Internet Acceptable Use Policy

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General Approach

The aim of this Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to ensure that pupils, parents and staff 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 If the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege may be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions will be imposed.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, parents and staff who have access to and are users of the internet in Camross National School.

* It also applies to members of staff, volunteers, parents, carers and others who access the internet in Camross National School.

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.

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

Camross 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 Camross National School through our class lessons.
* Teachers will be provided with continuing professional development opportunities in the area of internet safety.
* Camross National School will participate 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, and support staff.

This policy has been developed by a working group including: Principal, Deputy Principal 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.

Should serious online safety incidents take place, Mr. Meagher should be informed.

The implementation of this Internet Acceptable Use policy will be monitored by Mr. Meagher

Content Filtering

Camross National School has chosen to implement the following level on content filtering on the Schools Broadband Network:

* Level 6 this is the widest level of content filtering available. This level allows access to millions of websites including games and YouTube and allows access to personal websites category, and other similar types of websites, such as blogs. It allows 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 or staff will not intentionally visit internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.

Pupils or staff will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in the classroom to Mr Meagher.

Pupils will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in school but outside the classroom to Mr. Meagher.

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 and staff 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 and staff 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.
* 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 only allowed at Camross National School with expressed permission from members of the teaching staff.
* Pupils should not under any circumstances share their email account login details with other pupils.
* Pupils will use approved class email accounts only under supervision by or permission from a teacher.
* Pupils should be aware that email communications are monitored.

Pupils, parents or staff 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 of school email accounts or personal emails.

Pupils or staff 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 or staff 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 Camross National School:

* Use of instant messaging services and apps including Snapchat, G Chat etc. are not allowed in Camross National School.
* Use of blogs such as Word Press, Tumblr etc. is allowed in Camross National School with express permission from teaching staff.
* Use of video streaming sites such as YouTube and Vimeo etc. is allowed at certain times in Camross National School and only under the supervision of the class teacher.

Staff, pupils and parents must not use social media and the internet in anyway to harass, insult, abuse or defame pupils, their family members, staff, and other members of the Camross National School community

Staff, pupils and parents must not discuss personal information about pupils, staff and other members of the Camross National School community on social media.

Staff, pupils and parents must not use school email addresses for setting up personal social media accounts or to communicate through such media.

Staff, pupils and parents must not engage in activities involving social media which might bring Camross National School into disrepute.

Staff, pupils and parents must not represent your personal views as those of Camross National School 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.

The following statements apply to the use of internet-enabled devices such as tablets, gaming devices, and digital music players in Camross National School:

* Pupils are only allowed to bring personal internet-enabled devices into Camross 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 only allowed to use personal internet-enabled devices during social time with expressed permission from staff.
* If a child has to bring a personal device to school for any reason e.g not going home at 3pm, then the device will be left into office at 9am and can be retrieved at 3pm. This is the responsibility of the pupils or their parents to ensure this happens.

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 Camross National School pupils staff or parents 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 are only allowed with expressed permission from staff.

Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained on enrolment in Camross N.S. before photographs of pupils are published on the school website or our school Twitter account.

Pupils, parents or staff 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.

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 the class teacher.

Camross National School will use only digital photographs, audio or video clips 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 Camross National School web pages.

The Camross National School will avoid publishing the first name and last name of pupils in video or photograph captions published online.

Permission Form

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

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As part of the school’s education programme we offer pupils supervised access to the Internet. This will allow pupils vast educational opportunities by helping them for example, locate material for projects, communicate with students from different cultures, become independent in controlling their own research and become independent learners.

While we as educationalists recognise the value of the Internet as a resource, we must also acknowledge the potential risks to students. We feel that the answer is not to ban the use of the Internet in school but to teach pupils to recognise the risks and to become **Internet Wise.** We also allow limited access to ‘YouTube’ on a strictly supervised basis. This is to allow access to a huge range of educational material.

**This process is the responsibility of the school and the parent/guardian.**

For this reason we have compiled a school policy on Internet safety. Parents must also set and convey standards of usage to their children.

It is important that you read the school’s Internet Policy which can be accessed on the school website [www.camrossns.ie](http://www.camrossns.ie) and sign the attached document

Mise le meas,

Talitha Horan

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Principal

**Responsible Internet Use**

**Pupil Undertaking**

We use the School computers and Internet connection for learning.

These rules will help us to be fair to others and keep everyone safe.

* I will ask permission before entering any website, unless my teacher has already approved that site
* I will not bring external storage devices such as pen drives (or memory sticks/USB keys etc.) into school without permission
* I will not use email for personal reasons
* I will only use email for school projects and with my teacher’s permission
* The messages I send will be polite and sensible
* When sending e-mail, I will not give my home address or phone number or arrange to meet anyone
* I will ask for permission before opening an e-mail or an e-mail attachment
* I will not use internet chat rooms
* If I see anything I am unhappy with or if I receive a message I do not like, I will tell a teacher immediately
* I know that the school may check my computer files and may monitor the sites I visit
* I understand that if I deliberately break these rules, I could be stopped from using the Internet and computers and my parents will be informed.
* I will not engage in online bullying.

**Signed**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Pupil(s)

**Signed**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Internet Permission Form**

Name of Pupil(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class(es): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As the parent or legal guardian of the above child, I have read the Internet Acceptable

Use Policy and grant permission for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(name(s): son/daughter) to access the Internet. I understand that school internet usage is for educational purposes only and that every reasonable precaution will be taken by the school to provide for online safety.

I accept my own responsibility for the education of my child(ren) on issues of Internet Responsibility and Safety.

I understand that having adhered to all the enclosed precautions the school cannot be held responsible if my child tries to access unsuitable material.

**Signature**: 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Parents/Legal Guardians

**Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**School Website**

I understand that, if the school considers it appropriate, my child’s schoolwork may be chosen for inclusion on the school’s website. I understand and accept the terms of the Acceptable Usage Policy in relation to publishing pupils’ work and photographs of school activities on the website.

**Signature**: 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Parents/Legal Guardians

**Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_