
Naracoorte Primary School Internet Use Policy



Acceptable Use Policy for the Internet and On Line Learning

Updated 2011

Use of the Internet

All students learn how to use the school's network of IBM and Macintosh computers and Internet. The Internet, including e-mail, is an essential part of business today and it is important that students know how to use it effectively and safely. We believe that we can provide a safe environment in which to begin this learning.

The Internet is full of informative sites and can create many positive experiences. A vast amount of information is available at the click of a mouse. On-line resources can be used to educate, inform, communicate and entertain just like books, magazines, videos, and CDs.

'Cyberspace' however, is part of 'real life' and there is good reason to be cautious here. The same dangers that exist in "real life" exist on the Internet. Adults usually exercise common sense; children need guidance and protection. We believe, if properly supervised, the benefits to the students from the Internet exceed the disadvantages.

Filtering of Inappropriate Sites

Inappropriate sites on the Internet will be "blocked", before reaching our school, by the Education Department's filtering system. This will eliminate most offensive sites. The central filtering will be checked regularly, to remove any unsuitable sites as they are identified. We also filter material, which we think is unacceptable. Due to the ever-changing nature of the 'net', filtering will never be 100% effective.

Staff are expected to fully research the appropriateness of websites they are asking students to access or are using as part of the daily curriculum.

Some locked sites may be unlocked by teachers for a set period of use, if the site is deemed appropriate.

How we use the internet

Our use of the Internet will be based on the curriculum; students will not be allowed to browse unless they have a clear purpose, such as research. History lists (showing sites visited by students) will be checked regularly to see which sites a student has visited.

If students try to send inappropriate email, it is sent to the school administrator.

Teachers use a variety of websites as part of their planning for student learning, particularly through use of the Interactive Whiteboards (IWBs).

Supervision

To increase our students' safety, we have placed all of the computers so that the screens are clearly visible to teachers and other adults. Students in Junior Primary will only use the Internet under *close*, adult supervision. Children in Middle and Upper Primary are given more independence.

Abuse of Internet Privileges

Students that abuse their privileges are excluded from Internet use until further notice. They are then closely supervised and their Internet 'traffic' is monitored.

All students have been given their own e-mail addresses. From the very start children will be taught about protecting their privacy and not sharing any personal information-for example, filling out forms containing their personal information.

Privately owned devices

Students are requested to leave at home devices that connect to the internet, including laptops and iPads. However, if a student sought permission from their parents and the school to use a private lap top or iPad at school, they are not to access the internet unless they have sought permission from a staff member who is able to supervise this.