

School Internet Policy

Pupil access to the Internet

Internet access is available to pupils. The school is pleased to offer this tool as an available resource to both pupils and teachers for reference purposes and for researching project materials. Pupils will have access to thousands of libraries and databases on every subject written.

Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation for living and working in the coming information age. The school will integrate such information as appropriate within the curriculum, and staff will provide guidance and instruction to pupils in the appropriate use of such resources.

Pupils' use of telecommunications and electronic information will only be permitted upon submission of permission and agreement forms by parents of pupils, and pupils themselves agreeing not to use the internet in any inappropriate way.

Email

Electronic mail (email), allows pupils to communicate with peers and educationalists around the world. Pupils will send and receive emails during supervised sessions. Personal information about the child will not be disclosed without permission from the teacher supervising the session. Email messages, which make the pupil uncomfortable, must be reported to the teacher. Pupils are not permitted to respond to such messages. The allocation of personal email addresses to individual pupils is not recommended.

World Wide Web:

Access to on-line resources will enable pupils to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards throughout the world. The school believes that the benefits to pupils from access to information resources and increased opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. Pupils will not be given access to the Internet without teacher supervision. The school uses filtering software, which, while not entirely foolproof, will greatly reduce the risk of deliberate or inadvertent access to undesirable material i.e. expletive words, pictures, or unsuitable content. Teachers regularly check computer logs of all information accessed by pupils.

School Website

The school website is www.stmacartans.ie

Pupils may create projects, artwork or writing which would be suitable for publication on the 'WWW.' The work will appear in an educational context on web pages with a copyright notice prohibiting the copying of such work without express written permission. The home address, telephone numbers or personnel details of pupils will not appear with such work.

Particular care will be taken where photographs of pupils are being used on the school website. Personal pupil information including home address and contact details will be omitted from school web pages.

Data Protection Act

The Data Protection Act 1998 was passed to deal with privacy issues arising from the increasing amount of information kept on computer about individuals. In accordance with the Act, the school only publishes pupil information that is relevant to the context of the webpage. Parents are informed of pupil information on the school website.

Ratified by BOM 4th October 2011.