

May 2023

Internet Acceptable Use Policy



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School Name	St John the Baptist BNS
Date of Commencement	May 2023
Author	Will Ryan

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General Approach

The aim of this Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to ensure that pupils will benefit in a safe and effective manner from the learning opportunities offered by the school's Internet & IT resources. The school currently has a set of iPads, a set of ChromeBooks, teacher laptops, an SNA laptop and desktops in the Principal's office and in the main office.

Internet use and access is considered a school resource and privilege. If the school AUP is not adhered to, this privilege may be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

When using school IT, the Internet and social media platforms, pupils, parents and staff are expected:

- To treat others with respect at all times.
- Not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute.
- Respect the right to privacy of all other members of the school community.
- Respect copyright and acknowledge creators when using online content and resources.

This Acceptable Use Policy applies to pupils who have access to and are users of the Internet in St John the Baptist Boys National School. It also applies to members of staff, volunteers, parents, carers and others who access the Internet in St John the Baptist Boys National School.

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

St John the Baptist Boys National School will deal with incidents that take place outside the school that impact on the wellbeing of pupils or staff under this policy and associated Codes of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies. In such cases, St John the Baptist Boys National School will, where known, inform parents/carers of incidents of inappropriate online behaviour that take place outside of school and impose - where deemed necessary - the appropriate sanctions.

St John the Baptist Boys National School implements the following strategies on promoting safer use of the Internet :

- Pupils will be provided with education in the area of Internet safety as part of our implementation of the SPHE curriculum.
- Internet safety advice and support opportunities are provided to pupils in St John the Baptist Boys National School through our SPHE programme.

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- Teachers will be informed of and/or provided with continuing professional development opportunities in the area of Internet safety.
- St John the Baptist BNS participates in Safer Internet Day activities to promote safer, more effective use of the Internet.
- Cyber Bullying Awareness Month (May every year)

Content Filtering

St John the Baptist Boys National School has chosen to implement the following level on content filtering on the Schools Broadband Network:

- Level 4 This level allows access to millions of websites including games and YouTube but blocks access to websites belonging to the personal websites category and websites such as Facebook belonging to the Social Networking category.
- Pupils taking steps to by-pass the content filter by using proxy sites or other means may be subject to disciplinary action, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges, reflection time and, in extreme cases, suspension or expulsion.

Web Browsing and Downloading

- Pupils will not intentionally visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.
- Pupils will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in the classroom to their teacher.
- Pupils will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in school but outside the classroom to their class teacher.
- Pupils and staff will not copy information from the Internet without acknowledging the creator and referencing the source of the content.
- Pupils and staff 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.
- Pupils will use the school's Internet connection only for educational and career development activities.
- Pupils will not engage in online activities such as uploading or downloading large files that result in heavy network traffic which impairs the service for other Internet users.
- Pupils will not download or view any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.
- Use of file sharing and torrent sites is allowed with staff permission.
- Downloading by pupils of materials or images not relevant to their studies is not allowed.

Email and Messaging

- Staff members & pupils from 3rd to 6th class are issued with a school email address (@cashelbns.ie). This is at the discretion of the school Principal.
- Pupils should not under any circumstances share their school email account login details with other pupils.
- Pupils should not use school email accounts (3rd to 6th only) to register for online services such as social networking services, apps, and games.
- Pupils should be aware that email communications are monitored.
- Pupils will not send any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.
- Pupils should immediately report the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication.
- Pupils should avoid opening emails that appear suspicious. If in doubt, pupils should ask their teacher before opening emails from unknown senders.
- The use of *personal email accounts* in school is not allowed by pupils at St John the Baptist Boys National School.

Social Media

The following statements apply to the use of messaging, blogging and video streaming services in St John the Baptist Boys National School :

- Use of instant messaging services and apps including Snapchat, WhatsApp etc. is not allowed by pupils in St John the Baptist Boys National School
- Use of blogs such as Word Press, Tumblr etc. is allowed in St John the Baptist Boys National School where/if applicable
- Use of video streaming sites such as YouTube and Vimeo etc. **is** allowed in St John the Baptist Boys National School, but under the supervision of staff. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE VERSION WE USE CONTAINS ADS.
- Staff and pupils must not use social media and the Internet in any way to harass, insult, abuse or defame pupils, their family members, staff, other members of the St John the Baptist Boys National School community
- Staff and pupils must not discuss personal information about pupils, staff and other members of the St John the Baptist Boys National School community on social media.
- Staff and pupils must not use school email addresses for setting up personal social media accounts or to communicate through such media

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- Staff and pupils must not engage in activities involving social media which might bring St John the Baptist Boys National School into disrepute
- Staff and pupils must not represent your personal views as those of St John the Baptist Boys National School on any social media platform
- The school's Leadership and Management team are responsible for the school's social media platforms

Personal Devices

- Pupils using their own technology in school should follow the rules set out in this agreement, in the same way as if they were using school equipment
- Pupils are only allowed to bring personal Internet-enabled devices into St John the Baptist Boys National School with expressed permission from staff
- Pupils are only allowed to use personal Internet-enabled devices during lessons with expressed permission from teaching staff.
- Pupils are not allowed to use personal Internet-enabled devices during class or lunchtime
- Pupil mobile phones, as per the school's Code of Behaviour, are not allowed. If a child needs a phone for after-school, the phone must be given to the class teacher in the morning and collected at 3.00pm. If a phone is confiscated by a teacher, it will have to be collected by a parent from the Principal three days after it is confiscated.

Images & Video

- Care should be taken when taking photographic or video images that pupils are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.
- At St John the Baptist Boys National School, pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.
- Pupils' taking photos or videos on school grounds or when participating in school activities is only allowed with expressed permission from staff.
- Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of pupils are published on the school website and school social media platforms.
- Pupils must not share images, videos or other content online with the intention to harm another member of the school community regardless of whether this happens in school or outside.
- Sharing explicit images and in particular explicit images of pupils and/or minors is an unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour, with serious consequences and sanctions for those involved. Sharing explicit images of other pupils automatically incurs a suspension as a sanction & the relevant authorities will be contacted.

Cyberbullying

- When using the Internet, pupils, parents and staff are expected to treat others with respect at all times.
- Engaging in online activities with the intention to harm, harass, or embarrass another pupil or member of staff is an unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour, with serious consequences and sanctions for those involved.
- Measures are taken to ensure that staff and pupils are aware that bullying is defined as unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time. This definition includes cyber-bullying even when it happens outside the school or at night.
- Isolated or once-off incidents of intentional negative behaviour, including a once-off offensive or hurtful text message or other private messaging, do not fall within the definition of bullying and will be dealt with, as appropriate, in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.
- The prevention of cyberbullying is an integral part of the anti-bullying policy of our school.

School Website, Class Dojo, Twitter, Instagram

- Teaching staff will, on occasion & at their discretion, share online pupils' projects, artwork or other school work/activities.
- The publication of student work will be coordinated by a teacher and/or Leadership and Management team.
- The website/Class Dojo/social media accounts will be regularly checked and monitored to ensure that there is no content that compromises the safety, privacy, or reputation of students or staff.
- Webpages allowing comments or user-generated content will be moderated and checked frequently to ensure that they do not contain any inappropriate or offensive content.
- Outwith our internal platforms (Class Dojo/Aladdin) & website where we may publish content focussing on individual pupil's image/work, St John the Baptist Boys National School will use only digital photographs, audio or video clips of focusing on group activities (see permission form below)
- Outwith our internal platforms (Class Dojo/Aladdin) & website where we may use a child's name, St John the Baptist Boys National School will avoid publishing the names of pupils in video or photograph captions (see permission form below)
- Personal student information including home address and contact details will never be published on any platform associated with the school.

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Permission Form

St John the Baptist BNS Permission Slip Form

Legislation

The school will provide information on the following legislation relating to use of the Internet which teachers, students and parents should familiarise themselves with:

Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003

Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998

Interception Act 1993

Video Recordings Act 1989

The Data Protection Act 1988

Ratification & Communication

The Board of Management ratified this policy on 26 May 2014.

Most recent review	9 May 2023
Reviewed	12 Nov 2020

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Signed: T M Shannon

(Chairperson of Board of Management)

Date: 9 May 2023

Date of next review: Whenever deemed necessary

Signed: W Ryan

(Principal)

The policy has been communicated to all staff and a copy is available on the school's website