Rationale

St Patrick's Parish School believes that students should have the opportunity to access various technologies to:
- prepare our students for further education, employment and social awareness.
- provide access to a range of resources to obtain information.
- enable electronic communication, both on a local and global level.

Our aim is to develop independent learners who are able to:
- define the purpose for which information is required
- locate appropriate sources of information
- understand and appreciate information from several sources
- present work in an appropriate fashion
- acknowledge the work of others through quotations and citations, while being honest about what has been personally contributed
- evaluate their own learning.

While the use of technology makes a positive contribution to learning at St Patrick's Parish School, it must take place according to the School guidelines for appropriate use. These guidelines are based on the need for safety for each student, as well as courtesy and respect for others. However, they are also based on laws that have been established to protect against such things as:
- invasion of privacy
- harassment or bullying of others
- breaking copyright.

Students are responsible for their own actions and face disciplinary action if rules are broken.

Access

Students sign the contract regarding internet usage for the period of their enrolment.

General guidelines for the use of the information and communications technology

- All internet searches are conducted at St Patrick's Parish School must be directly related to school studies.
- Internet searches and emails are not private and can be monitored.
- In the case of inappropriate internet use, students may lose their rights to access the school intranet and the internet.
- Students are not to publish any works on the web that are school-related without permission from the appropriate teacher
- When students log onto the internet with username and password they are responsible for the sites visited. Students must **never** log on with another's username and password or give their password to others.
- Student must keep their password confidential. Students must not reveal it to other students.
- Students must recognise that downloading of some materials, for example music files, breaches Copyright Legislation.
- Students must acknowledge all internet sources, using the Harvard System. Failure to do so is plagiarism and will result in a zero being given to any assessment tasks.
- Students must obtain permission from individuals whose photographs they use in an assignment, e.g. designing a web page for an assignment in a course. The photograph should be removed from the database once the assignment is completed.
- Forums are only to be used for educational purposes under teacher supervision.

Students may not use the Internet:
- for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contacts
- for financial or commercial gain
- to degrade or disrupt equipment, software or system performances, including the introduction of any viruses
- to vandalise the data of another user
- to gain unauthorised access to resources
- to invade the privacy of individuals
- to post anonymous messages
- to down-load stored print files or messages that are profane, obscene or that use language that offends or degrades others
- to down-load or share texts, images, movie or sound containing pornography, profanity, obscenity, or language that offends or degrades others
- to post anonymous messages
- to corrupt data

Email
Students may access email only in relation to their courses of study. No personal email is permitted. Students need to be aware of the following:

- Student's email messages are both permanent and public. Each of the emails is a public document and may be subpoenaed by a court.
- The laws relating to written communication apply equally to email messages, including the laws relating to defamation, copyright, obscenity, fraudulent misrepresentation, freedom of information, and wrongful discrimination.
- Email is not to be used in an inappropriate manner, for example to bully, harass or threaten someone.

Sanctions
The school expects that all students using the computer network and internet facilities will display a high standard of responsible behaviour.

Irresponsible behaviour will result in the withdrawal of the privilege to use computer network and internet facilities.

Network users should be aware that monitoring of individual usage is carried out as a routine maintenance measure.

The internet user is held responsible for his/her actions. Violations may result in:
- Loss of access for a period of up to 20 school days,
- Additional disciplinary action in line with the Student Management Policy. This may include detentions or suspension from school or, if applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.