

# INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

## Introduction

The Internet is a wonderful resource that adds another dimension to topics being studied in class. It allows students to collect and share information and communicate and collaborate with people from around the world. The Internet offers facilities that can enhance students' learning opportunities and outcomes in all key learning areas and generic skills.

In addition to the information available from the Internet, the school also has an opportunity to publish its own website providing the benefits of developing literacy, writing and critical thinking skills.

It should be noted that while the Internet possesses vast stores of information and educational resources, there are also undesirable aspects of the Internet including:

- Socially and culturally inappropriate material
- Offensive material
- Gambling sites
- Misinformation

The NSW Department of Education and Training provides the Internet service free of charge to schools. In order to maintain a safe and appropriate environment for students accessing the Internet, all Internet access at school is filtered automatically at the service provider to prevent known undesirable sites from being accessed. In addition to the filter, access is given under teacher supervision, but this supervision may not always be direct.

## Code of Behaviour

It is the school's policy that ALL Internet access is to be for educational purposes only. The following outlines the school's code of behaviour.

### Publishing on the Internet:

- Communication through e-mail and via the School's Internet website is treated as a form of publishing. Students must gain teacher approval for publication.
- It is the school's policy that no student will be identified by full name and no student's contact details are to be published.
- Students will observe the rules of "Netiquette".

### Downloading information and Signing Up for Services:

- Students will not knowingly access or attempt to access sites that are inappropriate or not of an educational nature.
- Students must gain teacher approval before downloading software, screensavers and other utilities not essential to browsing the Internet.
- Students must not sign up for any services available on the Internet without first gaining teacher approval.

Receipt of Inappropriate Internet material:

- In the case of an inappropriate site or image being displayed on a computer, the student must immediately turn off or minimize the screen and quietly report it to the teacher. All inappropriate sites will be reported to the Department in order to have them included in the filter.

Equity of Access to the Internet:

- All students, with parental permission will be given the opportunity to use the Internet, and school internal email, as part of their classroom studies as appropriate.

Copyright Issues:

- Any material accessed and utilized from the Internet will be acknowledged and copyright respected.

### **The Consequences**

Breaches of the Code of Behaviour will result in loss of access to the Internet, closure of school internal email accounts, and/or as specified in the School's Discipline Policy.

### **Code of Behaviour Agreement**

I have read and discussed the issues raised in the school's Internet User Access Policy with my child and agree to the following:

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

- I allow my child to access the Internet, and internal email at school, abiding by the Code of Behaviour
- I allow my child's work and identifiable image to be published on the school's Intranet Homepage (school viewing only)
- I allow my child's work and identifiable image to be published on the school's website (public viewing)

(please tick all that you agree to – if you do not wish your child to access the Internet at school, do not tick any box, sign and return the form to school)

Parent/Carer's Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_

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