



Assumption Junior
National School
Walkinstown, Dublin 12
D12EH70

Telephone: 014507613
Email:
secretary@assumptionjns.com
Web:
<https://www.assumptionjns.com/>

Assumption Junior National School

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Date of Commencement: 11/02/2026

Author: Dean Vaughan (Digital Learning Coordinator)





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General Approach

The aim of this Acceptable Use Policy is to ensure that students will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's digital resources in a safe and effective manner. The responsible use of internet and digital technologies, both online and offline and access is considered an integral part of teaching and learning. Therefore, if the school AUP is not adhered to agreed sanctions will be imposed.

It is envisaged that school and parent representatives will revise the AUP at least annually. Before signing, the AUP should be read carefully to ensure that the conditions of use are accepted and understood.

When using the internet students, parents and staff are expected:

- To treat others with respect at all times.
- Not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute.
- Respect the right to privacy of all other members of the school community.
- Respect copyright and acknowledge creators when using online content and resources.

The school employs a number of strategies in order to maximise learning opportunities and reduce risks associated with the Internet. These strategies are as follows:

- Filtering software and/or equivalent systems will be used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software will not be permitted.
- The use of personal external digital storage media in school requires school permission.



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- Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.
 - Internet use within school will always be supervised by a teacher.

This Acceptable Use Policy applies to students who have access to and are users of the internet in Assumption Junior National School.

- It also applies to members of staff, volunteers, parents, carers and others who access the internet in Assumption Junior National School.

Misuse of the internet may result in disciplinary action, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges, detention and, in extreme cases, suspension or expulsion. The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities.

Assumption Junior National School implements the following strategies on promoting safer use of the internet:

- Pupils will be provided with education in the area of internet safety as part of our implementation of the SPHE and other curriculum areas.
- Internet safety advice and support opportunities are provided to pupils in Assumption Junior National School through our SPHE curriculum, Digital Learning lessons, Safer Internet Day activities, and whole-school initiatives promoting responsible and respectful online behaviour.
- Teachers will be provided with continuing professional development opportunities in the area of internet safety.
- Assumption Junior National School participates in Safer Internet Day activities to promote safer more effective use of the internet.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed annually by the following stakeholders:

Board of Management, teaching staff, and pupils.



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This policy has been developed by a working group including Principal, Deputy Principal, teachers, students, parents/carers, and representatives of the Board of Management.

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- Logs of reported incidents.
- Monitoring logs of internet activity (including sites visited).
- Internal monitoring data for network activity.
- Surveys and/or questionnaires of pupils, parents, and teaching staff.

Should serious online safety incidents take place, the Principal (or the designated Deputy Principal in their absence) must be informed immediately. The matter will be addressed in line with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, Anti-Bullying Policy, and Code of Behaviour.

The implementation of this Internet Acceptable Use policy will be monitored by the Principal and the Digital Learning Leader.



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Content Filtering

Assumption Junior National School has chosen to implement the following level on content filtering on the Schools Broadband Network:

Level 4 This level allows access to millions of websites including games and YouTube but blocks access to websites belonging to the personal websites category and websites such as Facebook belonging to the Social Networking category.

Students taking steps to bypass the content filter by using proxy sites or other means may be subject to disciplinary action, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges, detention and, in extreme cases, suspension or expulsion.



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Internet Use

Students will not intentionally visit internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.

Students will be encouraged to report accidental accessing of inappropriate materials in accordance with school procedures.

If a student accidentally accesses inappropriate or distressing material while using school devices, they must immediately inform their class teacher, who will in turn notify the Principal (DLP). The incident will be recorded and addressed following school policy.

Students will not copy information into assignments and fail to acknowledge the source (plagiarism and copyright infringement).

Students and staff will be aware that any usage, including distributing or receiving information, school-related or personal, may be monitored for unusual activity, security and/or network management reasons.

Students will use the Internet for educational purposes only.

Students will not engage in online activities such as uploading or downloading large files that result in heavy network traffic which impairs the service for other internet users.

Students will not download or view any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

Downloading by students of materials or images not relevant to their studies is in direct breach of the school's acceptable use policy.



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Students will never disclose or publicise personal information or passwords.

Students will be aware that any usage of the internet and school's digital platform, including distributing or receiving information, school-related or personal, will be monitored.

Use of file sharing and torrent sites is allowed with staff permission.



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Email and Messaging

Downloading by students of materials or images not relevant to their studies is allowed with staff permission.

Students will not send any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

Students should immediately report the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication.

Students will not reveal their own or other people's personal details, such as addresses or telephone numbers or pictures.

Students will never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they only know through emails or the internet.

Students should report the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication. Pupils should report any such communications to a teacher.

All emails and opinions expressed in email are the responsibility of the author and do not reflect the opinion of the school.



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Social Media and messaging services for Staff and Students

The internet provides a range of social media tools that allow us to interact and keep in touch. While recognising the benefits of these media for new opportunities for communication, this policy sets out the principles that members of your school community are expected to follow when using social media.

The principles set out in this policy are designed to help ensure that social media is used responsibly so that the confidentiality of pupils and other staff and the reputation of the school is protected.

This policy applies to personal websites such as social networking sites (for example Instagram and TikTok), blogs, microblogs such as X, chatrooms, forums, podcasts, open access online encyclopaedias such as Wikipedia, social bookmarking sites such as del.icio.us and content sharing sites such as flickr and YouTube. The internet is a fast-moving technology, and it is impossible to cover all circumstances or emerging media.

The following statements apply to the use of messaging, blogging and video streaming services in Assumption Junior National School:

- Use of instant messaging services and apps including Snapchat, WhatsApp, Viber, etc. is not allowed in Assumption Junior National School.
- Use of blogs such as WordPress, Tumblr etc. is not allowed in Assumption Junior National School.
- Use of video streaming sites such as YouTube and Vimeo etc. is with express permission from teaching staff.



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All members of the school community must not use social media, messaging services and the internet in any way to harass, impersonate, insult, abuse or defame others.

Staff and students must not discuss personal information about pupils, staff and other members of the Assumption Junior National School community on social media.

Staff and students must not use school email addresses for setting up personal social media accounts or to communicate through such media.

Staff and students must not engage in activities involving social media which might bring Assumption Junior National School into disrepute.

Staff and Students must not represent your personal views as those of bring Assumption Junior National School on any social medium.

Students will be provided with guidance on etiquette regarding social media.

Teachers can read further information about the use of social media and Electronic Communication here: <https://www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/news-events/latest-news/2021/guidance-for-registered-teachers-about-the-use-of-social-media-and-electronic-communication.html>



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Personal Devices

The following statements apply to the use of internet-enabled devices such as tablets, gaming devices, smartwatches, in Assumption Junior National School:

- Students are not allowed to bring personal internet-enabled devices into Assumption Junior National School.
- Students are not allowed to use personal internet-enabled devices during lessons.
- Students are not allowed to use personal internet-enabled devices during social time.



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Digital Learning Platforms (including video conferencing)

Assumption Junior National School digital learning platform is owned and managed by the school. This platform should enable two-way communication.

Only school devices should be used for the purposes of capturing and storing media.

All school-related media and data should be stored on the school's platform.

The use of digital platforms should be used in line with considerations set out in the school's data protection plan (GDPR).

Each user of the platform will be provided with their own unique login credentials.

Passwords for digital platforms and accounts should not be shared.

Personal email addresses should not be used when creating accounts on school digital platforms.

Prior acceptance from parents should be sought for student usage of the schools' digital learning platform.



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PLAN FOR REMOTE LEARNING

Whole School Closure

- All classes will use the Aladdin Connect Homework function on the Connect app to communicate with parents and assign work to pupils. Pictures of the children's completed work can be sent back through the app for teacher correction and comment.
- The following work will be set daily: English, Gaeilge, Maths and one other area (e.g.: SESE, art, music, SPHE etc.).
- All teachers will give daily feedback on each piece of work submitted by the pupil.
- Each year-group will work collaboratively to utilise existing online video/audio resources to assist in teaching new concepts to pupils.
- Links to instructional documents and video on how to use Aladdin Connect Homework will be sent to all parents.
- Parents and teachers will continue to be able to communicate through the dedicated teacher email addresses.
- Teachers will continue to use the Noticeboard feature in the Aladdin Connect App to communicate with parents.
- Teachers may also contact parents by phone.
- Parents will be able to contact the school office through the usual secretary@assumptionjns.com email address.

Whole School Closure – Pupils Currently Receiving Additional Support

- Children who are receiving additional support with their schoolwork from our SEN team will receive activity packs on a fortnightly basis.
- The first of these packs will be distributed to the children in school.
- In the event a full school closure extends beyond two weeks, further packs will be available to be collected by parents from the school.
- Specific arrangements to facilitate the distribution of resources will be communicated to parents through Aladdin Connect.
- SEN teachers will stay in touch with their pupils through regular contact via parent email, phone and in some cases Aladdin Connect.
- SNAs will liaise with SEN teachers to help plan and deliver appropriate work to their pupils

Pupils on Restricted Movement

- All classes will use the Aladdin Connect Homework function on the Connect app to communicate with parents and assign work to pupils. Pictures of the children's completed work can be sent back through the app for teacher correction and comment.
- Work set will reflect the work completed in class daily.
- Pupils can also complete the daily homework set by the class teachers for all children and return this through the Connect App for correction and comment.
- If a child is put on restricted movement outside of school hours the class teacher will make arrangements through the Connect App to have books and resources made ready for collection by parents.
- If a child who usually receives additional support with their schoolwork from our SEN team is placed on restricted movement the class teacher and SEN teacher will discuss how best to



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meet the pupil's needs while at home. An individual approach will be taken in each case and appropriate work will be set by the teachers involved.

- Parents and teachers will continue to communicate through the Connect App and the teacher email addresses.
- A decision will be taken by school staff in advance of each school break, whether to send books and resources home with pupils in the event of an unexpected extended closure or in the event that some pupils do not return after the break because they must restrict their movements.



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Audio, images and video

Care should be taken when capturing audio, photographic or video images that learners are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.

At Assumption Junior National School students must not record audio, take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.

Recording audio, taking photos or videos on school grounds or when participating in school activities is only allowed with expressed permission from staff.

Written consent from parents or guardians will be obtained at the time of enrolment regarding the use of their child's image, voice, or work for school-related purposes. This includes publication on the school website, school-managed social media accounts, or digital newsletters.

Only students whose parents or guardians have provided consent will appear in photographs, videos, or audio recordings shared by the school.

Students must not share audio, images, videos or other content online with the intention to harm another member of the school community regardless of whether this happens in school or outside.

Sharing explicit images/video and in particular explicit images/video of students and/or minors is unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour, with serious consequences and sanctions for those involved. Sharing explicit images/video of other students automatically incurs suspension as a sanction.



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Inappropriate Activities

- Promotion or conduct of illegal acts, e.g. under child protection, obscenity, computer misuse and fraud legislation
- Misuse and fraud legislation
- Racist material
- Pornography
- Promotion of any kind of discrimination
- Promotion of racial or religious hatred
- Harmful content or threatening behaviour, including promotion of physical violence or mental harm
- Any other information which may be offensive to colleagues or breaches the integrity of the ethos of the school or brings the school into disrepute
- Using school systems to run a private business
- Use systems, applications, websites or other mechanisms that bypass the filtering or other safeguards employed by the school
- Uploading, downloading or transmitting commercial software or any copyrighted materials belonging to third parties, without the necessary licensing permissions
- Revealing or publicising confidential or proprietary information (e.g. financial / personal information, databases, computer / network access codes and passwords)
- Creating or propagating computer viruses or other harmful files
- Carrying out sustained or instantaneous high volume network traffic (downloading / uploading files) that causes network congestion and hinders others in their use of the internet



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- Online gaming
 - Online gambling
 - Online shopping
 - Use of social networking sites, instant messaging and online forums
 - Child sexual abuse material
 - Any other activity considered questionable



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School Websites

The website will be regularly checked to ensure that there is no content that compromises the safety, privacy, or reputation of students or staff.

Webpages allowing comments or user-generated content will be pre-moderated and checked frequently to ensure that they do not contain any inappropriate or offensive content.

Assumption Junior National School will use only digital photographs, audio or video clips of focusing on group activities. Content focusing on individual students will only be published on the school website with parental permission.

The publication of student work will be coordinated by a teacher.

Personal student information including home address and contact details will not be published on Assumption Junior National School web pages.

The Assumption Junior National School will avoid publishing the first name and last name of pupils in video or photograph captions published online.

The school will ensure that the image files are appropriately named and will not use students' names in image file names or ALT tags if published online.



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Cyberbullying

In accordance with the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Schools, Assumption Junior National School considers that posting a single harmful message/image/video online which is highly likely to be reposted or shared with others can however be seen as bullying behaviour.

This type of bullying is increasingly common and is continuously evolving. It is bullying carried out through the use of information and communication technologies such as text, social media, e-mail, messaging, apps, gaming sites, chatrooms and other online technologies. Being the target of inappropriate or hurtful messages is the most common form of online bullying. As cyberbullying uses technology to perpetrate bullying behaviour and does not require face to face contact, cyberbullying can occur at any time (day or night). Many forms of bullying can be facilitated through cyberbullying. For example, a target may be sent homophobic text messages or pictures may be posted with negative comments about a person's sexuality, appearance etc.

Access to technology means that cyberbullying can happen around the clock and the student's home may not even be a safe haven from such bullying. Students are increasingly communicating in ways that are often unknown to adults and free from supervision. The nature of these technologies means digital content can be shared and seen by a very wide audience almost instantly and is almost impossible to delete permanently. While cyberbullying often takes place at home and at night, the impact can also be felt in school.

In accordance with the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Schools, Assumption Junior National School considers that a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or other public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.

When using the internet students, parents and staff are expected to treat others with respect at all times.



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Engaging in online activities with the intention to harm, harass, or embarrass another student or member of staff is an unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour, with serious consequences and sanctions for those involved.

Measures are taken by Assumption Junior National School to ensure that staff and students are aware that bullying is defined as targeted behaviour, online or offline, that causes harm. The harm caused can be physical, social and/or emotional in nature. Bullying behaviour is repeated over time and involves an imbalance of power in relationships between two people or groups of people in society. Posting a single harmful message/image/video online which is highly likely to be reposted or shared with others can however be seen as bullying behaviour.

In accordance with the Department of Education BÍ Cinéalta Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post Primary Schools; Assumption Junior National School considers that a school is not expected to deal with bullying behaviour that occurs when students are not under the care or responsibility of the school. However, where this bullying behaviour has an impact in school, schools are required to support the students involved. Where the bullying behaviour continues in school, schools should deal with it in accordance with their BÍ Cinéalta policy.



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Artificial Intelligence

Assumption Junior National School recognises the potential benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education and is committed to its responsible and ethical use within our learning environment.

Assumption Junior National School provides training and professional development opportunities for teachers to effectively utilise AI tools in their teaching practices, ensuring they stay up to date with technological advancements.

The selection of AI tools and technologies in Assumption Junior National School aligns with educational goals, including supporting learner agency and promoting critical thinking.

AI technologies are integrated into the curriculum to enhance learner outcomes and experiences.

Assumption Junior National School integrates AI into its educational processes to enhance learning, foster innovation, and promote the development of critical skills.

Assumption Junior National School will make necessary adjustments to our school's adoption and integration of AI based on review and feedback.

A regular review of the impact of AI on learning outcomes will be conducted to ensure continuous improvement.

School staff and learners receive training on the ethical use of AI technologies, including understanding data privacy, identifying biases, and verifying AI-generated information.



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All AI tools authorised for use in Assumption Junior National School comply with data protection regulations (GDPR).

Entering personal, sensitive, or confidential data into any AI system without proper authorisation is strictly prohibited.

Learners will not create, share or send any AI generated material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

Staff and learners must not use AI in any way to harass, insult, abuse or defame learners, their family members, staff, other members of the Assumption Junior National School community.

Staff and learners must not engage in activities involving AI generated material which might bring Assumption Junior National School into disrepute.

Assumption Junior National School promotes digital literacy and critical thinking skills to help learners understand AI, its implications, and responsible usage. This includes data literacy, verification of AI-generated information, and recognising potential biases in AI tools.

AI systems used in Assumption Junior National School ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability in decision-making processes.

Teachers will attribute AI text and images when used.

AI Generated material is not allowed for the purpose of research, brainstorming, and revising text.

Choose one of the following



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Permission Form

Legislation

The school will provide information on the following legislation relating to use of the Internet which teachers, students and parents should familiarise themselves with:

- Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000
- Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998 and Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017
- Children First Act 2015
- Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 (Coco's Law)
- Criminal Damage Act 1991

Support Structures

The school will inform students and parents of key support structures and organisations that deal with illegal material or harmful use of the Internet.

Sanctions

Misuse of the Internet and digital technologies should be referred to in the school's Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy and related sanctions regarding misuse as appropriate should be outlined therein. The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities, including An Garda Síochána.



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I agree to follow the school's Acceptable Use Policy on the use of the internet and digital technologies. I will use the internet and digital technologies in a responsible way and obey all the procedures outlined in the policy.

Student's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

As the parent or legal guardian of the above student, I have read the Acceptable Use Policy, and I understand that Internet access is intended for educational purposes. I also understand that every reasonable precaution has been taken by the school to provide for online safety but the school cannot be held responsible if students access unsuitable websites.

In relation to the school website, I accept that, if the school considers it appropriate, my child's schoolwork may be chosen for inclusion on the website. I understand and accept the terms of the Acceptable Use Policy relating to publishing students' work on the school website.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Please review the attached school Internet Acceptable Use Policy, and sign and return this permission form to the Principal.

School Name: Name of Student: _____

Class/Year: _____

Student: _____

**Permission may be sought digitally via the school's communication App
Aladdin.**