



Internet Acceptable Use Policy

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School Name	Banagher College - Coláiste na Síonna
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Contents

1. Introduction
2. General Approach
3. Content Filtering
4. Web Browsing and Downloading
5. Email and Messaging
6. Social Media
7. Personal Devices
8. Images & Video
9. Cyberbullying
10. School Websites
11. Permission Form

General Approach

The aim of this Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to ensure that pupils 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 If the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege may be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

This Acceptable Use Policy applies to pupils who have access to and are users of the internet in Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna .

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.

Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna 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 and CSPE curriculum.
- Internet safety advice and support opportunities are provided to pupils in Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna through our induction and ICT programmes, as well as through regular expert external guidance.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed regularly by the following stakeholders:

- Board of Management, teaching staff, and pupils.

This policy has been developed by a working group including: Principal, Deputy Principal, teachers, pupils, parents/carers, and representatives of the Board of Management.

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- Logs of reported incidents.
- Internal monitoring data for network activity.
- Surveys and/or questionnaires of pupils.

Should serious online safety incidents take place, the principal should be informed as soon as possible.

The implementation of this Internet Acceptable Use policy will be monitored by the appropriate staff members in the school.

Content Filtering

Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna has chosen to implement the following level on content filtering on the Schools Broadband Network:

- Level 3 This level allows access to millions of websites including games but blocks YouTube, and blocks 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 will not intentionally visit internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.

Pupils will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in the classroom to their teacher.

Pupils will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in school but outside the classroom to the relevant class teacher, their tutor, or a member of the school management team.

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 will use the school's internet connection only for educational and career development activities.

Pupils 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 with staff permission.
- 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 Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna with express permission from members of the teaching staff.
- Pupils will use approved class email accounts only under supervision by or permission from a teacher.

Pupils will not send any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

Pupils 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 should avoid opening emails that appear suspicious. If in doubt, pupils should ask their teacher before opening emails from unknown senders.

Password

It is the responsibility of the student to keep their password private and regularly changed/updated.

Social Media

The following statements apply to the use of messaging, blogging and video streaming services in Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna :

- Use of blogs such as Word Press, Tumblr etc. is allowed in Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna only with express permission from teaching staff.
- Use of video streaming sites such as YouTube and Vimeo etc. is allowed only with express permission from teaching staff.

Staff and pupils must not use social media and the internet in any way to harass, insult, abuse or defame pupils, their family members, staff or other members of the Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna community

Staff and pupils must not discuss personal information about pupils, staff and other members of the Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna community on social media.

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

Staff and pupils must not engage in activities involving social media which might bring Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna into disrepute.

Staff and pupils must not represent their personal views as being those of Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna 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 Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna:

- Pupils are allowed to bring personal internet-enabled devices into Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna, but these should be stored safely in lockers and switched off unless permission has been obtained from a particular teacher to have them in a specific class.
- Pupils are only allowed to use personal internet-enabled devices during lessons with express permission from teaching staff and only when connected to the school wifi.
- Pupils are not allowed to use personal internet-enabled devices during social time.

Images & Video

At Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute any unauthorised images of others.

Taking photos or videos on school grounds or when participating in school activities is allowed only with express permission from a member of staff and only once care is taken that no harm is done to staff or pupils of Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna.

Taking photos or videos on school grounds or when participating in school activities is only allowed with express permission from staff.

The school may occasionally publish content highlighting school activities or as part of educational activities in the school, including images/videos that may include students or staff members. These will only be published through established and approved channels and only with the express approval of the relevant staff member. Due care will be taken that no inappropriate material is shared and that no harm is done to staff or pupils of Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna.

Pupils 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.

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 where the bullying takes place in a digital context.

Measures are taken by Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna 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 and social media channels.

The websites 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 a teacher.

Personal student information such as home address and contact details will not be published on Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna web pages.

Internet Acceptable Use Policy Permission Form

Legislation

The school will provide information on the following legislation relating to use of the Internet which teachers, students and parents should familiarise themselves with: (see school website or hard copy available from the school on request)

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 social media sites, I accept that, if the school considers it appropriate, my child's schoolwork, or content displaying their involvement in school activities, may be chosen for inclusion on the website or school social media platforms. I understand also that my child may appear in content created in an educational context that may appear on school authorised platforms. I hereby grant permission to Banagher College - Coláiste na Sionna to publish content (including still and video images) which refer to/include my son/daughter if the school considers it appropriate. I understand and accept the terms of the Acceptable Use Policy relating to publishing students' work on school platforms.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

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

Name of Student: _____

Class/Year: _____

Student: _____