

**SCOIL MHUIRE MOUNT SACKVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Internet Acceptable Usage Policy**

The aim of the AUP is to insure that pupils will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school’s Internet resources in a safe and effective manner.

Scoil Mhuire will employ a number of strategies to maximise learning opportunities and reduce risks associated with the Internet.

**These strategies are as follows**:

1. Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP)
2. Education
3. Filtering/Monitoring

**Internet**

1. Internet will be used for educational purposes only
2. Internet sessions will always be supervised by a teacher
3. Pupils will seek permission before entering any Internet site, unless previously approved by a teacher
4. Uploading and downloading of material will be monitored
5. Pupils will treat others with respect at all times and not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute.

**Email**

Pupils will not be permitted to use email on school grounds. Under no circumstances should pupils send emails representing the school, either from their home computers or other devices.

**Internet Chat**

Students are not permitted to use Internet chat rooms.

**School Website**

Designated teachers will manage the publication of material on the school website.

1. Personal pupil information, home addresses and contact details will not be published on the school website
2. Class lists will not be published
3. Pupils’ full names will not be published beside their photograph
4. Digital photographs, video clips and audio clips will focus on groups and group activities rather than on individual pupils
5. Pupils will be given an opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the school website
6. Teachers will select work to be published and decide on the appropriateness of such
7. Permission to publish a student’s work will be sought from parents/ guardians on the school enrolment form when a pupil first enrols in the school. This permission may be withdrawn at any time.
8. Pupils will continue to own the copyright on any work published.
9. Parents are asked to accept the Internet Usage Policy on the school enrolment form when a pupil first enrols in the school.

**Education**

Pupils will be provided with training on Internet safety. Modules of Webwise, i.e. Internet safety programme, will be taught as part of the SPHE school programme

**Filtering**

‘Filtering’ is a term used to describe a way of limiting the content of web pages, emails, chat rooms and other electronic data to which users may be exposed. No filter is 100% accurate. The most effective filtering tool is adult vigilance.

Many browsers have their own built in filtering tool.

Scoil Mhuire has filtering hardware and firewall built-in software.

**Firewalls**

The Gateway firewall filters the content of the Internet throughout the school. Also, Windows 7,10 and XP have built-in firewalls.

**Monitoring**

Scoil Mhuire will regularly monitor the Internet usage of the pupils. Usage can be accessed and reviewed on a regular basis through random checks.

**Sanctions**

Misuse of the Internet may result in disciplinary action including written warnings and withdrawal of Internet Access privileges. Misuse may invoke the sanctions outlined in the school’s Code of Behaviour.

**Ratification of Policy**

This policy was first sanctioned by the Board of Management on: 3rd September 2014.

This policy was reviewed in December 2020.

**Date for next review:** December 2021

Chairperson of BOM Date: 17/12/2020

Principal  Date:17/12/2020