



# **Scoil Chonglais Post-Primary School**

## **Internet Acceptable Use Policy**



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA  
**CHILL DARA AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN**  
KILDARE AND WICKLOW  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

## Mission Statement

Scoil Chonglais is a warm, caring, and welcoming school in which all students are valued and respected. We provide a positive, supportive, and inclusive learning environment, where each student and their unique contribution is celebrated. We are committed to excellence in education and to empowering each student to reach their full potential.

## School Motto

“Empowering Minds, Shaping Futures and Celebrating Success”

## KWETB Core Values

Scoil Chonglais is a coeducational, multid denominational post primary school, under the patronage of KWETB. Our school community is committed to our ETB core values of Excellence in Education, Care, Respect, Equality and Community.



## Introduction

Scoil Chonglais has invested significantly in the provision of technologies to aid teaching and learning as well as facilitate remote teaching and learning (where needed) in the school. Scoil Chonglais is committed to the correct and proper use of its ICT resources in support of its teaching & administrative functions.

The inappropriate use of information and communication technology (ICT) resources could expose the school to risks including virus and malicious software attacks, theft and unauthorized disclosure of information, disruption of network systems and / or litigation.

The purpose of this policy is to provide students as users of its ICT resources with clear guidance on the appropriate, safe and legal way in which they can make use of the school's ICT resources.

## Scope

This policy represents the school's position and takes precedence over all other relevant policies. The policy applies to:

- All ICT resources provided by the school.
- All students as users of the school's ICT resources.
- All use (both personal & school related) of the school's ICT resources.
- All connections to (locally or remotely) the school network Domains (LAN/WAN/Wi-Fi).
- All connections made to external networks through the school network.

## General Principles

The acceptable use of the school's ICT resources is based on the following principles:

- All ICT resources and any information stored on them remain the property of our KWETB school.
- Students must ensure that they always use ICT resources in a manner which is lawful, ethical and efficient.
- Students must respect the ICT devices and equipment provided for their use and take all reasonable steps to prevent damage, loss or misplacement.
- Students must respect the rights and property of others, including privacy, confidentiality and intellectual property.
- Students must respect the integrity and security of the school's ICT resources.

Breaches of this policy may be treated as a matter for discipline. Depending on the seriousness of the breach this will be dealt with by the Principal in accordance with the School's Code of Behaviour. For breaches which do not warrant such action, those involved will be advised of the issue and given a reasonable opportunity to put it right.

## **Policy Objectives**

- Protect and maintain the integrity of the facilities and make communications reliable.
- Support teaching and learning.
- Implement best practice in the appropriate use of ICT Resources.
- Ensure that users engage only in the appropriate uses of ICT Resources to meet the needs of staff and students.

## **Digital Strategy**

- ICT now plays a central role in a high quality, 21st century teaching and learning environment.
- There is widespread understanding that learning today needs to entail more than knowledge- acquisition. There needs to be an equally strong emphasis on skill- development, particularly 21st century skills.
- Scoil Chonglais is committed to supporting and informing our staff and students and has introduced the use of ICT devices in all our classrooms.
- How we enable students to learn effectively is an essential part of our digital strategy.
- Key to this strategy is the use of a managed ICT device, i.e. one device per student for the purposes of learning.
- Embedding ICT in teaching, learning and assessment is a complex endeavour and the mere presence of ICT in our school does not equate to its effective use.
- Key to our digital strategy is the engagement of a managed service provider to remove the complexities of managing a device so that the teaching & learning can progress unimpeded.
- Scoil Chonglais will ensure that the service provider has the necessary bona fides i.e. demonstrable experience and can provide an appropriate service level agreement to our students and their families.

## **Responsibilities – Board of Management**

- Our entire school community has a role in implementing the Acceptable Use Policy.
- The Board of Management will approve the policy and ensure its development and evaluation.
- New technologies are developing that may prove valuable to our teaching and learning goals; our role is to evaluate and provide access to them if necessary.
- To consider reports from the principal and ICT department on the implementation of the policy.
- Maintain an approved list of technologies.

## **Responsibilities – Senior Management**

Our entire school community has a role in implementing the Acceptable Use Policy.

- Senior Management will be responsible for the dissemination of the policy including where relevant the application of sanctions.
- To oversee the implementation of the policy.
- To establish structures and procedures for the implementation of the Acceptable Usage Policy.
- To provide parents with the school's Acceptable Use Policy.
- To notify all parties when the policy has been updated.
- To ensure that users understand that failure to adhere to this Acceptable Use Policy will result in the loss of privilege and/or disciplinary action.
- To monitor the implementation of the policy.

### **Responsibilities – ICT Department**

- Our entire school community has a role in implementing the Acceptable Use Policy.
- The ICT department comprises of the SSE Digital Learning Team, the ICT Coordinator and Senior Management. Digital Skills & Wellbeing is also taught as a core part of the Wellbeing curriculum throughout 1st & 2nd year.
- The ICT department will be responsible for the technical implementation of the policy.
- To provide input on the implementation of the policy.
- To establish structures and procedures for the implementation of the Acceptable Use Policy.
- To make the necessary technical arrangements to demonstrate the Acceptable Use Policy in practice.
- Where the Acceptable Use Policy has been breached, report the breach to the principal.
- To monitor the implementation of the policy.

### **Responsibilities – Teaching Staff**

Our entire school community has a role in implementing the Acceptable Use Policy.

- To instruct students in the appropriate use of computer and internet resources.
- To monitor the use of ICT resources.
- To record any violations of the Acceptable Use Policy and inform the principal.
- To impose appropriate sanctions for violations of the Acceptable Use Policy.
- To report incidents of online bullying and be mindful of the obligations under Child Protection Guidelines.

### **Responsibilities – Students**

Our entire school community has a role in implementing the Acceptable Use Policy.

- To agree to exhibit responsible behaviour in the use of all ICT resources.
- Take personal responsibility for not accessing inappropriate material on the internet.
- To accept that Scoil Chonglais is not responsible for materials, or information of any kind, found or acquired on the network.

- To accept that violation of this Acceptable Use Policy may result in access privileges being revoked and that appropriate school discipline and/or legal action may be taken at the discretion of Scoil Chonglais and in line with our Code of Behaviour.

## **Responsibilities – Parents/Guardians**

Our entire school community has a role in implementing the Acceptable Use Policy.

- To become familiar with the school's Acceptable Use Policy and to discuss it with their child.
- To accept responsibility for supervision, if and when a student's use of email and the internet is not in a school setting. Parents are obliged to support the school's Acceptable Use of Policy.

## **Routine Monitoring**

The school reserves the right to routinely monitor, log, audit and record any and all use of its ICT resources for the purposes including:

- Helping to trace and resolve technical faults.
- Protecting and maintaining network and system security.
- Maintaining system performance and availability.
- Ensure the privacy and integrity of information stored on the network.
- Investigating actual and suspected security incidents.
- Preventing, detecting and minimising inappropriate use.
- Protecting the rights and property of the school, its staff, students and wider school community.
- Ensuring compliance with other school policies, current legislation and applicable regulations.

Whilst the school does not routinely monitor an individual's use of its ICT resources it reserves the right to do so when a breach of its policies or illegal activity is suspected. The monitoring may include, but will not be limited to individual login sessions, details of information management systems and records accessed, contents of hard disks, internet sites visited, time spent on the internet, and the content of electronic communications.

Scoil Chonglais will always seek to act in a fair manner and respect the individual user's right regarding the privacy of their personal information under the Data Protection Act 2018.

Information collected through monitoring will not be used for purposes other than those for which the monitoring was introduced, unless it is clearly in the users interest to do so or it reveals activity that the school could not be reasonably expected to ignore, for example a user found to be viewing, downloading or forwarding illegal material must be reported to Gardaí.

Individual monitoring reports will only be accessible to the appropriate authorised personnel and will be deleted when they are no longer required.

## User Accounts & Passwords

Where appropriate, individual students will be granted access to the school's ICT resources.

- Each student, i.e., an authorised user, will be assigned an individual user access account name and
- password set which they can use to access a particular ICT resource.
- Each user is responsible for all activities performed on any ICT device, management information system or software application while logged in under their own individual access account and password.
- Students must ensure all passwords assigned to them are kept secure.
- Students should not use the same password for their personal accounts i.e. social media as their school supplied accounts.
- Students who suspect their password is known by others must report this to the IT Co-ordinator or their Year Head immediately.

## Access to School Network

Access to school network domains and network resources is controlled and managed by the ICT Department.

- Access rights and privileges to the school network domains and network resources will be allocated based on the specific requirement of each student through the ICT Department.
- Access to school network domains will be controlled using individual user accounts.
- Students must not:
  - Disconnect any school ICT devices, equipment or removable storage devices to or from a school network domain without the prior authorisation of the ICT Department.
  - Connect any school ICT devices and equipment, laptop or smart device to an external network without the prior authorisation of the ICT Department.
  - Connect any ICT devices and equipment, laptop, smart device, mobile phone device or removable storage device which is their personal property and is not owned or leased by the school to a school network domain without the prior authorisation of the ICT Department.

## Information Storage

- Students are not permitted to store non-school personal information (i.e. information which is of a personal nature and belongs to the student and not the school) on their school ICT Resource / Device.

- Photographic, video and audio recordings which are taken as part of school business must be transferred from the recording device (i.e. digital camera, video camera, mobile phone, tape recorder etc) onto a school network server or cloud as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- When the transfer is complete the photographic, video or audio recording on the recording device should be deleted.

### **Artificial Intelligence**

- AI will soon become integral to most productivity and creativity tools, blending with human output.
- We aim to guide students to use AI responsibly and effectively, enhancing their understanding of its capabilities and limitations.

### **Students Use of Technology – General**

- Internet sessions will be supervised by a teacher, where possible.
- Filtering software and/or equivalent systems will be used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
- The school can monitor students' Internet usage.
- The use of non-approved software will not be permitted.
- Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.
- The use of digital storage media (e.g. Cloud storage, memory sticks/cards, personal USBs, CDROMs etc.) in school requires a teacher's permission.
- Students will always treat others with respect and will not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute.
- Students are forbidden from opening apps in class or going online, unless instructed to do so, and only for the purposes instructed by a teacher.
- Students will not use school supplied ICT resources except for approved personal reasons.
- School email accounts should not be used to sign up to other non-educational apps or websites.

### **Use of Email**

- Students will use their school email account for educational use and will not use their personal email accounts to communicate with teachers.
- Students will use school supplied school email accounts for communications with teachers (using the teacher's school email account).
- Students will not send or receive any material that is illegal, obscene, defamatory, or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.
- Students will not reveal their own or other people's personal details, such as addresses, telephone/mobile phone numbers or pictures.

- School email accounts for student leavers will be de-activated by the end of September of the next academic year. Leavers must remove all third-party accounts associated with their email account.
- School accounts should not be used for registering third party sites without teacher approval i.e. CAO.

## Internet Use

- Internet access is provided by HEA Net (School-Filtered Broadband) for teaching and learning.
- Appropriate school Wi-Fi is available to all students and staff. The Wi-Fi is password protected for security reasons and to help ensure child and data safety.
- No other networks/personal data (3G, 4G, Personal Hotspots etc.) may be used by students during class time, and all Internet sessions as part of any school activity, unless under the direct instruction/supervision of a teacher.
- Students will not intentionally visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise explicit or objectionable materials.
- Students will report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in accordance with school procedures.
- Students will use the Internet for educational purposes only during class time, and all Internet sessions as part of any school activity.
- Students will not reveal their own or other people's personal details, such as addresses or telephone number of pictures. Students should retain their usernames and password securely.
- Students will never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they only know through emails or other online communication without the permission of their teacher.
- Students will not copy information into assignments and fail to acknowledge the source (plagiarism and copyright infringement). Students will be required to exercise care and attention in citing sources, references, photos/images and to acknowledge copyright if some material is used in their work. When downloading material from the Internet, students will take reasonable care to ensure that the material is from safe sources, copyright-free (where possible) and referenced appropriately.
- Students will never disclose or publicise personal information in relation to themselves or others.
- Downloading of materials or images by students, which is not relevant to their studies, is in direct breach of this Acceptable Usage Policy.
- Students should note that any usage, including distributing or receiving information, school related or personal, may be monitored for unusual activity, security and/or network management reasons.
- School Devices will be available to students. At all times, students must use their school login details and their own storage area on the school supplied cloud.
- It is strictly forbidden for students to delete the work or files of other students from folders on the school network.
- It is strictly forbidden for any student to attempt any act of hacking or other form of sabotage that could compromise the security of the school's network and digital data. Any such action will result in a serious sanction being imposed, including the option to suspend or expel the student involved.

- Students must log out of their own accounts at the end of each Internet session. Students are not permitted to access the school accounts of other students. In the event where a student accesses a school device and finds another student has not logged out, the student accessing the device must log the other student out before proceeding to use the device. The student should also inform the relevant teacher

## Cyber Bullying

- Cyber-bullying is defined as using social network sites, internet, email, etc. to demean, humiliate, exclude, or otherwise undervalue another person through direct or indirect methods.
- Any incident involving a student, current or recent past, as perpetrator or victim, is of concern, but
- especially when both perpetrator and victim are students, current or recent past.
- Social media comments about a member of staff intended to demean, humiliate, exclude, or otherwise undervalue another person will be dealt with in line with our Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Cyber-bullying in any form is a very serious issue and will not be tolerated. Any student who experiences cyber-bullying must report it to the school.
- Any online activity, be it on school-owned or personal devices, that negatively impacts the wellbeing of a student or member of staff will be considered a breach of our Anti-Bullying Policy.
- All reports of cyber-bullying will be taken seriously by the school and appropriate investigative procedures followed, in keeping with the school's Anti-Bullying Policy. Sanctions will be applied, and guidance/counselling offered to students involved in cyber-bullying, in the interest of their well-being.

## Use of Social Media

- The purpose of having school social media accounts include:
  - Communication with the whole school community, especially parents / guardians, regarding specific school information, events & activities.
  - Encourage parent / guardian involvement.
  - Communication with new or prospective parents / guardians.
  - Communication and engagement with the wider community regarding the positive advertisement and marketing of our school.
  - Communication and engagement with other schools and accounts with similar educational interests.
  - Monitor and regulate the school's online presence.
- Only official school social media accounts, or social media as instructed by a teacher, may be accessed by students during class time, and all Internet sessions as part of any school activity.
- Students' personal social media accounts may not be accessed during class time, and all Internet sessions as part of any school activity or using the log-in details ascribed by the school.

- Users should not post anything on school social media channels that could be deemed as offensive – inappropriate or harmful comments/content will be removed immediately.
- Students will not attempt at any time to connect with any member of staff on that staff member’s own personal social media account(s).
- Students should not ask to become “friends” with or “follow” staff as failure to respond may cause offence.

## **School Website / Social Media Accounts**

- Students are strictly prohibited from creating, managing, or contributing to social media accounts that claim to represent, or are about, the school without explicit, written consent from the Principal.
- Impersonation of the school, its staff, or its students on social media platforms is considered a serious breach of this Acceptable Usage Policy.
- Unauthorised use of the school's crest or other identifying marks on social media will also be treated as a violation and will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Accounts found to be in violation will be reported to the respective social media platforms for removal, in addition to any school-based measures.
- Violations may result in a range of consequences, from temporary suspension of technology privileges, suspension to potential legal action, depending on the severity and impact of the infringement.
- The school retains the right to take proactive measures, such as routine monitoring or periodic audits, to ensure compliance with this Acceptable Usage Policy.
- It is the collective responsibility of all members of the school community to report any social media accounts found to be in violation of this policy, to ensure the protection and accurate representation of the school’s identity online.

## **Recordings**

- Only recordings permitted by a teacher in class are allowed.
- Students are forbidden from taking photos, video or sound recordings of anyone in the school (including students, staff, parents and visitors) unless permitted to do so by a teacher, and in accordance with the School’s Data Protection Policy and this policy.
- Students must not share such material online without the clear permission of a teacher and only for educational or school promotional purposes.
- Students may be digitally recorded for educational purposes throughout their time in Scoil Chonglais. Such purposes include Classroom-Based Assessments, extra-curricular activities, and participation in educational activities.
- Recordings will be stored on school devices (e.g., digital cameras, school smart devices) and reasonable care will be taken to store recordings securely on the device and on the school’s network. This includes both subject-related recordings and recordings of extra-curricular activities in which students are engaged.
- Some recordings will be brought to Subject Learning and Review Meetings by teachers to discuss and determine appropriate grade descriptors. Where it is necessary to store such recordings, reasonable care will be taken by teachers to ensure the safe keeping of such recordings on the school server and/or school cloud.

- All recordings will take place in line with the Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Procedures.
- Subject Learning and Review meetings will see recordings deleted soon after.
- Recordings (e.g. photographs, short video clips) may also be taken of school and extra-curricular activities and events – in the interest of creating a pictorial as well as historical record of life at the school, and may be published on our school website, app, on social media or in brochures, yearbooks, newsletters, local and national news media or similar school-related publications used for promotional purposes of the school, e.g. via the school's official social media accounts. Consent is sought from parents regarding this use of photographs / videos / recordings on an opt-in basis.
- Photographs and video recordings (including CCTV recordings) may also be taken of specific school and extra-curricular activities and events such as sports matches and school trips. The school does not seek consent for this purpose, as it considers that it is necessary for the school's legitimate interests to evaluate and/or monitor or improve its educational or support services, health and safety of students and staff and site security.

## **Examinations**

- Mobile phones, Smart watches or other WiFi enabled devices are not permitted in an examination centre. Phones and Smart watches should be secured in the student's locker or off premises.

## **Unacceptable Use**

The following list should not be seen as exhaustive. The school will refer any use of its ICT resources for illegal activities to the Gardaí.

- Political activities, such as promoting a political party / movement, or a candidate for political office.
- To knowingly misrepresent the school.
- To store or transfer confidential or restricted information on a USB memory stick.
- To create, view, download, host or transmit material of a pornographic or sexual nature or which may generally be considered offensive or obscene and could cause offence to others on the grounds of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age or political beliefs. Material is defined as information (irrespective of format), images, video clips, audio recordings etc.
- To retrieve, create, host or transmit material which is designed to cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety to others.
- To retrieve, create, host or transmit material which is defamatory.
- Any activity that would infringe intellectual property rights (e.g. unlicensed installation, distribution or copying of copyrighted material).
- For any activity that would compromise the privacy of others.
- For any activity that would intentionally cause disruption to the computer systems, telephone systems or networks belonging to the school or others.
- Any activity that would deliberately cause the corruption or destruction of data belonging to the school or others.

- Any activity that would intentionally compromise the security of the school's ICT resources, including the confidentiality and integrity of information and availability of ICT resources (e.g. by deliberately or carelessly causing computer virus and malicious software infection).
- The installation and use of software or hardware which could be used to probe or hack the school ICT security controls.
- For the installation and use of software or hardware which could be used for the unauthorised monitoring of electronic communications within the school or elsewhere.
- To gain access to information management systems or information belonging to the school or others which you are not authorised to use.
- Creating or transmitting "junk" or "spam" emails. This includes but is not limited to unsolicited commercial emails, jokes, chain-letters or advertisements.
- Any activity that would constitute a criminal offence, give rise to a civil liability or otherwise violate any law.

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## **Ratification by Board of Management**

This policy was adopted and ratified by the Board of Management on **23/03/2026**

## **Board of Management Next Review**

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management in **March 2027**