STUDENT TECHNOLOGY/INTERNET USE

Background

The use of technology must be in support of education or research and adhere to the educational goals and objectives of the Division. While some material accessible via the internet may contain information that is inappropriate or inaccurate, the Division believes that the benefits to students exceed the disadvantages. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children are to follow when using network resources.

Procedures

1. Students are responsible for appropriate behaviour when using technology and the internet just as they are in a classroom or hallway. Students are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette which shall be reviewed with students on an annual basis and posted in computer labs (see the appendix to this administrative procedure).

2. A user name and password may be assigned to those students whose parents have signed an Acceptable Use Form and returned it to the school. Sharing assigned passwords is a violation of the Technology Use Agreement.

3. The Division has implemented voice, data and video electronic communication systems that will allow educational opportunities for students and staff to communicate, learn and publish information. These network resources provide staff and students access to electronic resources and are to be used for educational purposes only. Communication over Division networks is not to be considered private. Network supervision and maintenance may require review and inspection of network activity.

4. The Division staff will exercise reasonable oversight to ensure that the communication and technology resources and facilities are used in the appropriate manner. The Division makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the Division system will be error-free or without defect. The Division will not be responsible for any damages suffered including, but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The Division is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information attained through or stored on the system. The Division will not be responsible for financial obligations arising from unauthorized use of the system.

5. Physical access to the Internet for both students and teachers includes the availability of computer equipment at school, adequate skills instruction in using the basic tool of on-line research.

   Physical access protocol shall be detailed in individual school procedures.

6. Programs that give students physical access to the Internet must also teach them responsible and ethical use of this resource. The general rules and behaviours for Internet usage are contained in the following:

6.1 Access to the Internet is an individual privilege, not a right. Any student who violates the guidelines, or any other code of conduct outlined by an individual school, will have his/her access removed for such a period of time as it is deemed appropriate by the teacher, instructional assistant or school administrator.

6.2 Generally, a student's conduct on the Internet is governed by the same expectations which guide his/her behaviour at school.

6.3 Access to the Internet will only be provided while a student is under the supervision of a teacher or instructional assistant.

6.4 Students may not be given access to any passwords necessary to access the Internet.

6.5 All incidents of accessing inappropriate material will be handled according to the Internet Acceptable Use Procedures.

6.6 Students must have a specific educational purpose before gaining access to the Internet, i.e. research or communication with another school. The school will not provide access for students to use the Internet to "free surf" without purpose or direction.

6.7 Students will not access, create, distribute, download or save any text, sounds, graphics or other materials which are obscene, harassing, racist, malicious, fraudulent, libelous or which may affect the integrity of a computer or computer network.

6.8 Students may not attempt to read, copy or exchange files or passwords belonging to other people, either locally, or on the Internet, unless authorized to do so by those individuals.

6.9 All students will participate in an orientation session concerning the acceptable use of Internet before they may access the Internet. They will then complete the Student Network/Internet Use Agreement form before access is granted.

7. In-service relating to Internet usage and etiquette must be available to teachers. Those teachers wishing to use the Internet with their classes have the responsibility to pass on those skills and to explain the Internet Acceptable Use Guidelines to their students, see 2.9 above.

8. Regular in-service to teachers is to include an exploration of the various teaching methods and strategies that make most effective use of the Internet.

9. Parents will sign the Parent/Guardian Network/Internet User Agreement, signifying their understanding and acceptance of Division procedures concerning the student use of the Internet.

10. Each school will develop procedures, specific to its own situation, with respect to use of computers, computer programs, telecommunications and Internet access. These procedures will be developed in consultation with the School Community Council.

   10.1 It is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Education to ensure that appropriate procedures are in place in each school under his/her supervision.

   10.2 Principals are responsible to ensure:

      10.2.1 That the procedures are clearly communicated to all users, and parents of users;

      10.2.2 That all staff members have responsibility to monitor user access and user distribution of information;

      10.2.3 That the procedures and practice meet school and Division goals of education.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 108, 109 Education Act