



**Davitt College,**

## **Internet Acceptable Use Policy**

Reviewed: September 2020  
Ratified by BOM: 22 Oct 2020

# General Approach

The aim of this Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to ensure that pupils will benefit from the 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. If the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege may be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

When using the internet 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 Davitt College.

- It also applies to members of staff, volunteers, parents, carers and others who access the internet in Davitt College.

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

Davitt College 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 Davitt College will, where known, inform parents/carers of incidents of inappropriate online behaviour that take place out of school and impose the appropriate sanctions.

Davitt College 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 and CSPE curriculum.
- Internet safety advice and support opportunities are provided to pupils in Davitt College through our [INDUCTION, PASTORAL CARE, ICT, PEER MENTORING programmes].
- Teachers will be provided with continuing professional development opportunities in the area of internet safety.
- Davitt College participates in Safer Internet Day activities to promote safer more effective use of the internet.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed annually by the following stakeholders:

- Board of Management, teaching staff, support staff, pupils, and parents

This policy has been developed by a working group including: Principal, Deputy Principal, teachers, pupils, parents/carers, and representatives of the Board of Management.

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- Logs of reported incidents.
- Monitoring logs of internet activity (including sites visited).
- Internal monitoring data for network activity.
- Surveys and/or questionnaires of pupils, parents, and teaching staff.

Should serious online safety incidents take place, Ms. Rowland, Ms. Gallagher or Mr. Rowan should be informed.

The implementation of this Internet Acceptable Use policy will be monitored by the Senior Management team of Davitt College.

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## Principal/Deputy Principal/Year Head/Class Tutor/Class Teacher:

- Monitor implementation of policy
- Implement sanctions in cases of breach of policy
- Review Policy

## Parents/Guardians:

- Support the school in adhering to the procedures and rules outlined within this policy.

## Students:

- Comply with the procedures and rules outlined within this policy.

## Content Filtering

Davitt College 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, detention 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 Ms. Rowland, Ms. Gallagher or Mr. Rowan.

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 not allowed.
- Downloading by pupils of materials or images not relevant to their studies is not allowed.

# Email and Messaging

- The use of personal email accounts is not allowed at Davitt College.
- Pupils should not under any circumstances share their email account login details with other pupils or anyone else.
- Pupils should not use school email accounts 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 will not use school email accounts for personal emails.

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.

# Social Media

The following statements apply to the use of messaging, blogging and video streaming services in Davitt College:

- Use of instant messaging services and apps including Snapchat, WhatsApp, G Chat etc. is not allowed in Davitt College.
- Use of blogs such as Word Press, Tumblr etc. is not allowed in Davitt College.
- Use of video streaming sites such as YouTube and Vimeo etc. is with express permission from teaching staff.

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 Davitt College community.

Staff and pupils must not discuss personal information about pupils, staff and other members of the Davitt College 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.

Staff and pupils must not engage in activities involving social media which might bring Davitt College into disrepute.

Staff and pupils must not represent their personal views as those being of Davitt College's on any social medium.

# 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 Davitt College with expressed permission from staff.
- Pupils are only allowed to use personal internet-enabled devices during lessons with expressed permission from teaching staff **for the purposes of teaching and learning.**
- **Pupils are not allowed to use personal internet-enabled devices during social time.**
  
- Students may carry their mobile phone on their person, but it must be turned off, not on silent.
- The one exception to this rule is during exams, when the Exam Rules will supersede this policy. Mobile phones should NEVER be brought into an exam, and exam papers will be cancelled if it emerges that a student has done so.
- Phones and devices should not be used in any way between classes, before classes, during break and lunchtimes, etc.
- If a student needs to contact home urgently, they will be allowed to use the phone in the Main Office. If parents need to contact children urgently, they should phone the Main Office. For health and safety reasons students should not contact home using their own device.
- If a student breaches these rules the phone (and SIM card) will be confiscated immediately and given to the Deputy Principal.
- In the event of a dispute about whether these rules have been breached, the phone shall be handed over immediately to the teacher who will give it to the Deputy Principal so the matter can be investigated.
- At all times, the privacy of a student shall be respected. Where the data on a phone is accessed it shall only be to determine whether there has been misuse of the phone, not to monitor the private activities of the owner. If a student refuses to allow the phone to be accessed, parents / guardians will be contacted and ask to present to the school to be present while the data is accessed.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones/digital devices.
- The safety and security of mobile phones/digital devices is wholly a matter for students and their parents/guardians.
- It is strongly advised that students mark their mobile phones/digital devices with their names and use passwords to ensure that unauthorised access is not gained on their phones.

If a phone disturbs a class or if a student is seen using a phone outside the permitted time:

- The phone will be confiscated immediately and presented to the Deputy Principal.



If a phone has been used to take photographs/audio or video footage:

- The phone will be confiscated until the matter can be resolved
- If the material has been taken without the consent of the subject(s) therein, the student responsible may be suspended
- If the material has been taken without the consent of the subject(s) therein and subsequently posted on the internet, shown to others or distributed in any manner, the student responsible may be suspended and may be recommended for permanent exclusion from Davitt College.
- Depending on the nature of the content viewed, Davitt College reserves the right to contact relevant outside bodies (Gardaí, legal advice, HSE, etc) to determine the appropriate course of action.

# 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 Davitt College pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.

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.

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 suspension as a sanction. The relevant outside agencies referred to in the previous section may also be contacted on this matter.

# 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 cyber bullying is an integral part of the anti-bullying policy of our school.

# School Websites

Pupils will be given the opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the internet in accordance with clear policies and approval processes regarding the content that can be loaded to the school's website.

The website will be regularly checked 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 pre-moderated and checked frequently to ensure that they do not contain any inappropriate or offensive content.

The publication of student work will be coordinated by a teacher.

Davitt College will use only digital photographs, audio or video clips of focusing on group activities. Content focusing on individual students will only be published on the school website with parental permission.

Personal student information including home address and contact details will not be published on Davitt College web pages.

Davitt College will avoid publishing the first name and last name of pupils in video or photograph captions published online.

# Permission Form

Please review the attached school Internet Acceptable Use Policy, and sign and return this permission form to the school office.

## 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

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.

Student's name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As the parent or legal guardian of the above student, 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 students access unsuitable websites.

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 students' work on the school website.

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

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

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