

## **Internet Acceptable Use Policy & Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy**

The aim of this Acceptable Use Policy 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. This privilege will be introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> through to 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils. If the school AUP is not adhered to, this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions - as outlined in the AUP will be imposed. This AUP will be reviewed regularly.

### **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**

- 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, parents and teachers will be provided with training in the area of Internet safety.
- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software will not be permitted.
- Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis. ESET Endpoint Virus Software
- The use of personal memory sticks/hard drives 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.

#### **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 on-line 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.

### **E-Mail**

- Students will use approved class gmail accounts under supervision by or permission from a teacher.
- Students will not send or receive any material that is illegal, obscene and 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.
- Students will note that sending and receiving e-mail attachments is subject to permission from their teacher.

### **Internet Chat**

- Students will not have access to social media during school hours and are parents are encouraged to apply the same rule out of school
- Discussion forums and other electronic communication forums will only be used for educational purpose and will always be supervised
- Usernames will be used to avoid disclosure of identity.
- Face-to-face meetings with someone organised via Internet chat is forbidden.
- Use of social networking sites to invoke anti pupil or anti-teacher campaigns will be treated as serious misdemeanours and will be dealt with according to the School Code of Behaviour

### **School Website**

The school website is user friendly, updated regularly and source of information for pupils and parents. It displays images of pupils involved in school activities. . We will follow the School Photograph Policy when using images

### **Facebook:**

The school has a Facebook Page. We will follow the School Photograph Policy when using images. Access may be given to the Parents' Association to use this page to promote events which they organise. They must seek permission in writing from a child's parents before displaying information regarding a child/children.

### **Sanctions**

Misuse of the Internet may result in disciplinary action, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges and, in extreme cases, suspension or expulsion. The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities.

St. Cronan's National School, Rosemount, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

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### **Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy**

#### **Introductory Statement:**

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in hand held electronic 'gadgets' amongst the school population over recent years.

#### **Rationale:**

IPods, mobile phones, Game Boys, Xbox, PSP's, MP3's etc. when used incorrectly are intrusive and distracting in a school environment

Some electronic devices may be harmful due to frequent use and Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns.

#### **Relationship to School Ethos:**

The use of mobile phones and other electronic games contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment and is not conducive to learning - a provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of St Cronan's N.S.

#### **Aims:**

- To ensure a "technology appropriate" school environment
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning

#### **Internal School Procedures:**

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone/electronic games usage in the school;

- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones into school, on any school tour or to any event organised by the school.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone
- All electronic gadgets are banned,
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school risks having it confiscated and not returned until the term is over

If a child brings a mobile phone to school by accident they must hand it to a member of staff to be put in a secure place for the duration of the day.

Principal Mrs. Ann Powell  
McNair

Chairperson Mr Jackie

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

All staff shared in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy. This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis and amendments added as new technology comes on stream.

Parents' Acceptance Letter

**I have read and understand St. Cronan's N.S. Acceptable Use Policy for Internet Usage, Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy.  
We agree to abide by this Code.**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

For the attention of:

Chairperson,  
Board of Management,  
St. Cronan's N.S. Rosemount,  
Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.