



McDonald Park School



USING THE INTERNET Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use Policy

INTRODUCTION

Both staff and students at McDonald Park School have access to the internet. The internet allows staff and students to access a wide range of learning materials, information and communication tools that can assist and enhance learning programs using up to date technologies.

Usually, the resources used by students in school are carefully chosen by teachers. Use of the internet however, by its nature, will provide access to information which may not have been selected by the teacher. Whilst pupils will often be directed to internet sites which have been reviewed and evaluated, at times students will be able to move beyond these, to sites unfamiliar to the teacher.

The Department for Education and Child Development provide filters on internet access at all South Australian public schools. These filters are managed at a state and school level. They assist in the prevention of children accessing, either accidentally or deliberately, material on the internet that may be unsuitable.

At McDonald Park School, we believe that access to the internet is a valuable part of students' learning. We also believe that fostering a responsible attitude in students in partnership with parents will contribute to safe and appropriate use of the internet at school.

The purpose of this policy is to;

Highlight some of the educational advantages of using the internet.

Establish safe practices and expectations when using the internet and email at school.

Ensure that students and parents are aware of unacceptable use of the internet and consequences for unacceptable use.

Using the Internet for Education

The benefits include:

- Access to a wide variety of educational resources including libraries, art galleries and digital learning objects.
- Fast and cost effective world wide communication; developing an understanding of people and cultures around the world.
- Staff professional development and access to a broad range of quality curriculum materials.
- Opportunities for children to develop their literacy by accessing both communication and multimedia resources.

Safe practices and expectations when using computers and the internet at school

- Students must use their own username and password when logging onto computers and using email.
- Children must always have permission to use the internet.
- Students are responsible for their own behaviour on the internet just as they are anywhere else in the school. This includes materials accessed and the language they use.
- If students encounter material on the internet that is offensive, they are expected to report it immediately to a teacher so that further access can be blocked.

- When using their email communication, students must use appropriate language and only contact people they know or those the teacher has approved.
- Children must only access their own files unless permission has been given to access others.
- Computers and the internet are only to be used for schoolwork unless students have been granted permission to use them for other purposes such as games and writing personal emails.

Unacceptable use of the Internet

- No personal information such as phone numbers and addresses should be given out. This includes personal information about other people.
- Students are not to use inappropriate language (obscene, profane, rude, inflammatory, disrespectful or threatening) when communicating with others on computers or with the internet.
- Programs and games on disks or memory sticks are not to be used at school.
- Students are not to download pictures and other material that is not school related and store them on school computers.

Please note: For the purpose of this policy the term 'computer' refers to any electronic device that can be used to access the internet i.e. notebooks, netbooks, iPhones, iPods, iPads and other android tablets.

Consequences for inappropriate use of the internet:

Minor Offences

- **1st Offence** -1 week suspension of access to all computers, other than during the class computing lesson.
- **2nd Offence** -1 Term suspension of computing privileges.
- **3rd Offence** -Suspension of computing privileges for remainder of year.

Major Offences

Behaviour or actions which have a personal impact on another person:

- Parents will be contacted and other authorities where necessary.

Causing damage to computer hardware or software that involves cost for repair:

- Parents will be notified and asked to cover cost of repair.

Students involved in major offences will meet with parents and senior staff to discuss appropriate consequences.

Reviewed 2013