



Children's Acceptable Use Policy

It is the mission of St. Malachy's school to provide a quality education based on Gospel values which promote the dignity and freedom of every person within our community, ensuring equal opportunities for all. The school is committed to achieving high standards so that pupils can attain their full potential. Attention will be paid to all aspects of a child's development.

Our Aims

- To enable each child to reach his or her potential through a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum to which they have equal access.
- To provide children with a safe and secure environment where they experience enjoyment and achievement and learn how to take care of themselves, both now and in the future.
- To enable each child to acquire knowledge, skills and practical abilities and the will to use them.
- To enable children to develop qualities of mind, body, spirit, feeling and imagination.
- To enable children to appreciate human achievement.
- To enable children to acquire understanding of the social, economic and political order and a reasoned set of attitudes, values and beliefs.
- To prepare children for their adult lives at home, at work, at leisure and as consumers and citizens.
- To help the child develop a sense of self respect, the capacity to live as independent, self-motivated adults and the ability to function as contributing members of co-operative groups.
- To provide the children with a learning environment of high quality which is stimulating and challenging, and where children and parents feel valued and secure.
- To develop effective relationships between pupils, staff and the wider community.
- To create a school which sees itself not only as a place of learning, but also as a place of employment, and that equality of opportunity is important for staff as well as pupils.

Introduction

All children should learn and be taught throughout their school lives how to act in a Christian Manner whilst using the school computers, as reflected in the schools Mission Statement and Basic Rules. It is a privilege to be a pupil at St-Malachy's Primary School, and involves a high level of responsibility and a sense of caring for others. When accessing the computers within school we expect:

- The individual user to act responsibly.
- Respect the property. This includes both hardware and software.

The school at anytime can examine or delete any files held on its system. ICT can monitor children areas and delete/restrict access where it feels appropriate.

Aims:

The aims of this policy are:

1. To enable governors to accept responsibility in ensuring that computer systems and the internet within school are used in a respectful manner by all children's and that any occasion where there is cause for concern allow this to be treated seriously.
2. To allow all children to access and use ICT facilities including the internet for educational purposes.
3. To clarify to children expectations when using the school computer systems and the internet
4. To encourage an environment that recognises the advantages of using computers and the internet in a learning environment that allows children's to flourish.
5. To give children the right to be safe and happy in school using the computer system, and to be protected when feeling vulnerable
6. To give staff (teaching and non teaching), parents and pupils positive advice and guidance.

The following are NOT permitted when using the school computer system:

- Sending/displaying offensive messages, images or sounds
- Using obscene language in any spoken or written form
- Harassing, insulting or attacking others both physically, verbally or written (eg use of email)
- Damaging computer hardware
- Damaging computer software (eg knowingly bringing in a virus on the school system)
- Violating copyright law
- Using another child's user area/internet/email
- Intentionally deleting/amending/moving other children's files
- Intentionally wasting resources
- Knowingly accessing material considered unsuitable including music, games etc.
- Use of mobile phones in any form on school premises (taking photographs, recording, calls, text etc)
- Bringing into school material considered unsuitable and/or introducing it on the school system including music, games etc.
- Theft of equipment
- Playing any computer games
- Downloading unsuitable files onto the school system such as software, games, music
- Taking part in internet chat rooms/social networking sites

Sanctions

The misuse of school's computer systems will result in necessary sanctions being taken by St Malachy's School. These can include any of the following:

1. *AN INTERNET BAN. Temporary or permanent on the use of Internet facilities within school*
2. *AN ACCESS BAN. Temporary or permanent on the use of the computer facilities within school*
3. *A LETTER. Informing parents of the nature of the breach of rules*
4. *ALTERNATIVE ACTION. As seen necessary by the Head and Governors of the school*

In some cases the school may contact outside authorities such as the Police to investigate certain incidents.

To pupils

If you witness or are aware of any misuse of the school computer system, then please:

- Tell a teacher or the ICT Technician.
- Talk to your parents.
- Talk to your friends.

Procedures

Any breach of the Acceptable Use Policy needs to be reported to the E-Safety co-ordinator.