



Acceptable Use Policy Permission Form for Students 2025/26

Please review the attached School Acceptable Use Policy, sign and return this Permission Form to the School office by 22 or 25 August 2025, whichever is your first day of term.

School Name: Sandford Park School, Ranelagh, Dublin 6.

Student's Name: _____ **Class/Year:** _____

Student's Declaration:

I have read the School's Acceptable Use Policy. I agree to follow the rules contained in this policy on the use of the School's IT, internet resources and electronic equipment. I will use the internet, electronic equipment and IT resources in a responsible way and obey all the rules explained to me by the School. I will not use Mobile Data on my phone or any other device to access any inappropriate material whilst in School. I understand that if I violate the rules my account can be terminated and I may face other disciplinary measures. In the case of a breach of the Law of the Land, a criminal prosecution may result. I have read the School's Distance Learning Plan (Appendix I) and agree to follow the guidelines set out in this plan should the need arise.

Student's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian

As the parent or legal guardian of the above student, I have read the Acceptable Use Policy and grant permission for my son/daughter to access and use the school's IT resources, internet, and electronic equipment. I understand that internet access is designed 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 or content.

I will instruct my son/daughter regarding any restrictions against accessing such material that are in addition to the restrictions set forth in the Acceptable Use Policy. I will also instruct my son/daughter not to use Mobile Data on their phone or any other device to access any inappropriate material whilst in school. I will emphasise the importance of following the rules for personal safety.

I give permission to issue an account for my son/daughter and certify that the information contained in this Permission Form is correct.

I have read the School's Distance Learning Plan (Appendix I). I agree that my son/daughter and I will follow the guidelines set out in this plan should the need arise.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I understand and accept that, if the School considers it appropriate, my son's/daughter's photograph or schoolwork may be chosen for inclusion on the School's website or other School approved media. I have read and accept the terms of the AUP in relation to publishing student photos or schoolwork.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____



SANDFORD PARK SCHOOL

Acceptable Use Policy 2025/26

Scope of Policy: Student Version

Introduction

The purpose of the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to ensure that students will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the School's internet resources, technology, and electronic equipment in a responsible, safe and effective manner. This technology and equipment may be used as part of classwork, or when engaging in homework or study. The technology and equipment may be the property of Sandford Park School, it may be a managed device owned by the student or it may be an individual's own device which they wish to use in school or at home for school-related activity. This policy will define the acceptable use of such technology and electronic equipment.

Rationale

The provision and utilisation of the School's internet resources (including Wi-Fi access), technology, and electronic equipment is considered a school resource and privilege, not a right. Therefore, if the School AUP is not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions may be imposed.

Objectives

Sandford Park School utilises a variety of strategies in order to maximise teaching and learning opportunities and reduce risks associated with IT usage. It is the responsibility of all users to familiarise themselves with this policy and adhere to the rules and responsibilities set out in this document.

Benefits of Digital Learning

1. Ability for students and teachers to share resources and create materials online.
2. Opportunities for active learning.
3. Multiple means of accessing, engaging with and presenting evidence of learning (Universal Design for Learning).
4. Access to experts in many fields for students and staff.
5. Access to worldwide educational resources, including museums and art galleries.
6. Educational and cultural exchanges between students worldwide.
7. Creating independent and motivated learners.
8. Efficient communication between teachers and students.
9. Reduced paper usage as worksheets etc. can be shared online instead of being printed and photocopied.

Policy Content and Responsibilities of all users

1. General

- All users will respect the property, technology, equipment and facilities provided by the School. Users will respect managed devices and any personal devices used for school related activity.
- All users will be provided with training in the area of Internet safety. This will be provided to students by Form Teachers at the beginning of each academic year.
- Student use of Sandford Park School's devices and managed devices will be supervised by a teacher, including through the use of device monitoring software.
- A wireless (Wi-Fi) network is provided for educational use. This network is part of the Department of Education and Skills broadband network and is controlled and vetted externally.
- Filtering software will be used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material.
- The School will provide usernames for all students, which will be used to access the School's electronic equipment.
- The user is responsible for his/her individual computer account and school email account, and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use the account. Under no circumstances should the user provide his/her password to another person. Students must take their responsibility for remembering passwords seriously to enable teaching and learning.
- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software or apps will not be permitted.
- Virus protection software will be used and updated on a regular basis.
- The use of personal CD-ROMs, USB drives and external drives in school requires a teacher's permission.
- Users will observe good "netiquette" (i.e., etiquette on the internet) at all times and will not undertake any actions that may bring the School into disrepute.
- Appropriate language must always be used. Obscene, threatening, offensive or disrespectful language is not to be used.
- Use of social networking sites is not permitted, unless deemed appropriate for educational use by the teacher in each class.
- Any encounters with material on the internet which makes students feel uncomfortable, threatened, or unsafe must be reported immediately to a teacher.
- Incidents where any form of device, technology, app, or online site is used to bully other students or send offensive messages or calls will be investigated under the Anti-Bullying Policy. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone or any electronic equipment to menace, harass or offend another person. The School also has the responsibility to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities.
- Any inappropriate use of electronic technology, equipment, internet or software will not be tolerated. This includes any use which undermines teaching and learning, undermines good relationships within the community, causes offence or is unwelcome or intimidating to others.

2. Internet, Social Media, Apps

- Users will not visit internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.
- Users will use the internet for educational purposes only.
- Users will never disclose or publicise personal information about themselves or other people.
- Users will only be allowed access to websites that have been approved by the Schools Broadband Network (provided by HEAnet and Senso).

- Social media will only be used for educational purposes and with the permission of the supervising teacher.
- Students must not attempt to connect with school staff on social networks that are not school related.
- Users will not agree to meet someone who they only know from online communications.
- Users will be familiar with copyright issues relating to digital learning.
- Students will not plagiarise works found on the internet (plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were original). All sources should be acknowledged.
- Presenting work generated by AI technologies (Chat GPT, etc) as your own is equivalent to presenting another person's work as your own, and so is also considered to be plagiarism.
- Users must not post on any webpage false or defamatory information about a person or organisation.

3. Virtual Learning Environments (VLE), e.g. Office 365

- All students and staff will receive an Office 365 account, which will give them access to Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint and other applications (which can also be downloaded onto personal devices at home for free). With this they will also receive a school email account which must be used for school related communications and checked regularly.
- Students should use the Sandford Park VLE, including Microsoft Teams, for school related business only.
- Access to the Sandford Park VLE is a privilege not a right. This privilege may be withdrawn from individuals if inappropriate use occurs.
- Teachers will instruct students how to use the VLE they wish to use for their subject.
- Students must use the VLE appropriately and adhere to the guidelines or rules set out by each individual teacher.
- Profile pictures for Office 365 apps must be a head shot or initials only. User status must be left at the default setting.
- Uploading any material or posting comments which display offensive information, images, or language is not permitted.
- Users who access the VLE or their school email account outside of school must still abide by the rules of the AUP.

4. Guidelines for Distance Learning

VLEs can play a very significant role in enabling students to continue their education through links with their teachers in the event of a school closure or partial school closure. The School's Distance Learning Plan (see Appendix) is intended to help safeguard students and staff while ensuring the distance teaching and learning experience is productive for all. All students are required to follow the Distance Learning Plan in the event that:

- i. You are unable to attend school for reasons related to Covid-19.
- ii. An emergency partial or full school closure comes into effect.

5. School Website

- The School website and School app will be maintained and checked regularly to ensure there is no content that compromises the safety of students.
- The School may upload photographs of school activities, students, and examples of student work.

- Parents/guardians have the option to opt out of allowing their son/daughter's photograph to be published on the website by indicating this on the AUP Permission Form (attached).

6. Mobile Phones and Connected Devices (laptops, tablets, smart watches, etc)

- Mobile phone use is not permitted on school grounds before the end of the school day. Mobile phones, and other connected devices (smart watches, earpods, laptops, tablets, etc) must be powered off and placed in students' schoolbags before entering school grounds. They may only be powered on after last period or with permission from a teacher.
- If a student is found to be using a connected device on the school campus during the school day without permission, it will be confiscated and given to the Deputy Principal. It can be collected at the end of the school day. A mandatory sanction will apply.
- Photographs and recordings (of video or audio) can only be taken when directed by a member of staff and with the consent of the subject(s).
- Users must not post pictures or videos of students or staff online (including social media, messaging apps...etc.) without their permission.
- Students bring privately owned technology/electronic equipment to school entirely at their own risk. It is recommended that they are insured by the owner. The School will not take responsibility for and is not liable for the misuse of, the loss of, damage to, or theft of any privately owned devices.
- Students will be required to place personal devices in a collection box at all in-house exams, as per state examinations protocols.

7. Privacy

The IT equipment and internet access in Sandford Park School are provided as tools for your schoolwork and education. The School reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of computer networks and internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the School and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

8. Legislation

By using a computer, device or technology belonging to Sandford Park School, you are agreeing not only to follow the rules in this policy, but are also agreeing to report any misuse of the school network and resources to the School's IT Department. 'Misuse' means any violation of this policy or any other use that is not included in the policy and which has the effect of harming another individual or his or her property or breaking the law. Please note that you are agreeing to this policy and associated legal acts outlined below every time you log in to the School's network. This document is in guidance with the following legislation relating to use of the internet which students and parents should familiarise themselves with:

- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018
- Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003
- Copyright and Related Acts 2000
- Child Trafficking and Pornography Bill 1998
- Interception Act 1993
- Video Recordings Act 1989

- The Data Protection Act 1988

9. Support Structures

The School will inform students, and parents/guardians of key support structures and organisations that deal with illegal material or harmful use of the internet.

10. Sanctions

Misuse of any of the School's IT, internet resources and electronic equipment by students will result in disciplinary action, withdrawal of access privileges and, in extreme cases, suspension or expulsion. The School also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities. The school's Designated Liaison Person must report any suspected child harm that they are made aware of. This also covers activity through IT such as Social Media. In the case of student and adult users in the school environs, Sandford Park reserves all rights including termination of service, without notice, to the computing resources that it owns and operates. The School reserves the right to request a student to submit his/her electronic equipment for inspection if, in the opinion of the School, a student is suspected of inappropriate use. Where equipment is believed to have been used in the possible abuse of others, or where legal issues may arise in the future, the School reserves the right to hold the privately owned electronic equipment until legal advice has been received.

Review Procedures

The AUP will be reviewed annually by the Digital Team and a representative of the Board of Governors.

Last reviewed: 11.08.25

Appendix I

Click on the link below to read and save a copy of the School's Distance Learning Plan.

[Sandford Park School – Distance Learning Plan 2025/26](#)