

Mildura Christian College

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Internet & Local Area Network Student Acceptable Use Policy

1. Introduction and Overview of the Internet and Local Area Network

Mildura Christian College recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technology shift the ways that information may be accessed, communicated, and transferred by members of our society, these changes will also alter instruction and student learning. Mildura Christian College supports access by students to rich information resources along with the development by staff of appropriate skills to analyse and evaluate such resources.

Mildura Christian College Policy requires that accessing all such materials be consistent with the Christian mission and practices of Mildura Christian College, supporting and enriching the curriculum, while taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of students. Electronic information research skills are fundamental to the preparation for citizens and future employees. Mildura Christian College expects that staff will blend thoughtful use of such skills throughout the curriculum and that the staff will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of such resources.

Telecommunications, electronic information sources, and networked services significantly alter the information landscape for schools by opening classrooms to a broader array of resources. In the past, instructional and library media materials could usually be screened, prior to use. However, because Internet based research may lead to any publicly available fileservers in the world, students may access electronic information that has not been screened by educators.

Mildura Christian College believes that the benefits to students from Internet access in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, outweigh the disadvantages.

2. Acceptable use

The purpose of the Internet and Local Area Network is to facilitate communications in support of research and education. To remain eligible as a user, use must be in line with the educational objectives of Mildura Christian College.

The use of the College Internet and Local Area Network is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use, including any violation of these conditions and rules, may result in the suspension or cancellation of the privilege.

3. Rules of Access

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users.

While using the Internet and/or Local Area Network, users may encounter material that is controversial and which users, parents, teachers or administrators may consider inappropriate or offensive. It is the user's responsibility not to transmit or initiate access or continue the access to such material.

All users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette and system security. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

Network etiquette

- 3.1 Transmission or access of material in violation of State or Commonwealth regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, and threatening or obscene material. The use of profanity, gender, racial or personal slurs, pornography, or any form of malicious language, is prohibited on the network. For the purposes of this agreement 'the network' includes the school's LAN and the Internet. All users should be polite and use appropriate language at all times.

The Copyright Amendment Bill 1999 provides that a temporary transmission or reproduction of material on an internet user's personal computer is not an infringement of copyright. Materials may be viewed, recordings played or video clips watched on the Net without being at risk of infringing copyright. Any

further reproduction of that material is an infringement of copyright if it is done without the permission of the copyright owner.

- 3.2 Use of the network in such a way that disrupts the use of the network by other users is prohibited; for example, introducing viruses to the network or causing physical damage.
- 3.3 Use for commercial activities is not acceptable. Use for product advertising or political lobbying is also prohibited unless for specific educational purposes.
- 3.4 Users shall not play games over the network other than those provided on the network by the College. The computer resources are for academic activities. In addition, users shall not waste nor take supplies, such as paper, ink cartridges and usb drives etc. that are provided by Mildura Christian College. All users agree to talk quietly and work in ways that will not disturb other users.
- 3.5 All information accessible via the Internet and/or Local Area Network should be assumed to be the copyright of its authors, and thus needs to be cited or referenced just as it is done for resources available in the library.
- 3.6 The use and downloading of files and applications is prohibited, unless directed by the teacher for specific education purposes,
- 3.7 Users must not reveal personal addresses or passwords of other students. The contents of a personal directory are the personal responsibility of the account holder. Account holders will be held responsible for the contents of their account, or any actions caused by people logged onto the network on their passwords.
- 3.8 Users must notify a network administrator if they identify a security problem on the network. They must not demonstrate the problem to other users.
- 3.9 Users must not attempt to log onto the Local Area Network as a network administrator.
- 3.10 Users must not commit any acts of vandalism on this or any other system. These include, but are not limited to, any malicious attempt to harm, modify, and destroy data of another Mildura Christian College user, the Mildura Christian College LAN or the Internet. This includes the intentional downloading, uploading, transmitting or creating of computer viruses.
- 3.11 Users may not commit any acts of harassment. Harassment is defined as the persistent annoyance of another user, or interference with another user's work. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, the sending of unwanted email or network messages.
- 3.12 The resources provide by Mildura Christian College are made available to students for curriculum use. The resources are NOT available for private email or other means of communication (e.g. bulletin boards) that are not curriculum focussed.

4. Warranties

Mildura Christian College makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. Mildura Christian College will not be responsible for any damage a user suffers. This includes, but is not limited to, loss of data resulting from delays, no-deliveries, missed-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by Mildura Christian College LAN or the Internet Service Provider. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. Mildura Christian College specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services. All users need to consider the source of any information they obtain, and consider how valid that information may be.

5. Consequences of inappropriate Network/Internet Use

Any user violating these rules, applicable State or Commonwealth law, or Mildura Christian College rules as explained in the student diary, is subject to Mildura Christian College discipline. This discipline may include, but is not limited to, suspension of all or part of user privileges, or cancellation of all or part of user privileges. In addition, Mildura Christian College may apply disciplinary action appropriate to the violation.

It is College Policy that the network administrator undertake random audits of the network.

It is recognized that unacceptable use of the Network//Internet facilities can take various forms; ranging in degree of seriousness, so a range of sanctions needs to be available.



At all times, the seriousness of the breach must be considered and assessed by the individual teacher. The teacher will refer the matter to the Principal for disciplinary action.

Penalty Guidelines

- The first offence will earn a detention and parents will be notified of the specific nature of the offence.
- The second offence will earn a detention, parents will once again be notified, and there will be a suspension of network privileges for one week.
- The third offence will earn a detention, parents will once again be notified, and there will be a suspension of network privileges for two weeks.
- Subsequent offences will be referred to the Principal
- Any breaches that are considered to be of a serious nature will be referred to the Principal
- Any breaches where legal issues are involved may be referred to the appropriate authorities.

Example of Possible Breaches

* Note this list is not exhaustive.

- Breach of copyright
- Use of unauthorized software
- Disruption of the network
- Playing computer games when not authorized
- Using the Internet for non school-related purposes
- Downloading non authorised data and applications from the Internet
- Accessing inappropriate Internet sites
- Sending and receiving of email when not authorized
- Harassment
- Use of other students' passwords and accounts

