

PCS: Electronic Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy

The Internet, while supporting the school's curriculum, will help our students achieve some of the goals of Christian education.

The Internet is the library of the new millennium. As with libraries as we currently know them, the Internet provides access to massive amounts of information. Much of this information is very good, but some of it can be harmful and detrimental to the health of our children.

At PCS we feel that, along with the home, it is our responsibility to teach the students discernment. They live in this world and every day they are bombarded with its value system through TV, newspapers, magazines and listening to the talk on the streets in their communities.

At PCS, we believe that information technology has God-honouring uses and applications and we need to educate students in the proper uses of this technology and in respectful use of the Internet for educational purposes and computer resources. To allow students to access the incredible wealth of information about God's world using the internet, blocking features will be in place to protect our students from access to unsuitable sites. Along with this, students will also be taught that the Internet contains unacceptable sites that they are not permitted to access.

Information Technology based learning is carried out by PCS staff or the Information Technology teacher, who will be present while the students are working on the computers. It is expected that this Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) will be read and discussed with your children. The Student Use Agreement is to be signed and returned to the school. A goal at PCS is to equip children to love, honour and serve the Lord through a sound Christ-centered education. This education includes access to the Internet for educational purposes.

While our children are exposed to such technology, we must remain committed to ensuring our Christian perspective permeates all areas of study. It is with this objective in mind that the guidelines for the Acceptable Use Policy be established.

Guidelines:

1. Student Safety:

- a. Students generally should not reveal personal contact information about themselves (full name, address, phone number) when using the Internet.
- b. Students shall agree to not meet with anyone they have met online.

2. Student Access to the Internet:

- a. Students shall not access material using the Internet system that has been deemed inappropriate for school use. Inappropriate material is defined as:
 - Dangerous Information – information that if acted upon could damage or presents a danger.
 - Criminal language – information that advocates or condones the commission of unlawful acts including instructions on breaking into computer systems, child pornography, drug dealing, gang activities, etc.
 - Inappropriate language or media – obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, pornographic, disrespectful, threatening, or inflammatory language; harassment; personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks; false or defamatory material about a person or organization.
- b. Should students accidentally encounter inappropriate material or receive inappropriate e-mail or information that makes them feel uncomfortable, they shall immediately report it to their teacher.
- c. Students shall not post inappropriate or illegal material to the Internet.
- d. Students shall not use inappropriate language in e-mail messages.
- e. Students shall not send “spam”. (sending annoying or unnecessary messages to a large number of people, such as chain letters)
- f. Students shall not download or install any software, onto network drives or disks.
- g. Students shall not deliberately attempt to disrupt the computer system performance or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means.
- h. Students shall not read, copy, modify or erase other people’s files without permission.
- i. Students shall not violate privacy of others by sharing photos or text without permission.

3. Limitations on Non-Educational Activities:

Students shall not use the Internet for the following non-educational activities:

- a. Students shall not use the Internet system for commercial purposes, defined as offering or providing products or services.
- b. Students shall not use the Internet system for purchasing products or services.
- c. Students shall not use the Internet system for political lobbying except to analyze legislative measures and communicate their opinion to elected officials via the Internet.

d. Students shall not use the Internet system to download unapproved software or applications.

4. Student Privacy:

Students acknowledge that the routine maintenance and monitoring of the system may lead to discovery that they have violated the law or a school rules. Pacific Christian School reserves the right to monitor usage which may include searching e-mail messages or Internet cache files.

5. Plagiarism and Copyright:

a. Students shall not reproduce copyrighted material without explicit permission.

b. Students shall not plagiarize. Students shall stay within the bounds of the "fair use doctrine" of copyright law and must cite the source of information taken from the Internet.

6. Discipline:

a. Students will receive notification about an alleged violation and will be allowed to tell their side of the story.

b. PCS may suspend access to our Information Technology systems upon any violation of the AUP.

c. Violation of the policy when using the Internet system will be handled in accord with the Discipline Policy of the school.

d. Suspicion of illegal activity when using the Internet system or violation of the law will result in the appropriate legal authorities being contacted to handle the situation.

Parent or Guardian Section

I have read the Acceptable Use Policy.

I hereby release PCS, its personnel, and any institutions with which is it affiliated, from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my child's use of, or inability to use, the Internet system, including, but not limited to claims that may arise from the unauthorized use of the system to purchase products or services.