



Mary Immaculate Eagle Vale Acceptable Use Policy

Educational Rationale for Use

As we educate our students for a rapidly changing world, we believe it is important for them to learn how to use technology constructively and responsibly. The Internet is a global network, linking computers at universities, schools, government departments, businesses and homes. On the Internet, one can access information and communicate with people all over the world through web sites, discussion forums, as well as through electronic mail. Use of the Internet will provide many direct and indirect benefits to our students. These include: access to vast libraries of information from sources throughout the world, the ability to interact and collaborate with other students and knowledgeable adults, the acquisition of knowledge and skills that will be useful throughout their lives, the opportunity to publish their own material to a wide audience. As a communication medium, the Internet's potential is boundless. However, although the Internet is of significant educational value, care needs to be taken with its use in order to exploit efficiently, effectively and appropriately this potential.

How Students will use the Internet at Mary Immaculate

The use of the Internet at Mary Immaculate will be developed as part of your child's learning program. Students will have access to the World Wide Web and Email through the school's networked computers. Although your child's use of the Internet will be derived from the educational context, it is possible that he/she may come across material on the Internet that is not in accord with the school or your family's values. As a school we are addressing appropriate Internet access with our students and we encourage parents to discuss these matters with their child/ren in the light of their own family's values. During class time teachers are responsible for student use of the Internet. For use outside class time the Library has procedures that allow access to the Internet on an individual basis.

A student can also access the Internet for personal research and communication during supervised times. We are aware that parents may have concerns about possible misuse of the Internet, however we believe that the above procedures reinforce appropriate Internet use.



Student Responsibilities

As with all resources provided by the school, the school's Internet connection is for educational purposes. The most important prerequisite for Internet use is that students take full responsibility for their own actions and their effect on fellow students. Students are responsible for good behaviour on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or in the playground. General school rules for behaviour and communications apply. Access is a privilege – not a right. Access entails responsibility.

It is the student's responsibility to:

- not deliberately seek out, create or print out material that could be offensive to anyone. This includes information that is racist, sexist, pornographic, irreligious or contains abusive language
- not post messages and attribute them to other users
- not to use email to copy information that is personally abusive to the recipient or any other person
- not interfere with, harm or destroy the computer work of any person
- not break copyright law by copying and/or redistributing another's work
- not copy the ideas of others and present them as her own (plagiarism)
- refrain from excessive printing

Computing facilities are provided primarily for the educational benefit of students and the professional development of staff. Any behaviour that interferes with these primary objectives will be considered an infringement of Acceptable Use.

General Policies

- Use of computer/internet resources for educational purposes has priority over other (recreational)
- Use of Appropriate language must be in all communications including email messages, documents and web pages
- No user may deliberately or carelessly waste computer resources (eg unnecessary printing) or disadvantage other users (eg by monopolising equipment, network traffic etc).
- Consideration must be given to avoiding inconvenience to other computer users. e.g. use headphones to listen to sound or music; leave computers ready for the next user to log in; not leave programs running on computers when you leave; not leave rubbish or paper lying around computers; replace furniture to normal positions when you leave.



Possible penalties

More than one may apply for a given offence.

Serious or repeated offences will result in stronger penalties.

- Ban on lunchtime computer use
- Temporary ban on using computers
- Removal of email privileges
- Removal of internet access privileges
- Removal of home directory and network access (with consequent inability to satisfactorily complete unit requirements of the subject)
- Detention
- Paying to replace damaged equipment
- Removal from classes where computer use is involved
- Suspension from school
- Criminal charges may be laid with the police

This policy endorses the Diocesan Guidelines on the Acceptable use of the Internet, Intranet, e-mail and other Electronic Communication Devices which can be accessed using the following URL

http://www.ceo.woll.catholic.edu.au/policies/employees/Acceptable_Use_Policy.pdf

