

USE OF THE INTERNET – PARENT/STUDENT INFORMATION

This sheet is to inform you of the school's policy in regard to the use of the Internet.

Before we will allow your children to use the Internet, we would ask that you read the following information and complete the attached '*Internet Access Agreement*' .

General Information about the Internet

- The Internet is a wonderful resource for children and teachers to use when learning or teaching about the different curriculum areas.
- The school has a high speed Internet connection provided by Education Queensland. Students can access the Internet on most computers in the school.
- Teachers will be discussing with children the benefits and problems of using the Internet, but for your information I have listed below the main points which teachers will be discussing.
- In order to minimise the possibility of children accessing offensive material, we have taken a number of steps as listed below:-
 1. Education Queensland uses filtering software to block access to undesirable sites.
 2. The computers used are in well used areas of the school.
 3. There is usually adult supervision nearby.
 4. Students will be taught what to do should they accidentally encounter offensive material.

Benefits in using the Internet

- The Internet provides both information and communication with friends or experts. For a work task you have to perform you may find information on how to do it, materials that help you to do it, and discussions taking place with others who are doing it.
- Teachers and students can also use the Internet to provide an audience for creative works and for learning information access skills.
- The information provided through the Internet can be the most up to date and relevant available in some areas.

Problems in using the Internet

- Unlike the information in a good encyclopaedia, the information on the Internet is not well selected, nor well organised.
- The information provided may sometimes be illegal, dangerous or offensive.
- Time can easily be wasted both by fruitless searches and by distractions from the task at hand.
- Privacy is not assured in the use of Internet services. Internet electronic mail (email) can be intercepted and read by complete strangers. Other users of the computer can all find out what information you have accessed from the World Wide Web.
- Delivery of email cannot be guaranteed. Some is delayed, misdelivered or destroyed.
- Computer viruses can be picked up from the Internet. (The school uses anti-virus software to protect our computers.)
- It can take a long time to receive large files or graphics over the Internet.

Responsibilities of Users

Students should:-

- Focus on the task at hand to avoid wasting time and other resources by becoming distracted by the wide variety of materials available;
- Avoid inappropriate content, especially material that is illegal, dangerous or offensive;
- If you accidentally come across something that is illegal, dangerous or offensive, you must clear any offensive pictures or information from the screen; and immediately, quietly, inform your teacher.
- Be courteous in your communications with others. Because others using the Internet cannot see you, words which might be meant to be taken light-heartedly may give offence.
- Regard any email sent as being open to the public, as many people can read it.
- Not reveal home addresses or phone numbers of themselves or others
- Treat the Internet as an educational resource. Remember that others may wish to use the computer/s. For example, sending or retrieving large files, or large numbers of files, restricts the access of others. Send electronic mail only to people who really require it, and ignore any email which requests that you send it to as many people as possible.
- Not use the Internet to annoy or offend anyone else.
- Realise that if the school decides a student has broken these rules, appropriate action will be taken. This may include loss of the student's Internet access for some time.

Internet Access Agreement

This agreement will remain current for the duration of your child's enrolment at this school.

Student

I understand that the Internet can connect me to much useful information stored on computers around the world. While I have access to the Internet:

- I will use it only for educational purposes.
- I will not look for anything that is illegal, dangerous or offensive.
- If I accidentally come across something that is illegal, dangerous or offensive, I will:
 - (a) clear any offensive pictures or information from my screen; and
 - (b) immediately, quietly, inform my teacher.
- I will not reveal home addresses or phone numbers - mine or anyone else's.
- I will not use the Internet to annoy or offend anyone else.
- I understand that if the school decides I have broken these rules, appropriate action will be taken. This may include loss of my Internet access for some time.

_____ (Student's name)

_____ (Student's signature) _____(Date)

Parent or guardian

- I understand that the Internet can provide students with valuable learning experiences.
- I also understand that it gives access to information on computers around the world; that the school cannot control what is on those computers; and that a very small part of that information can be illegal, dangerous or offensive.
- I accept that, while teachers will always exercise their duty of care, protection against exposure to harmful information should depend finally upon responsible use by students.
- I believe my son/daughter understands this responsibility, and I hereby give my permission for him/her to access the Internet under the school rules. I understand that students breaking these rules will be subject to appropriate action by the school. This may include loss of Internet access for some time.

_____ (Parent or guardian's name)

_____ (Parent or guardian's signature)

_____ (Date)