

PARK LAKE STATE SCHOOL.

THE USE OF COMPUTERS, THE INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC MAIL.

Park Lake State School is pleased to offer students access to computers for electronic mail and the Internet.

To gain access to e-mail and the Internet, all students must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the form attached.

Should a parent prefer that a student should not have e-mail and Internet access, use of computers is still possible for traditional purposes such as word processing.

What is possible?

Access to e-mail and the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums and other information sources and to exchange personal communication with other Internet users around the world.

Families should be aware that some material available via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive. While the purposes of Park Lake State School are to use the Internet for constructive educational goals, students may find ways to access other materials.

We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. Therefore, we support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

What is expected?

Students are responsible for appropriate behaviour on the school's computers just as they are in a classroom or in the playground.

Communications on computers are usually public in nature and general school rules for behaviour and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with school standards and the specific rules set out below.

Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused.

The user is personally responsible for his or her actions in accessing and utilising the school's computer resources.

RULES FOR INTERNET USE.

1. World Wide Web searching via EDNA (Education Network Australia) site only.
2. EDNA site set as Home Page location in web browser
3. Usage for approved educational purposes only.
4. Only teachers are to add sites to Bookmarks.
5. Notify an adult immediately of any illegal, violent, obscene or offensive material.
6. Willfully accessing or sending such material (point 5.) will result in a loss of Internet privileges.
7. All student e-mail messages, Web Page content etc. to be approved by the teacher.
8. I will respect all account privacy of the other user of the system.
9. I acknowledge that it is a privilege, not a right, to have use of the system and will accept all decisions made by the school as to my further use of the system should I abuse this privilege.

NOTES.

Students in upper grades will have an individual email account and password. It is important to protect your password and never give it to any other person. If you forget your password see your class teacher who will organise for a new password to be allocated. Junior classes will have a shared class email and password.

All Web Page construction to be coordinated through the class teacher.

Responsibilities of Users.

Internet access is provided to students for educational purposes. Private usage must be arranged elsewhere. Students **must** focus on the task at hand to avoid wasting time by becoming distracted by the wide range of resources available.

Students **must** avoid inappropriate content, especially material that is illegal, dangerous or offensive.

Students **must not** use the e-mail facility unless specific permission has been given to do so.

Students must abide by the conditions of the Internet Access Agreement.

To obtain access to the Internet....

Permission Forms will be collected by the Office Staff who will file them and provide a list of student names with permission to access the Internet to class teachers. All staff have a duty of care to supervise students accessing the Internet in any area of the school.

Permission for Internet access will also be recorded with students' borrower details on the Library computer so that students are able to use the Library's Internet facilities at any time under the supervision of the Teacher-Librarian.

Access to the Internet extends the capabilities of the school's Library to provide relevant and up-to-date information and allows for formal instruction on Internet usage and referencing of information sources to occur within weekly scheduled Library lessons.

PARK LAKE STATE SCHOOL INTERNET ACCESS CONDITIONS.

Student:

I understand that the Internet can connect me to useful information stored on computers around the world. I understand that while I have access to the Internet:

- + I will use it only for educational purposes
- + I will not look for any information that is illegal, dangerous or offensive
- + If I accidentally come across something that is illegal, dangerous or offensive I will immediately tell my teacher or any other adult in the room
- + I will not use the Internet to annoy or offend anyone else
- + I will not use e-mail unless I have permission from my teachers

I understand that if the school decides I have broken these rules, action will be taken. This could include the loss of my Internet privileges.

Parent or Guardian:

I understand that the Internet can provide students with valuable learning experiences. I also understand that it gives access to information around the world, but that the school cannot control what is on other computers and a very small part of the information may be illegal, dangerous or offensive.

I accept that, while teachers will always ensure their duty of care, protection against exposure to harmful information must depend on responsible use by students.

I understand that students breaking these rules will face appropriate action by the school and that may include loss of Internet access for some time.