



Acceptable Internet Use Statement 2024

During School Hours

Internet access is made available to students enrolled at DNI to further their education and to staff to enhance their professional activities including teaching, research, administration and management. The school's internet access policy has been drawn up to protect all parties - the students, the staff and the school. The school reserves the right to examine or delete any files that may be held on our drive or to monitor any internet sites visited. This includes mobile phones or devices being used by students during school hours.

- Access must only be made via the authorised account and password, which must not be made available to any other person.
- All internet use should be appropriate to student's education.
- Activity that threatens the integrity of the school ICT systems, or that attacks or corrupts other systems, is forbidden.
- Sites accessed and materials viewed and/or downloaded must be appropriate to work in school. Users will recognise materials that are inappropriate and should expect to have their access revoked if it is used inappropriately.
- Users are responsible for e-mail they send and for contacts made that may result in e-mail being received.
- The normal rules of social interaction apply to e-mail. The remoteness of the recipients must not be used to excuse anti-social behaviour: harassment, intimidation and bullying behaviour.
- The same professional levels of language and content should be applied as for letters or other media, particularly as e-mail is often forwarded.
- Posting anonymous messages and forwarding anonymous communication is forbidden.
- Social media - most social media has a minimum age to create an account. Facebook and Snapchat for instance requires everyone to be at least **13 years old** before they can join. Creating an account with false information is a violation of their terms. This includes accounts registered on the behalf of someone under 13. While we have little control over how students use technology outside of school, we wholeheartedly support this age limit as we find that many conflicts arise, or are continued via social media. Using social media sites at school are not permitted.
- Copyright of materials and intellectual property rights must be respected.
- Legitimate private interests may be followed, providing school use is not compromised.
- Use for personal financial gain, gambling, political purposes or advertising is forbidden.
- Improper use of technology (or lack of care), that results in damage, will likely result in an expectation that whānau contribute financially to replacement/repair costs

Mobile Phones:

Mobile phones are not permitted at DNI. More and more we are concerned that not only are mobile phones not enhancing our children's lives, but are potentially damaging. We are certainly not seeing any educational benefit to students having access to phones at school and more and more time is being wasted in managing phone issues. As such students are not permitted to have a phone at school.

We know that some whānau want students to have access to a phone before and after school and so we will store phones for students during the day. While we'll do our best to manage this, whānau should be aware that we are not willing to take responsibility for loss or damage.

Using phones at other times in the day will result in the phone being removed from the student and we'll expect a parent to come and collect it from the office. We appreciate that this is inconvenient so please do discuss this with your child to ensure that they uphold their responsibility around this.

If you need to contact your child urgently during school time please phone the school office.

☰ Student Cell Phone Policy

Outside of School Hours

While devices and the internet are a well entrenched and can be a valuable educational tool, we also believe that parents/caregivers should not underestimate the negative impacts of unmonitored internet access and we cannot stress strongly enough the need for you, as parents/caregivers, to have really tight boundaries on internet and phone usage outside of school. We are also experiencing many children exhibiting behaviours akin to addiction around use of screens and there is [mounting research around potential damage to young brains](#).

Our recommendations include:

- No screens (phones, computers, ipads) after 7.00pm - sleep is vital and children this age need **at least** 8-10 hrs minimum
- No screens in bedrooms (buy an alarm clock if your child needs one)
- Use Parental Control Software such as for example Net Nanny <https://www.netnanny.com/>
- Make use of internet filtering that allows you to shut down internet to particular devices at certain times
- No illegal use of social media/games (note that most social media platforms are R13 and games such as Fortnite are R12 - there is a good reason for this).
- Check out Netsafe <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/social-media-parents/>
- A negotiated limit on how many hours children spend in front a screen per day (suggest 1 hour maximum)

More and more the associated effects of inappropriate internet usage (especially around social media) are spilling into school and affecting children negatively. It is time consuming and difficult to resolve internet based issues and our first question to you as parents/caregivers will be “have you addressed the recommendations listed above”.

With regard to social media, it is our strong belief that it does little to enhance the lives of children and in fact often results in low self confidence and insidious bullying. We find that social media is addictive for children and they become reliant on ‘likes’ and online feedback to guide daily life. Like any addiction we know is hard to quit, but we strongly suggest that if your child is already connected to these platforms, you reduce or remove access.

We are confident in our ability to manage unkind behaviour and bullying at school. We have excellent processes that are tried and true. Conversely, have no power to manage social media usage. Allowing children access to social media opens them to bullying, and nine times out of 10 this is the ignitor to any issues we see at school. By allowing children access to social media you are seriously exposing them to risk of bullying and we can not stress enough the need for you to have tight controls on phones, internet and social media.

Regrettably we are not in a position to help resolve internet/device issues unless you have ensured that the above recommendations are in place.

Students requesting internet access at school should sign a copy of this Acceptable Internet Use Statement and return it to their teacher.

Student’s name _____ Signed _____ Date _____

Parent’s name _____ Signed _____ Date _____

STAFF - THIS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE OFFICE ONCE SIGNED BY BOTH PARTIES

[Netsafe Advice to parents on instagram](#)