



Victoria Point State School

School Rd, Victoria Point Qld 4165
P.O. Box 3227, Victoria Point West Qld 4165
Phone: 3820 5666
admin@victoriapointss.eq.edu.au

Dear Parent/Guardian

Students at Victoria Point State School may have access to the Internet. This ensures that students enjoy its educational benefit. At the same time, it is necessary to establish guidelines for the way the Internet is to be used.

The Internet will be made available to our students to facilitate educational research, to enable students to retrieve information and to communicate with other students both in Australia and around the world.

Although the Internet offers Victoria Point State School students many opportunities to benefit educationally, there are a number of ethical and legal issues that we must consider.

While every reasonable effort has been made to block access to sites containing inappropriate material, there is no guaranteed means of preventing student exposure to such sites, especially where a student deliberately seeks out this type of material. If a student unwittingly encounters material that is inappropriate, offensive, inaccurate or illegal, it is expected that they report this to their teacher.

Attached to this is an Internet Information Bulletin and an Acceptable Use Contract that should be gone through with your son/daughter, the contract signed by the student and counter signed by the parent/guardian.

In summary, the contract states that if the student uses the Internet or email for inappropriate purposes he/she will lose access i.e. "Abuse it and lose it".

Damien Nielsen

Principal

I acknowledge the Quandamooka Traditional Owners of this land in which I work and play and pay my respects to my Elders past, present and emerging.

Internet Information

What is the Internet?

The Internet is a worldwide network of individuals, groups, communities and organisations linked via computer.

Who can use the Internet?

Anyone who has a computer, modem and is linked to a service provider.

Features of the Internet

- Find information using a search engine
- Download computer programs and files
- Communicate with others via electronic mail or e-mail
- Interact as a group
- Interactive discussion

Why are educational institutions using the Internet?

Teachers and students are using the internet to locate information, send electronic mail, browse documents or images from various sites such as libraries, universities, industry and other organisations in Australia and overseas.

Educational Institutions use the Internet for:

- Electronic mail
- Accessing information
- Electronic publishing
- Communication e.g. through a Web Page
- Curriculum projects
- Inservice and training
- Technical support

What about the availability of unacceptable material on the Internet.

There has been much media attention to this aspect of the Internet. There is no absolute guaranteed means of preventing students' exposure to this material. The school and Department of Education and the Arts have developed monitoring strategies and provide supervision of students using the Internet. Blocking software is utilized that prevent students from accessing many unacceptable sites.

What are the consequences of improper use?

The following consequences may apply for breaches of the Acceptable Use Contract.

- Withdrawal of entire access privileges
- Detentions / suspensions

STUDENT INTERNET ACCESS AGREEMENT

I understand that the Internet can connect me to much useful information stored on computers around the world.

While I have access to the Internet I will not:

- Attempt to retrieve, view or print any obscene, offensive, pornographic or illegal material
- Threaten, abuse or harass any other user
- Send offensive, racist or sexist messages
- Send anonymous or falsely addressed email
- Bring Victoria Point State School into disrepute in any way whatsoever
- Allow anyone else to use my account or give my password to anyone else
- Use another student's account or tamper with another student's account in any way
- Download or print information without permission
- Use chat channels without permission
- Attempt to change system settings in any way
- Attempt to bypass security
- Disclose my home address, telephone number, credit card or pin number over the internet

I also agree that I will:

- Use my account solely for educational purposes
- Observe all copyright laws including those relating to computer software
- Respect the rights and privacy of other users
- Report any obscene and offensive materials I encounter, quietly, to my teacher
- Report any security lapses that I may discover
- I understand that if the school decides I have broken these rules, appropriate action will be taken. This may include loss of my Internet access for some time, detentions and / or suspension.

_____ (Student's name)

_____ (Student's signature) _____ (Date)

Parent or guardian

I understand that the Internet can provide students with valuable learning experiences.

I also understand that it gives access to information on computers around the world; that the school cannot control what is on those computers; and that a very small part of that information can be illegal, dangerous or offensive.

I accept that, while teachers will always exercise their duty of care, protection against exposure to harmful information should depend finally upon responsible use by students.

I believe _____ (Name of student) understands this responsibility, and I hereby give my permission for him/her to access the Internet under the school rules. I understand that students breaking these rules will be subject to appropriate action by the school. This may include loss of Internet access for some time, detentions and / or suspension.

_____ (Parent / guardian's name)

_____ (Parent / guardian's signature) _____ (Date)