Cushinstown National School

Internet Acceptable Usage Policy

Educationalists believe in the benefits of curriculum-based internet use. The purpose of the Internet Acceptable Usage Policy is to ensure that pupils will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's internet resources, and will be protected from harmful and illegal use of the Internet.

Cushinstown National School 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
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. Filtering software will be used to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material. NCTE, the schools broadband provides this service.

4. Uploading and downloading of inappropriate material is banned.

5. Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis by the school's IT consultant.

6. The use of external storage devices or CD-ROMS in school requires the permission of a staff member.

7. Pupils will use the internet appropriately and will not undertake any action that may bring school into disrepute.

8. 'YouTube' (and similar sites) can be accessed only on staff laptops and computers. Children can only use staff laptops and computers with the permission of a staff member.

Cushinstown National School

Internet Chat room

Students are not permitted to use internet chat rooms or social media messaging sites/apps.

Sanctions

If a pupil deliberately misuses the internet this will result in disciplinary action, including the withdrawal of access privileges. Parents/guardians will receive notification of internet misuse by a pupil.

School Website

Designated staff 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 Personal pupil information, home addresses and contact details will not be published on the school website.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 Class lists will not be published.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 Pupils' full names will not be published beside their photograph.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. Pupils will be given an opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the school website.

5. Permission to publish a student's work will be sought from parents/ guardians. This permission may be withdrawn at any time.

Education

Cushinstown National School will undertake an education programme to educate children on the safe and responsible use of the Internet.

Resources that may be used to implement this programme include

- **NCTE Internet Safety Awareness Video**
- **Use of resources from www.webwise.ie**
- **Safer Internet Day resources**

2

Cushinstown National School

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.

Cushinstown National School has filtering software. The access to websites from all school computers is monitored and regularly reviewed by the NCCA. Websites are only allowed through following a verification of their suitability.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Cushinstown N.S.

Signed: _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: _____

CUSHINSTOWN
NATIONAL SCHOOL

Pupil responsibility when using the internet

We use the School computers and Internet connection for learning.

These rules will help us to be fair to others and keep everyone safe.

- I will not bring external storage devices such as pen drives (or memory sticks/USB keys etc.) into school without permission

- I will not use internet chat rooms.

- If I see anything I am unhappy with, I will tell a teacher immediately.

- I know that the school may check my computer files and may monitor the sites I visit.

- I understand that if I deliberately break these rules, I could be stopped from using the Internet and computers and my parents will be informed.

Signed: _____
                                    Pupil

Date: _____