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Acceptable Use Policy

Midleton College
Midleton
Co. CORK

The aim of this Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to ensure that pupils will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's Internet resources in a safe and effective manner. Internet use and access is considered a school resource and privilege. Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions – as outlined in the AUP - will be imposed.

It is envisaged that the school and parent representatives will revise the AUP annually. Before signing, the AUP should be read carefully to ensure that the conditions of use are accepted and understood.

School's Strategy

The school will employ a number of strategies in order to maximise learning opportunities and reduce risks associated with the Internet. These strategies are as follows:

General

- * The College internet security system provides each user with a personal pin number and password which are logged and recorded on each occasion that they are used.
- * Each usage of the College I.T. system is logged and recorded.
- * Internet sessions will always be supervised by a teacher.
- * Filtering software and/or equivalent systems will be used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
- * The school will regularly monitor pupils' Internet usage.
- * Students and teachers will be provided with training in the area of Internet safety.
- * Uploading and downloading of non-approved software is not permitted.
- * Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.
- * The use of personal floppy disks or CD-ROMs in school requires a teacher's permission.
- * Students will observe good "netiquette" (i.e., etiquette on the Internet) at all times and will not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute.
- * Allowing another person to use your pin number/password is not permitted.

World Wide Web

- * Students will not visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.
- * Students will use the Internet for educational purposes only.
- * Students will be familiar with copyright issues relating to online learning.
- * Students will never disclose or publicise personal information.
- * Students will be aware that any usage, including distributing or receiving information, school-related or personal, may be monitored for unusual activity, security and/or network management reasons.

Email

- * Students will use approved class email accounts under supervision by or permission from a teacher.
- * Students will not send or receive any material that is illegal, obscene, defamatory or that is intended to annoy 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 emails or the internet.
- * Students will note that sending and receiving email attachments is subject to permission from their teacher.

Internet Chat

No Chat-rooms will be accessed at any time. This includes MSN Messenger and Yahoo Messenger. Attempts to access these will be deemed an infringement of this policy

School Website

- * Pupils will be given the opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the World Wide Web.
- * The publication of student work will be co-ordinated by a teacher. Pupils' work will appear in an educational context on Web pages with a copyright notice prohibiting the copying of such work without express written permission.
- * Digital photographs, audio or video clips of individual students will not be published on the school website. Instead photographs, audio and video clips will focus on group activities. Video clips may be password protected.
- * Personal pupil information including home address and contact details will be omitted from school web pages.
- * Pupils will continue to own the copyright on any work published.

Legislation

The school may provide information on the following legislation relating to use of the Internet should any individual request it.

- * 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 organisations that deal with any illegal material or harmful use of the Internet.

Sanctions

Misuse of the Internet may result in disciplinary action, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges and, in extreme cases detentions. The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities, who may pursue such matters independently.



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August 2009

Parent/Guardian

As the parent or legal guardian of the above pupil, I have read the Acceptable Use Policy and grant permission for my son or daughter or the child in my care to access the Internet. I understand that Internet access is intended for educational purposes. I also understand that every reasonable precaution has been taken by the school to provide for online safety but the school cannot be held responsible if pupils access unsuitable websites.

I have read the Middleton College Acceptable Use Policy for I.T. in the College campus. I accept the terms and conditions set out in this document.

Name of Pupil: _____

Class/Year: _____

Pupil

I agree to follow the school's Acceptable Use Policy on the use of the Internet. I will use the Internet in a responsible way and obey all the rules explained to me by the school.

Pupil's Signature: _____ Date: _____

In relation to the school website, I accept that, if the school considers it appropriate, my child's schoolwork may be chosen for inclusion on the website. I understand and accept the terms of the Acceptable Use Policy relating to publishing children's work on the school website. I accept the above paragraph

I do not accept the above paragraph

(Please tick as appropriate)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____