**St. Teresa’s National School**

**Acceptable User Policy (Access to Internet)**

The aim of this Acceptable Use Policy ( AUP) 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. Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions – as outlined in the AUP – will be imposed.

It is envisaged that school and parent representatives will revise the AUP annually.   
This version of the AUP was created in May 2012 and endorsed by the Board of Management. Before you sign the form, the policy should be read carefully to ensure that the conditions of use are acceptable to you and your child/children.

**School Strategies**

* 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  
  • Access to internet 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 internet is protected by the firewall provided by the NCTE (National Centre for Technology in Education).  
  • The school will regularly monitor pupils’ Internet usage.  
  • Pupils 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.  
  • The use of personal floppy disks, memory sticks, CD-ROMs, or other digital storage media in school requires a teacher’s permission.  
  • Pupils will observe good “netiquette” (i.e., etiquette on the Internet) and treat others with respect at all times while online and will not undertake any actions that may bring the school or themselves into disrepute.

**World Wide Web**

* Students will not intentionally visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.
* Students will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in accordance with school procedures.
* Students will use the Internet for educational purposes only.
* Students will not copy information into assignments and fail to acknowledge the source (plagiarism and copyright infringement).
* Students will never disclose or publicise personal information.
* Downloading materials or images not relevant to their studies, is in direct breach of the school’s Acceptable Use Policy.
* 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.

**Email**

* Pupils will not have access to email facilities at school. Any emails to other children/schools, will be sent through the school email address.
* Students will not send or receive any material that is illegal, obscene, 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 they only know through emails or the internet.
* Students will note that sending and receiving email attachments is subject to permission from their teacher.

**Internet Chat ( Very restricted use only)**• Pupils will only have access to chat rooms, discussion forums or other electronic communication forums that have been approved by the school.  
• Chat rooms, discussion forums and other electronic communication forums will only be used for educational purposes 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.  
• Skype may be used for contacting other children/schools for project work, or penpals. This may only be done under teacher supervision.

**School Website**

* Pupils will be given the opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the World Wide Web 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 of pupils or staff.
* Website using facilities such as guest books, notice boards or web blogs will be checked frequently to ensure that they do not contain personal details.
* The publication of student work will be co-ordinated by a teacher.
* The school will endeavor to use digital photographs, audio or video clips focusing on group activities. Content focusing on individual students will not be published on the school website without the parental permission. Video clips may be password protected.
* Personal pupil information including home address and contact details will be omitted from school web pages.
* The school website will avoid publishing the first name and last name of individuals in a photograph.
* The school will ensure that the image files are appropriately named and will not use pupils’ names in image file names or ALT tags if published on the web.
* Pupils will continue to own the copyright on any work published.

**Legislation**The school will provide information on the following legislation relating to use of the  
Internet which teachers and parents should familiarise themselves with:  
• Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003 ( see school policy)  
• Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998  
• Interception Act 1993  
• Video Recordings Act 1989  
• The Data Protection Act 1988

**Support Structures**The school will inform pupils and parents of key support structures and organisations that deal with illegal material or harmful use of the Internet. Teachers will give instruction on appropriate use of the internet and how to use it safely.  
  
**Sanctions**Misuse of the Internet may result in disciplinary action, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges and, in extreme cases, suspension. The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities.