Internet Acceptable Usage Policy

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP) on the use of the Internet
The aim of this 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 Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions outlined in the AUP will be imposed.
It is envisaged that the Board of Management and Teachers will revise the AUP regularly. Before signing, the AUP should be read carefully to indicate that the content is accepted and understood.

School's strategy:
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.
- A teacher will always supervise Internet sessions.
- Websites will be previewed / evaluated before being integrated into lessons.
- A firewall is being used to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material and to block unsuitable sites. This is regularly updated.
- The school will regularly monitor and archive pupils' Internet usage by checking user files, temporary Internet files and history files.
- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software will not be permitted.
- Virus protection software is used and updated every time the laptop connects to the internet.
- The use of digital storage media such as USB devices by students requires a teacher's permission.
- Pupils will apply good etiquette to the internet and will not involve themselves in any action that would bring themselves or the school into disrepute.
- The following is a description of the Filtering Option offered by the Department of Education and Science and chosen by the school
  Option A: A wide range of websites including educational, cultural and general interest categories except for the following categories:
  Abused drugs, Cult or Occult, Hacking, Illegal or Questionable, Racism or Hate, Violence, Abortion, Adult Materials, Advocacy Groups, Alcohol and Tobacco, Gambling, Militant and Extremist, Nudity, Pornography, Tasteless, Weapons, Pay to surf, File Sharing and Storage (includes P2P), Malicious Websites, Spyware, Personal and Dating, and all sites that are not yet categorised by the system.

World Wide Web:
- Pupils will not knowingly attempt to visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials
- In the event of accidentally accessing any of the above sites, the pupil will immediately turn off the monitor and report the incident to a teacher or supervisor
- Pupils will not spend time on non-educational matters and will use the Internet for educational purposes only
- Pupils will not upload, download or otherwise transmit material that is copyrighted
- Pupils will not disclose or publicise personal or confidential information for example classmates' home addresses, telephone numbers, name and location of their school

- Pupils will not examine, change or use another person's files, user name or passwords
- Pupils will be aware that any usage, including distributing or receiving of any information, school-related or personal, may be monitored for unusual activity, security, and / or network management reasons

Email:
- At present pupils are not permitted to access email accounts Any email correspondence will be made using a group email address.

Internet Chat:
- Pupils are not permitted to access internet chat rooms.

School Website:
- Pupils will be given the opportunity to publish projects, artwork or school work on the World Wide Web
- A teacher will coordinate the publication of student work
- Personal pupil information including home address and contact details will be omitted from school web pages
- The pupil will continue to own the copyright on any work published

Data Protection Act:
The Data Protection Act 1998 was passed to deal with privacy issues arising from the increasing amount of personal information contained on computers. In accordance with the Act, the school will only publish pupil information that is relevant to the context of the web page. Parents will be informed about pupil information on the school website.

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

Ratified by Board of Management on:

Signed:_____

Chairperson, Board of Management.

Abbeyleix South National School – ICT Acceptable Use Policy
Permission Form

Please review the attached school Internet Safety and Acceptable Usage Policy, sign and return this permission form to the Principal.
Please note: No pupil will be allowed any access to the school ICT system without signed agreement to this Acceptable Usage Policy from both Parent/Guardian and child.
Pupil's name: _____

Pupil
I agree to comply with the school's Acceptable Use Policy on the use of the ICT in Abbeyleix South National School. I will use the internet in a responsible way and obey all the rules explained to me by the school.
Pupil Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent

As the parent or legal guardian of the above pupil, I have read and accept Abbeyleix South National School's Acceptable Use Policy and grant permission for my son or daughter to access the Internet. I understand that Internet access is designed for educational purposes. I also understand that the school cannot be held responsible if pupils access unsuitable websites, but that every reasonable precaution has been taken by the school to provide for online safety.

(Please tick as appropriate)

I accept the above paragraph

I do not accept the above paragraph

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____