



POLICY NAME:	SCHOOL INTERNET FILTERING POLICY				
APPROVAL AUTHORITY:	PRINCIPAL	ADOPTED:	03.05.2021	REVIEWED:	03.10.2022
RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE:	E-SAFETY OFFICER	REVISED:	15.4.2025	NEXT REVIEW ON:	15.4.2026
RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:	IT DEPARTMENT	AVAILABLE:	IN THE LIBRARY, WEBSITE, NLP		

The contents of this policy pay close attention to the following Internet Safety and Acceptable Use of the Internet and Digital Technologies in Schools

IPHS takes internet use and the associated safety of our pupils extremely seriously. It is important to note, however, that any filtering service, no matter how thorough, can never be comprehensive and it is essential both that schools have a clearly understood policy on acceptable use for all users and that adequate supervision is maintained. If at any time school staff or pupils find themselves able to access internet sites from within school which they think should be blocked, they should advise the school Principal, IT support staff or the e safety officer.

IPHS uses ETISALAT for internet access (fiber optic broadband). Server has an effective filtering system, as a result of which the following categories of websites are not, by default, available to schools:

- Adult: content containing sexually explicit images, video or text, the depiction of actual or realistic sexual activity;
- Violence: content containing graphically violent images, video or text;
- Hate Material: content which promotes violence or attack on individuals or institutions on the basis of religious, racial or gender grounds;
- Illegal drug taking and the promotion of illegal drug use: content relating to the use or promotion of illegal drugs or misuse of prescription drugs
- Criminal skill/activity: content relating to the promotion of criminal and other activities;
- Gambling: content relating to the use of online gambling websites or information relating to the promotion of gambling and gambling advice

At school level it is the school's responsibility to ensure that the filtering system provided is of an appropriate standard to ensure the safety of its pupils. The schools Wi-Fi and infrastructure has been installed and is maintained with an active, monitored filter system to satisfy both the needs of child protection/inappropriate content whilst ensuring that it serves to support teaching and learning.

Access provided at class rooms and IT lab has limited access to 14 sites only.

Access to the network is provided through password authentication. This key is not available to any staff aside from the school SLT. Access is therefore governed by IT support and on pre approval by authorized staff only can be obtained. No devices can join the network without this approval and authentication.

Inbuilt firewall filter intercepts all Internet traffic leaving and entering the school network and this cannot be circumvented. In addition, IP and URL are listed which ensures any unsafe content or non desirable on the network, can be disabled immediately

If a website falls into a category that is not deemed acceptable for use in the classroom. The user will be subject to viewing an “unsuitable” notification on the web browser and this activity logged to user and device level. The school maintains a rolling list of websites requested by teaching staff, checked and approved to be exempt from category filtering and this is available in school.

This list is maintained by the ICT technician and relevant e Safety coordinator.

Web sites are added to a specific blocking list where required.

Internet Safety Instruction

In accordance with ICT policy students in grades 1 to 12 are made aware on proper and safe use of the Internet. IT dept. shall provide technical assistance to assist in the development of curricula for such course of study which shall be age appropriate and developed according to the needs and abilities of students at successive grade levels in order to provide awareness, skills, information and support to aid in the safe usage of the Internet.

Under the Protecting Children in the 21st Century, students will also be educated on appropriate interactions with other individuals on social networking Web sites and in chat rooms, as well as cyber bullying awareness and response.

Access to Inappropriate Content/Material and Use of Personal Technology or Electronic Devices

Despite the existence of various policy, regulations and guidelines, it is virtually impossible to completely prevent access to content or material that may be considered inappropriate for students. Students may have the ability to access such content or material from their home, other locations off school premises and/or with a student’s own personal technology or electronic device on school grounds or at school events.

IPHS is not responsible for inappropriate content or material accessed via a student’s own personal technology or electronic device or via an unfiltered Internet connection received through a student’s own personal technology or electronic device.

Notification

Acceptable Use Policy will be disseminated to parents and students in order to provide notice of the school’s requirements, expectations, and student’s obligations when accessing the Internet.