Your son or daughter will have access to a worldwide network called the Internet. The reason for using the Internet is to participate in curriculum projects developed by your child's teachers and to build skills and knowledge in the use of this essential resource. Your son or daughter will reach the internet through a computer account provided by Londonderry Public School.

The purpose of this letter is to give you information about the *Internet User Access Policy* that Londonderry Public School will use. The policy is attached below.

We ask you to review this policy with your child and to sign and return the consent form on the last page. (This is not a consent form for the use of Web Services.) Your child's teacher has already discussed the *Internet User Access Policy* with your child/children. If you would like more information, please contact the school.

      LONDONDERRY PUBLIC SCHOOL

INTERNET USER ACCESS POLICY

Introduction

The Internet is a wonderful resource that adds another dimension to topics being studied in class. It allows students to collect and share information and communicate and collaborate with people around the world. The Internet offers facilities that can enhance students' learning opportunities and outcomes in all key learning areas.

In addition to the information available from the Internet, the school also has an opportunity to publish its own *website* providing the benefits of developing literacy, writing and critical thinking skills.

Other Purposes / Benefits of the Internet

- Gain access to vast stores of information around the world
- Collect and share information
- Access to current software reviews
- Communicate with experts/ people /students around the world
- Participate in educational projects in all KLAs
- Develop literacy, writing and critical thinking skills
- Improve skills in using computer-based technologies
- Increase competence in information skills
- Current information
- Instant access to information

It should be noted that while the Internet possesses vast stores of information and educational resources, there are also undesirable aspects of the Internet including:

- Socially and culturally inappropriate material
- Offensive material
- Gambling sites
- Misinformation

The NSW Department of Education and Training provides the Internet Service free of charge to schools. In order to maintain a safe and appropriate environment for students accessing the Internet, all internet use at school is filtered automatically at the service provider to prevent known undesirable sites from being accessed. In addition to the filter, access is given under teacher supervision, but this supervision may not always be direct.

Code of Behaviour (Netiquette)

It is the school's policy that ALL Internet access is to be for educational purposes only. The following outlines the school's code of behaviour.

Publishing on the Internet:

- Communication through e-mail and via the School's Internet website is treated as a form of publishing. Students must gain teacher approval for publication.
- It is the school's policy that no student will be identified by full name and no student's contact details are to be published.
- Students will observe the rules of *Netiquette (etiquette on the internet).*

Downloading information and Signing Up for Services:

- Students will not knowingly access or attempt to access sites that are inappropriate or not of an educational nature.
- Students must not download software, screensavers and other utilities not essential to browsing the Internet.
- Students must not sign up for any services available on the Internet without first gaining teacher approval.
- Students must gain teacher approval before downloading pictures.

Receipt of Inappropriate Internet material:

- In the case of an inappropriate site or image being displayed on a computer the student must immediately click the back-button or minimize the screen and quietly report it to the teacher. All inappropriate sites will be reported to the Department in order to have them included in the filter.

Equity of Access to the Internet:

- All students with parental permission will be given the opportunity to use the Internet as part of their classroom studies as appropriate.

Copyright Issues:

- Any material accessed and utilized from the Internet will be acknowledged and copyright respected.

Internet Rules as displayed near all computers on the internet

- **The <u>Internet</u> is for educational purposes only**
- **Stay on task**
- **Never type in your:**
  - ☒ *Name*
  - ☒ *Address*
  - ☒ *Phone Number*
  - ☒ *Age*
  - ☒ *Personal email address*
- **Never click anywhere that looks like it might be an adult or inappropriate site**
- **If you accidentally get to an adult site or a site that makes you *feel* uncomfortable, click the BACK button and tell the teacher**
- **Don't click on ads, online shopping or gambling**
- **Don't connect to the Internet unless you have permission for that lesson**
- **Don't send emails without permission**
- **Don't go to chat rooms**
- **Don't write messages on any site**

* You are expected to exercise responsible behaviour when on the network.

* Using someone else's network account is not acceptable.

* Using your network account for non-school related activities is not acceptable.

* Violating the above guidelines and prohibitions will result in losing your network account.

* Student photographs will not be published without parental approval.

We have read the *Londonderry Public School Internet User Access Policy* and understand its contents. We have discussed this with our child. My signature below, and that of my child's, means that we agree to follow the guidelines and prohibitions of the school's Internet User Access Policy. Breaches of the Code of Behaviour will result in loss of access to the internet as stated in the School's Discipline Policy.

Name of Student: _____ Class: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Name of Student: _____ Class: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Name of Student: _____ Class: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Parent/Carer: _____ Signature:_____ Date: _____