
- You will immediately notify a teacher or the System Administrator if you have identified a possible security problem.

Consequences

Consequences

Inappropriate use of the Internet at Avondale PS may result in the suspension or denial of internet access at the school.

Due Process

Due process

Upon claim that a violation of this policy has been enacted, written notification of the suspected violation will be provided to the perpetrator, along with an opportunity to present an explanation to the Principal.

The school will cooperate fully with government officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted through Avondale Primary School's Internet account.

Role of Students

Role of Students

Students are responsible for appropriate behaviour on school computer networks as detailed in this Acceptable Use Policy relating to Internet use. Communications on the information networks are often public in nature and general school rules for student behaviour, conduct and standards of communications will apply.

All students are expected to sign, or have signed by parents on their behalf, a Student Agreement for access to the Internet. It is presumed that they will comply with school standards and will honour the Agreements they have signed. Students who fail to honour their Agreement may incur the withdrawal of their access to the Internet and/or the school network.

Role of Parents

Role of Parents

Parents and guardians are ultimately responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. It is expected that parents will actively support the school, in the standards set in this policy.



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Role of Staff

Role of Staff

The School expects that staff will incorporate appropriate use of the Internet across the curriculum and that teachers will provide specific sessions instructing students in the appropriate use of such resources. This will include staff facilitating students accessing information to support and enrich the curriculum while taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of students. Staff have a general supervisory responsibility when their students are using the Internet in accordance with normal classroom practice. Students will not use the Internet unsupervised. Staff who fail to honour their Agreement may incur the withdrawal of their access to the Internet and/or the school network.

Role of School

The Role of the School

The School Council undertakes a commitment to implement and uphold the Acceptable Use Policy and to provide appropriate physical and financial resources to enable safe, educationally relevant access to the Internet for staff and students.

The School undertakes to ensure that information published on the Internet by students or the School under the Schools name meets legal requirements and standards of general practice within the community in relation to copyright and safety.

Disclaimer

Disclaimer

The school makes no guarantee that the computer network and internet access will be error-free or without defect. The school will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The school is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. The school will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the system.