



0202 Acceptable Internet Use

POLICY NO.: 0202

DATE APPROVED: 1999-09-08

SUBJECT: Acceptable Internet Use

Preamble

The Board recognizes the educational opportunities provided through the use of the Internet.

Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that staff and students understand and practice proper and ethical use of the Internet.

Objectives

1. To outline the rules and conditions for acceptable usage of the Internet by both staff and students as per the attached Regulations.



REGULATIONS

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Acceptable Use

1. Schools provide access to the Internet for educational and research purposes and to provide opportunities for collaborative work in furtherance of those purposes. To remain eligible as a user, access must be in support of and consistent with the educational objectives of the District and School.
2. Transmission, printing, communication or publication of any information or material in violation of any Court Order of any Federal, Provincial, Municipal, Common or other law including, without limitation, any law relating to copyright, trade-marks, trade secrets, government security, obstruction, obscenity, threats, defamation, harassment, privacy, conspiracy, promotion of hatred or discrimination is prohibited.
3. School or District use of the Internet for commercial activities is generally not acceptable. Use for product-service advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited. School or District provided e-mail accounts must not be used to send chain letters or to harass other users with unwanted e-mail messages.
4. E-mail accounts shall be used only by the authorized owner of the account. Account holders are responsible for all activity within their accounts.

Privilege

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use, including any violation of these conditions and rules, may result in cancellation of the privilege. Schools, under this agreement, are delegated the authority to determine appropriate use and may deny, revoke, suspend or close any user privileges at any time based upon its determination of inappropriate use of an e-mail account or by an Internet user, without prior notice and without any liability whatsoever to the e-mail account holder or user.

Monitoring

Schools and the District reserve the right to review any material on user e-mail accounts and to monitor log files and file server space in order for the School and District to make determinations on whether specific uses of the network are inappropriate. Since the use of District provided access is only for educational and research purposes, Schools and the District will not be bound to maintain confidentiality of any information in user-accounts, transaction logs of file server space, and users should not use access for any purpose they consider confidential.

Network Etiquette

1. With respect to e-mail accounts, all users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
2. Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others. Do not criticize the spelling, writing or keyboarding of others.
3. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate or potentially offensive language. Do not engage in activities which are prohibited under Canadian law.
4. Do not reveal your personal address or phone number, or those of other students or colleagues.
5. Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities and may result in the loss of user privileges.
6. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
7. Treat all communications and information accessible via the network as private property. Do not repost personal e-mail that you receive to public forums (e.g., listservs, newsgroups) without the permission of the author.

No Warranties - User Accepts All Risk and Liability

Schools and School District No. 60 (Peace River North) make no warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, for the service it is providing. Schools and School District No. 60 (Peace River North) will not be responsible for any damages a user suffers or causes. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user=s own risk. The user shall indemnify and save Schools and School District No. 60 (Peace River North) harmless from any cost, damage or liability either may suffer as a result of or in any way relating to the user=s access to the network. Schools and School District No. 60 (Peace River North) specifically deny any responsibility for:

1. The accuracy or quality of information or advice obtained through its services, or any costs or charges incurred as a result of seeing or accepting such advice. All users need to consider the source of any information they obtain, and consider how valid that information may be;
2. Any costs, liability or damages caused by the way the account holder chooses to use his/her access;
3. Any consequences, including the loss of data, resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by the School and School District No. 60 (Peace River North's) negligence, default action or inaction or by the user's errors or omissions;
4. Privacy of electronic mail cannot be guaranteed.

1. Security

- a) Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Users must never allow others to use their e-mail password. Users should also protect their password to ensure system security and their own privilege and ability to continue to use the system.
- b) Do not impersonate anyone or attempt any unauthorized access or violation of any security feature of Schools, School District No. 60 (Peace River North), or anyone else on the network. If you feel you can identify a security problem on Internet, you must notify a system administrator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users.
- c) Do not use another individual's e-mail account or network access privilege.
- d) Attempts to access services as a system administrator may result in cancellation of user privileges.
- e) Any user identified as a security risk for having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to Internet by Schools and School District No. 60 (Peace River North).

2. Vandalism and Harassment

- a) Vandalism and harassment will result in cancellation of user privileges.
- b) Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm, modify or destroy any data, program or system of another user, or the agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creating of computer viruses.
- c) Harassment is defined as the persistent annoyance of another user, or the interference of another user's work. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, the sending of unwanted mail.

3. Encounter of Controversial Material

Users may encounter material that is controversial and which users, parents, teachers or administrators may consider inappropriate or offensive. However, on a global network it is impossible to control effectively the content of data and an industrious user may discover controversial material. It is the user's responsibility not to initiate access to such material. School District No. 60 (Peace River North) may, but shall not be obliged to, restrict access to network material, but in any event shall have no duty to regulate the content of material on the network or the user's access to that material.

Penalties for Improper Use

Any user violating these rules, Canadian laws or posted classroom and district rules is subject to loss of network privileges and any other District disciplinary options.