

St. Eithne's Primary School

Updated September 2009

Internet Policy



www.steithnes.net

Please read our Images Policy.

Policy Summary for Parents

At St. Eithne's Primary School pupils have access to the Internet in every class, in the computer study and the school library. Pupils and teachers have access to the Internet but this is a filtered system. The same machines are in all Primary schools in Northern Ireland. The group Classroom2000 (C2K) are responsible for all these systems. Children may browse the Internet but and now they may collect e-mail. This e-mail system does have safeguards. Our Primary 4 to 7 children are signed up to a safe internet club scene which has moderators reading all mail and checking that nothing inappropriate or threatening appears on the site.

We also have a website. There is no longer an e-mail address for the children posted on this site for the protection of all our children.

- **Our web site address -----→ www.steithnes.net**

At St. Eithne's we can guarantee a **virtually safe Internet environment** for our children because so many safety filters are in place on the system and because we will not allow pupils to surf the web without supervision.

The educational value of appropriate information on the Internet is substantial. However, the Internet is composed of information that may be inaccurate, abusive, profane, sexually oriented, racist or illegal. In order to guard young people from any inherent dangers, we believe that it is the responsibility of school staff and the parent or guardian of each pupil to educate the pupil about his or her responsibility when using the Internet in school and at home.

St. Eithne's Primary School has adopted the following safeguards regarding the use of the Internet.

Staff and Pupils

a. When using the Internet, all users must comply with all copyright, libel, fraud, discrimination and obscenity laws, and all members of school staff (both teachers and support staff) are expected to communicate in a professional manner consistent with the rules of behaviour governing employees in the education sector.

b. Pupils are responsible for their good behaviour on the school networks, just as they are on and off school premises. While the use of information and communication technologies is a required aspect of the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum, access to the Internet remains a privilege and not a right. It is given to pupils who act in a considerate and responsible manner, and should be withdrawn if they fail to maintain acceptable standards of use.

c. Staff must ensure that pupils know and understand that no Internet user is permitted to:

- retrieve, send, copy or display offensive messages or pictures;
- use obscene or racist language;
- harass, insult or attack others;
- damage computers, computer systems or computer networks;
- violate copyright laws;
- use another user's password;
- trespass in another user's folders, work or files;
- intentionally waste resources (such as on-line time and consumables);
- use the network for unapproved commercial purposes.

Location and Supervision

The access to the Internet provided at St. Eithne's Primary School to staff and pupils through our Internet Service Provider is a filtered service. The school can and does track and record the sites visited, the searches made on the Internet and e-mail sent and received by individual users. Pupils will not have access to the Internet in St. Eithne's unless supervised by a responsible adult.

In all cases, pupils will be reminded of their responsibility to use these resources in line with the school policy on acceptable use. We shall ensure that all pupils understand how they are to use the Internet appropriately and why the rules exist. The ICT Co-ordinator will review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly.

Pupils will not be able to download, load or install any software, shareware, or freeware, or load any such software from floppy disks, unless they have permission from their teacher. Pupils may not copy other people's work or intrude into other people's files without permission.

- Pupils should not be exposed to profane, abusive or impolite language nor should they use it to communicate. This would not be in line with the rules of school behaviour.
- A good rule to follow is never view, send, or access materials that you would not want your teachers or parents to see.
- Should pupils encounter such material, they should immediately report it to their teacher. Children are not allowed into Internet chat rooms.

Advice for Parents

a. While in school, teachers will guide pupils toward appropriate materials on the Internet. Outside school, parents or guardians bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they would normally exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio and other media.

b. Appropriate home use of the Internet by children can be educationally beneficial, and can make a useful contribution to home and schoolwork. However, we advise parents that this use should be supervised. Parents should be aware that they are responsible for their children's use of Internet resources at home.

We advise to parents that it is good practice to provide filtered and monitored access to the Internet for your children. We ask you to consider the following guidance and advice on its use that you might find helpful at home.

Parents should:

- discuss with their children the rules for using the Internet and decide together when, how long, and what comprises appropriate use;
- get to know the sites their children visit, and talk to them about what they are learning;
- ensure that they give their agreement before their children give out personal identifying information in any electronic communication on the Internet, such as a picture, an address, a phone number, the school name, or financial information such as credit card or bank details. In this way they can protect their children (and themselves) from unwanted or unacceptable overtures from strangers, from unplanned expenditure and from fraud;
- encourage their children not to respond to any unwelcome, unpleasant or abusive messages, and to tell them if they receive any such messages or images. If the message comes from an Internet service connection provided by the school they should immediately inform the school.

Please note that nowadays there are a lot of social communication sites where people can communicate with their peers. Sites such as Facebook and Bebo are not suitable and in fact most of these sites are for over 14 year olds. A lot of the content and conversations on these sites are inappropriate for young children. We advise parents to monitor which sites your children are visiting at home (if you have an internet connection at home).

St. Eithne's parents can be assured that their children are only using the Internet in school for educational reasons. Educational games nowadays are so advanced that pupils are enjoying a useful learning experience. Nevertheless, should your child report any seemingly inappropriate materials on the computers please contact us immediately and we shall look into the matter if it is within our jurisdiction. All users must be aware that their use of the Internet is monitored and that action will be taken to counter any abuse.

The Form below may be used if a parent so wishes.
Please also view our Images Policy at (www.steithnes.net).

St. Eithne's Primary School

**Please complete this form and return it to the school office as soon
as possible.**

Parental Agreement

As a parent/guardian I have read the above policy for access to the Internet and use of the school computer network. I recognise the fact that although the school uses a filtered Internet service, the school staff are committed to restricting access to all the controversial materials on the Internet. Therefore I will not hold them responsible for materials that my child may find as a result of using the Internet through school facilities. I take full responsibility for how my child uses the Internet outside school.

Some children like to use photographs of themselves on their Web pages. It is our policy not to publish their full name. Address and phone numbers are never released. We feel that a photograph is acceptable especially in cases where a child has won a prize or an award. We shall use their Christian name only.

Signature of Parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____

Name Of Child (Print Name) _____

Please indicate if you would like to give permission for your child/children to use an individual photograph on their WebPages.

YES photo is OK _____ NO _____