



Malahide Community  
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# Malahide Community School

## Internet & iPad Acceptable Use Policy

**Date of Commencement: January 2026**





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# Contents

General Approach.....	3
Content Filtering.....	6
Internet Use.....	7
Email and Messaging.....	9
Social Media and messaging services for Staff and Students.....	11
Personal Devices.....	13
Digital Learning Platforms (including video conferencing).....	14
Audio, images and video.....	15
Inappropriate Activities.....	16
School Websites.....	18
Cyberbullying.....	19
Artificial Intelligence.....	21
Legislation.....	23
Support Structures.....	24
Code of Behaviour governing the use of iPads.....	25
Sanctions.....	27
iPad Support Procedures.....	28
Permission Form.....	29



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## General Approach

The aim of this Acceptable Use Policy is to ensure that students will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's digital resources in a safe and effective manner. The responsible use of the internet and digital technologies, both online and offline and access is considered an integral part of teaching and learning. Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to, agreed sanctions will be imposed.

It is envisaged that school and parent representatives will revise the AUP at least annually. Before signing, the AUP should be read carefully to ensure that the conditions of use are accepted and understood.

When using the internet, students, parents and staff are expected:

- To treat others with respect at all times.
- Not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute.
- Respect the right to privacy of all other members of the school community.
- Respect copyright and acknowledge creators when using online content and resources.

The school employs a number of strategies in order to maximise learning opportunities and reduce risks associated with the Internet. These strategies are as follows:

- Filtering software and/or equivalent systems will be used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software will not be permitted.
- The use of personal external digital storage media in school, requires school permission.
- Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.



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This Acceptable Use Policy applies to students who have access to and are users of the internet in Malahide Community School.

- It also applies to members of staff, volunteers, parents, carers and others who access the internet in Malahide Community School.

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.

Malahide Community School will deal with incidents that take place outside the school that impact on the well-being of students or staff under this policy and associated Codes of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta policies. In such cases, Malahide Community School will, where known, inform parents/carers of incidents of inappropriate online behaviour that take place out of school and impose the appropriate sanctions.

Malahide Community School implements the following strategies on promoting safer use of the internet:

- Students will be provided with education in the area of internet safety as part of our implementation of the SPHE and other curriculum areas.
- Internet safety advice and support opportunities are provided to pupils in Malahide Community School through our induction programmes and Computers classes.
- Teachers will be provided with continuing professional development opportunities in the area of internet safety.
- Malahide Community School participates in Safer Internet Day activities to promote safer, more effective use of the internet.

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



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## **Board of Management, teaching staff, support staff, pupils, and parents**

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

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- Logs of reported incidents.
- Monitoring logs of internet activity (including sites visited).
- Internal monitoring data for network activity.
- Surveys and/or questionnaires of students, parents, and teaching staff.

Should serious online safety incidents take place, the principal, Mr David Hayes, should be informed.

The implementation of this Internet Acceptable Use policy will be monitored by the Digital Technologies committee.



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## Content Filtering

Malahide Community School has chosen to implement the following level of content filtering on the Schools Broadband Network:

**Level 5 This level allows access to millions of websites, including games and YouTube and allows access to personal websites category, and other similar types of websites, such as blogs, but blocks access to websites belonging to the personal websites category and websites such as Facebook belonging to the Social Networking category.**

Students taking steps to bypass 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.



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## Internet Use

Students will not intentionally visit internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.

Students will be encouraged to report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in accordance with school procedures.

Students will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in school, but outside the classroom to the Principal or a Deputy Principal.

Students will not copy information into assignments and fail to acknowledge the source (plagiarism and copyright infringement).

Students 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.

Students will use the Internet for educational purposes only.

Students will not engage in online activities such as uploading or downloading large files that result in heavy network traffic which impairs the service for other internet users.

Students will not download or view any material that is illegal, obscene, or defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

Downloading by students of materials or images not relevant to their studies is in direct breach of the school's acceptable use policy.



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Students will never disclose or publicise personal information or passwords.

Students will be aware that any usage of the internet and the school's digital platform, including distributing or receiving information, school-related or personal, will be monitored.

**Use of file sharing and torrent sites is not allowed.**



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## Email and Messaging

**Downloading by students of materials or images not relevant to their studies is not allowed.**

**The use of personal email accounts is not allowed at Malahide Community School.**

- Students will use approved school email accounts.
- Students should not under any circumstances share their email account login details with other pupils.
- Students will use approved class email accounts only under supervision by or permission from a teacher.
- Students should be aware that email communications are monitored.
- Students will not send any material that is illegal, obscene, or defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.
- Students 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.
- Students should avoid opening emails that appear suspicious. If in doubt, pupils should ask their teacher before opening emails from unknown senders.
- Students will not reveal their own or other people's personal details, such as addresses or telephone numbers or pictures.
- Students will never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they only know through emails or the internet.
- Students will note that sending and receiving email attachments is subject to permission from their teacher.



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- Students will not forward email messages or screenshots of emails without the permission of the originator.
- Students must only use their school email for school-related activities and for registering on school-based activities only. The use of personal email addresses is not allowed for school-based work.
- Students should not use school email accounts to register for online services, social networking, apps or games.
- Students should 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 report any such communications to a teacher.
- All emails and opinions expressed in emails are the responsibility of the author and do not reflect the opinion of the school.



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## Social Media and messaging services for Staff and Students

The internet provides a range of social media tools that allow us to interact and keep in touch. While recognising the benefits of these media for new opportunities for communication, this policy sets out the principles that members of your school community are expected to follow when using social media.

The principles set out in this policy are designed to help ensure that social media is used responsibly so that the confidentiality of pupils and other staff and the reputation of the school is protected.

This policy applies to personal websites such as social networking sites (for example, Instagram and TikTok), blogs, microblogs such as X, chatrooms, forums, podcasts, open-access online encyclopaedias such as Wikipedia, social bookmarking sites such as del.icio.us and content-sharing sites such as Flickr and YouTube. The internet is a fast-moving technology, and it is impossible to cover all circumstances or emerging media.

The following statements apply to the use of messaging, blogging and video streaming services in Malahide Community School :

- Student use of instant messaging services and apps, including Snapchat, WhatsApp, Viber, etc., is not allowed in Malahide Community School.
- Student use of blogs such as WordPress, Tumblr, etc. is allowed in Malahide Community School with express permission from teaching staff.
- Student use of video streaming sites such as YouTube and Vimeo etc., is allowed with express permission from teaching staff.
- All members of the school community must not use social media, messaging services and the internet in any way to harass, impersonate, insult, abuse or defame others.



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- Staff and students must not discuss personal information about pupils, staff and other members of the Malahide Community School community on social media.
- Staff and students must not use school email addresses for setting up personal social media accounts or to communicate through such media.
- Staff and students must not engage in activities involving social media which might bring Malahide Community School into disrepute.
- Staff and Students must not represent their personal views as those of Malahide Community School on any social media.
- Students will be provided with guidance on etiquette regarding social media.

Teachers can read further information about the use of Social Media and Electronic Communication here:

<https://www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/news-events/latest-news/2021/guidance-for-registered-teachers-about-the-use-of-social-media-and-electronic-communication.html>



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## Personal Devices

In accordance with our Mobile Phone policy, students are not allowed to use their own personal internet-enabled devices, e.g. smartphones, tablets or laptops in school or during school activities.



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## Digital Learning Platforms (including video conferencing)

Malahide Community School's digital learning platforms, Schoology and Google Workspace for Education, are owned and managed by the school. These platforms should enable two-way communication.

Students must only use their school email to access the school's digital learning platforms.

Only school devices should be used for the purposes of capturing and storing media.

All school-related media and data should be stored on the school's platforms.

The use of digital platforms should be in line with the considerations set out in the school's data protection plan (GDPR).

Each user of the platforms will be provided with their own unique login credentials.

Passwords for digital platforms and accounts should not be shared.

Personal email addresses should not be used when creating accounts on school digital platforms.

Prior acceptance from parents should be sought for the student's usage of the school's digital learning platforms.



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## Audio, images and video

Care should be taken when capturing audio, photographic or video images that learners are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.

At Malahide Community School, students must not record audio, take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.

Recording audio, taking photos or videos on school grounds or when participating in school activities is allowed under the direction of staff, and once care is taken that no harm is done to staff or pupils of Malahide Community School.

Recording audio, taking photos or videos on school grounds or when participating in school activities is only allowed with expressed permission from staff.

Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before video, audio or photographs of students are published on the school website.

Students must not share audio, 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/video and, in particular, explicit images/video of students and/or minors is an unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour, with serious consequences and sanctions for those involved. Sharing explicit images/videos of other students automatically incurs suspension as a sanction. Manipulation of images and/or artificially generated images is also prohibited. In any of these cases, the appropriate authorities will also be informed.



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## Inappropriate Activities

- Promotion or conduct of illegal acts, e.g. under the child protection, obscenity, computer misuse and fraud legislation
- Misuse and fraud legislation
- Racist, homophobic, transphobic or misogynistic material
- Pornography
- Promotion of any kind of discrimination
- Promotion of racial or religious hatred
- Harmful content or threatening behaviour, including promotion of physical violence or mental harm
- Any other information which may be offensive to colleagues or breaches the integrity of the ethos of the school, or brings the school into disrepute
- Using school systems to run a private business
- The use of systems, applications, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering or other safeguards employed by the school
- Uploading, downloading or transmitting commercial software or any copyrighted materials belonging to third parties, without the necessary licensing permissions
- Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (e.g. financial/personal information, databases, computer/network access codes and passwords)
- Creating or propagating computer viruses or other harmful files
- Carrying out sustained or instantaneous high-volume network traffic (downloading/uploading files) that causes network congestion and hinders others in their use of the internet



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- Online gaming
- Online gambling
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- Use of social networking sites, instant messaging and online forums
- Child sexual abuse material
- Any other activity which is considered questionable.



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## School Websites

Students 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.

Students will continue to own the copyright on any work published.

The website will be regularly checked to ensure that no content compromises the safety, privacy, or reputation of students or staff.

Content published on school websites must not break copyright laws.

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.

Malahide Community School will use only digital photographs, audio or video clips of students, focusing on group activities. Content focusing on individual students will only be published on the school website with parental permission.

The publication of student work will be coordinated by a teacher.

Personal student information, including home address and contact details, will not be published on Malahide Community School web pages.

Malahide Community School will avoid publishing the first name and last name of pupils in video or photograph captions published online.

The school will ensure that the image files are appropriately named and will not use students' names in image file names or ALT tags if published online.



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## Cyberbullying

In accordance with Bí Cineálta, Malahide Community School considers that posting a single harmful message/image/video online, which is highly likely to be reposted or shared with others, can however be seen as bullying behaviour.

This type of bullying is increasingly common and is continuously evolving. It is bullying carried out through the use of information and communication technologies such as text, social media, e-mail, messaging, apps, gaming sites, chat-rooms and other online technologies. Being the target of inappropriate or hurtful messages is the most common form of online bullying. As cyberbullying uses technology to perpetrate bullying behaviour and does not require face-to-face contact, cyberbullying can occur at any time (day or night). Many forms of bullying can be facilitated through cyberbullying. For example, a target may be sent homophobic text messages or pictures may be posted with negative comments about a person's sexuality, appearance, etc.

Access to technology means that cyberbullying can happen around the clock, and the student's home may not even be a safe haven from such bullying. Students are increasingly communicating in ways that are often unknown to adults and free from supervision. The nature of these technologies means digital content can be shared and seen by a very wide audience almost instantly, and is almost impossible to delete permanently. While cyberbullying often takes place at home and at night, the impact can also be felt in school.

In accordance with the Bí Cineálta Policy (Anti-Bullying), Malahide Community School considers that a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or other public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.

When using the internet, students, 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 student or member of staff is an unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour, with serious consequences and sanctions for those involved.



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Measures are taken by Malahide Community School to ensure that staff and students are aware that bullying is defined as targeted behaviour, online or offline, that causes harm. The harm caused can be physical, social and/or emotional in nature. Bullying behaviour is repeated over time and involves an imbalance of power in relationships between two people or groups of people in society. Posting a single harmful message/image/video online, which is highly likely to be reposted or shared with others, can however, be seen as bullying behaviour.

The prevention of cyberbullying is an integral part of the anti-bullying policy of our school.

In accordance with the Department of Education B'í Cineálta Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post Primary Schools, Malahide Community School considers that a school is not expected to deal with bullying behaviour that occurs when students are not under the care or responsibility of the school. However, where this bullying behaviour has an impact in school, schools are required to support the students involved. Where the bullying behaviour continues in school, schools should deal with it in accordance with their B'í Cineálta policy.



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## Artificial Intelligence

Malahide Community School recognises the potential benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education and is committed to its responsible and ethical use within our learning environment.

Malahide Community School provides training and professional development opportunities for teachers to effectively utilise AI tools in their teaching practices, ensuring they stay up to date with technological advancements.

The selection of AI tools and technologies in Malahide Community School aligns with educational goals, including supporting learner agency and promoting critical thinking.

AI technologies are integrated into the curriculum to enhance learner outcomes and experiences.

Malahide Community School integrates AI into its educational processes to enhance learning, foster innovation, and promote the development of critical skills.

Malahide Community School will make necessary adjustments to our school's adoption and integration of AI based on review and feedback.

A regular review of the impact of AI on learning outcomes is to be conducted to ensure continuous improvement.

School staff and learners receive training on the ethical use of AI technologies, including understanding data privacy, identifying biases, and verifying AI-generated information.

All AI tools authorised for use in Malahide Community School comply with data protection regulations (GDPR).

Entering personal, sensitive, or confidential data into any AI system without proper authorisation is strictly prohibited.

Learners will not create, share or send any AI-generated material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.



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Staff and learners must not use AI in any way to harass, insult, abuse or defame learners, their family members, staff, other members of the Malahide Community School community

Staff and learners must not engage in activities involving AI-generated material which might bring Malahide Community School into disrepute.

Malahide Community School promotes digital literacy and critical thinking skills to help learners understand AI, its implications, and responsible usage. This includes data literacy, verification of AI-generated information, and recognising potential biases in AI tools.

AI systems used in Malahide Community School ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability in decision-making processes.

Learners must attribute AI text and images properly when used in assignments/homework.

Teachers will attribute AI text and images when used.

AI-generated material is allowed for the purpose of research, brainstorming, and revising text.

AI-generated material is allowed for certain activities with prior school permission.

If used for research, learners must fact-check, check other sources and reference sources.



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## Legislation

The school will provide information on the following legislation relating to the use of the Internet, which teachers, students and parents should familiarise themselves with:

- Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000
- Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998 and Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017
- Children First Act 2015
- Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 (Coco's Law)
- Criminal Damage Act 1991
- Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act 2024



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## Support Structures

The school will inform students and parents of key support structures and organisations that deal with illegal material or harmful use of the Internet.



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## Code of Behaviour governing the use of iPads

The purpose of this code is to govern the use of iPads and ebooks by students in MCS. This code is informed by and serves as an extension of the following School policies: the School ethos, Code of behaviour and ICT acceptable usage policy. Respect is the fundamental core principle upon which this code of behaviour is based. The role of the iPad in the school context is a tool to support learning.

### General Rules regarding the use of iPads

1. The school reserves the right to decide on the appropriateness of available Apps. Any apps deemed inappropriate will not be permitted on students' iPads. Students and their parents will be advised of prohibited apps.
2. Students are strictly prohibited from inappropriate use of the camera on the iPad. No video, image or audio recording are to be taken unless specified and supervised by a teacher. Breaching this rule is a serious disciplinary offence and may result in suspension.
3. The images, videos, music and apps on a student's iPad must be appropriate and in keeping with the school's ethos. Sharing inappropriate material, images or videos is a serious disciplinary offence.
4. As part of students' homework and school preparation, their iPads must be charged fully each evening, ready for class the following morning. Students will not be allowed to charge their iPads in school.
5. Students may not use their iPads to communicate with anyone, inside or outside school, unless directly instructed to do so by a teacher, during the school day.
6. An MDM (multi-device management) profile has been installed on all students' iPads by Wriggle at deployment. Students are not permitted to remove it. Students are strictly prohibited from installing any other profiles, such as VPN (virtual private network) or game emulators, on their iPads.
7. iPads are not to be used in between classes, at break times or at any time where the teacher has instructed the class not to use them.
8. All iPads must be stored in a locked locker at lunchtime and during PE.
9. Students are responsible for the safety and protection of their own iPad, and that it is kept away from liquids or likely damage. If the iPad is lost or misplaced, it is the students' parent(s)/guardian(s)' responsibility to replace it.



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10. No student should request the use of another student's iPad. Students should not swap iPads or lend their iPad to anyone.

#### **iPad Classroom Rules:**

1. iPads are only to be used for educational purposes and in adherence with the Malahide Community School's Acceptable Usage Policy and as directed by the classroom teacher.
2. Only the apps specified by the classroom teacher are to be open during class periods.
3. The iPad should be kept flat on the desk at all times, or as directed by the classroom teacher.
4. Students should close all apps at the end of each class.
5. No video, image or audio recording is to be taken unless specified by the classroom teacher.
6. Students may not use their iPads to communicate with anyone, inside or outside school, unless directly instructed to do so by a teacher, during the school day.
7. Audio output from your iPad is only permissible when requested by the classroom teacher.
8. No student should request the use of another student's iPad.
9. Students may not swap iPads or lend their iPad to anyone.



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## Sanctions

Misuse of the Internet and digital technologies should be referred to in the school's Code of Behaviour, Bí Cinealta Policy (Anti-Bullying), and related sanctions regarding misuse as appropriate should be outlined therein. The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities, including An Garda Síochána and Tusla.

The following sanctions may be applied as a result of breaching the Internet Acceptable Use Policy, iPad and Use of Technology Code of Behaviour. The application of these sanctions is at the discretion of the classroom teacher and the Year Head.

- Confiscation of the iPad
- Removing access to Wifi
- Removing access to an App or function of the iPad
- Deletion of an App
- Canteen duty
- Detention
- Suspension



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## iPad Support Procedures

Technical Issues: If a student's iPad is not functioning, students may:

- Bring their iPad to the Wriggle iPad clinic in school. The technician may be able to resolve the issue on the spot or may need to bring the iPad away for repair.
- Contact Wriggle via the 'Wriggle Help' app installed on all student iPads, and if necessary, arrange to have the iPad collected from the main school office for repair and return (appropriate packing material will be available from the main school office).
- Contact Wriggle via [helpdesk@wriggle.ie](mailto:helpdesk@wriggle.ie)
- Contact Wriggle by phone (01 5009060)



Malahide Community  
School  
Broomfield  
Malahide  
Co. Dublin  
K36 PR28

Telephone: 018463244  
Email:  
office@malahidecs.ie  
Web:  
<https://malahidecs.ie/>

## Permission Form

I agree to follow the school's Acceptable Use Policy on the use of the internet and digital technologies. I will use the internet and digital technologies in a responsible way and obey all the procedures outlined in the policy.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As the parent or legal guardian of the above student, I have read the Acceptable Use Policy and 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, I accept that, if the school considers it appropriate, my child's schoolwork may be chosen for inclusion on the website. I understand and accept the terms of the Acceptable Use Policy relating to publishing students' work on the school website.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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 signature: \_\_\_\_\_