



Website, Internet & Email Policy

Internet Safety & School Website Policy

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As part of the school's education programme we will 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.

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

Internet Usage Statement

Educationalists believe in the benefits of Curriculum Internet use. The purpose of this AUP (Acceptable Usage Policy) is to ensure that pupils will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's internet resources, and will be protected from harmful and illegal use of the Internet.

School's Strategy

Scoil Mhaoilíosa is connected to the Schools' Broadband Scheme which is controlled by HeaNET. This is a tightly controlled medium of broadband delivery and is centrally monitored and filtered. Certain sites such as YouTube and Social Networking Sites are blocked while search facilities are restricted and may only be unblocked on request by the Principal of the School. Unfortunately, the Broadband Speed is slow as our Broadband is delivered by Satellite but the School's Broadband Network offers the pupils protection on the net. We hope that our bandwidth will be increased in the near future. In addition to the above, the school will employ a number of strategies to maximise learning opportunities and reduce risks associated with the Internet.

These strategies are as follow:

1. Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP)
2. Education
3. Monitoring



Sanctions

If a pupil deliberately attempts to misuse the Internet or Email, this will result in disciplinary action including the withdrawal of access privileges. Parents/guardians will receive written notification of misuse by a pupil. Scoil Mhaoilíosa, Knockavilla aims to educate pupils on the safe, responsible use of the Internet. 21st Century life presents dangers including violence, racism and exploitation from which children and young people need to be protected. At the same time they need to learn to recognise and avoid these risks – to become Internet Wise.

School Website: www.knockavillaschool.com

The Department of Education and Science strongly encourages schools to set up websites in line with best international educational practice.

Our school website serves a number of purposes:

1. To showcase the facilities and work of our school in as transparent a manner as possible.
2. To facilitate the dissemination of information to parents and the wider community.
3. To facilitate parents in the modern busy working environment to access relevant information and templates regarding school events, school calendar, booklists, absence notes templates, enrolment application forms, permission slips etc.
4. Sometimes the website may be used to showcase children's work: In the current age of technology, social websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. it is imperative that pupils be taught awareness of this media and in exposing them to this at Primary School level, they will learn about the appropriate use, advantages and dangers of such public fora. This will only be published in line with the school's website Acceptable Usage Policy (see document **Acceptable Usage Policy for Internet, Email and Website**) and with the express permission of the students, parents and guardians.
5. To highlight exciting events during the school year.
6. To facilitate the work of the Board of Management and the Cairdeas Committee. Dedicated pages have been allocated to these two groups.