DOMINICAN COLLEGE MUCKROSS PARK

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP)

'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire'.
Catherine of Siena

1.Our Vision

As a school in the Catholic, Dominican tradition, our educational vision as expressed in our motto, Veritas, encompasses the lifelong search for truth, respect for tradition, and commitment to human flourishing.

Our Mission

We are proud of our lived Christian heritage, which inspires us to welcome and respect people of all backgrounds and beliefs. We tailor our educational approach to the needs of each individual student. We aim to excel in teaching and learning and provide an extensive programme of additional activities as we believe that every student deserves the opportunity to flourish.

Sustained by our Dominican tradition, we invite our students to engage with the values of Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Our educational community cultivates care in our students and staff for themselves, their neighbours, and their planet. We aim to strengthen empathy, nurture integrity and discernment, and generate a love of lifelong learning throughout our school community.

2. General Approach

The aim of this Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to ensure that students will benefit from the learning opportunities offered by the school's internet resources in a safe and effective manner.

Internet use and access is considered a school resource and privilege. If the school AUP is not adhered to this privilege may be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

This Internet AUP applies to students who have access to and are users of the internet and digital resources in Dominican College Muckross Park.

Misuse of the internet may result in disciplinary action, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges, detention and, in extreme cases, suspension or expulsion. The school also reserves the right to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities.

Dominican College Muckross Park will deal with incidents that take place outside the school that impact on the wellbeing of students or staff under this policy and associated code of behaviour and anti-bullying policies. In such cases Dominican College Muckross Park will inform

parents/guardians of incidents of inappropriate online behaviour that take place out of school and impose the appropriate sanctions.

Dominican College Muckross Park implements the following strategies on promoting safer use of the internet:

- Students will be provided with education in the area of internet safety as part of our implementation of the SPHE, CSPE and Wellbeing curriculum.
- Teachers will be provided with continuing professional development opportunities in the area of internet safety.
- Dominican College Muckross Park participates in Safer Internet Day activities to promote safer and more effective use of the internet.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the following stakeholders:

- Board of Management, teaching staff, support staff, students, and parents

This policy has been developed by a working group including: Principal, Deputy Principal, teachers, students, parents/guardians and representatives of the Board of Management.

The school will monitor the impact of the policy using:

- Logs of reported incidents.
- Monitoring logs of internet activity (including sites visited).
- Internal monitoring data for network activity.
- Surveys and/or questionnaires of students.
- Surveys and/or questionnaires of students, parents, and teaching staff.

Should serious online safety incidents take place, Year Head, Deputy Principals or Principal shall be informed.

The implementation of this Internet AUP will be monitored by the ICT Co-Ordinator.

3. Content Filtering

Dominican College Muckross Park has chosen to implement the following level on content filtering on the Schools Broadband Network:

- Level 4. This level allows access to millions of websites including games and YouTube but blocks access to websites belonging to the personal websites category and apps such as TikTok/Snapchat/Instagram/Facebook belonging to the Social Networking category.

Students taking steps to bypass the content filter by using proxy sites or other means will be subject to disciplinary action, including written warnings, withdrawal of access privileges, detention and, in extreme cases, suspension or expulsion.

4. Web Browsing and Downloading

Staff and students will not intentionally visit internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.

Students will report any accidental accessing of inappropriate materials to a teacher. Staff will report to the ICT Co-Ordinator.

Students and staff will not copy information from the internet without acknowledging the creator and referencing the source of the content.

Students and staff will be aware that any usage, including distributing or receiving information, school-related or personal, may be monitored for unusual activity, security and/or network management reasons.

Students use the school's internet for educational and career development activities only.

Students will not engage in online activities such as uploading or downloading large files that result in heavy network traffic which impairs the service for other internet users.

Students will not view or download any material that is illegal, obscene, defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

Use of file sharing sites and illegal torrent sites is not allowed.

Downloading by students of materials or images not relevant to their studies is not allowed.

5. Email and Messaging

The use of personal email accounts is only allowed at Dominican College Muckross Park with expressed permission from members of the teaching staff.

Students shall not under any circumstances share their email account login details with other students.

All students, staff and Board members will be provided with a school email address.

Staff and students will not send any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

Staff and students will not use school email accounts for personal emails.

Staff and students shall immediately report the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication.

Staff and students shall avoid opening emails that appear suspicious. If in doubt, students shall ask their teacher before opening emails from unknown senders.

6. Social Media

The following statements apply to the use of messaging, blogging and video streaming services in Dominican College Muckross Park:

- Use of instant messaging services and apps including Snapchat, WhatsApp, Instagram etc. is allowed in Dominican College Muckross Park **only with express permission from teaching staff.**
- Use of blogs such as Word Press, Tumblr etc. is allowed in Dominican College Muckross Park **only with express permission from teaching staff**.

Staff and students must not use social media or the internet in any way to harass, insult, abuse or defame students, their family members, staff, or other members of the Dominican College Muckross Park community.

Staff and students must not discuss personal information about other students, staff and members of the Dominican College Muckross Park community on social media.

Staff and students must not use school email addresses for setting up personal social media accounts or to communicate through such media.

Staff and students must not engage in activities involving social media which might bring Dominican College Muckross Park into disrepute.

Staff and students must not represent personal views as those of being Dominican College Muckross Park on any social medium.

7. Personal Devices

Students using their own technology in school shall follow the rules set out in this policy, in the same way as if they were using school equipment.

With specific reference to the use of mobile phones, our Student Mobile Phone Policy (as outlined in our Code of Behaviour, 2026/2027) states: Every student is assigned a personal Yondr Pouch. It is each student's responsibility to bring the Pouch to school every day and keep it in good working condition. Phones must be placed in the Yondr pouch on arrival in school. At the end of the day, students will open their Pouches on departure from school.

The following statements apply to the use of internet-enabled devices such as mobile phones, tablets, and gaming devices in Dominican College Muckross Park:

- Students are only allowed to bring personal internet-enabled devices into Dominican College Muckross Park with expressed permission from staff.
- Students are not allowed to use personal internet-enabled devices from 8.30am until the end of the school day (Mon., Tues., Thurs. 3.40pm, Weds. 3.00pm, Fri. 1.05pm.
- Students are only allowed to use personal internet-enabled devices during lessons with expressed permission from teaching staff.

8. Images & Video

Care is to be given when taking photographic or video images that students are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or the school into disrepute.

Students in Dominican College Muckross Park must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.

Taking photos or videos on school grounds or when participating in school activities are only allowed with expressed permission from staff.

Students must not share images, videos or other content online with the intention to harm another member of the school community regardless of whether this happens in school or outside.

Sharing explicit images and in particular explicit images of students and/or minors is an unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour, with serious consequences and sanctions for those involved. Sharing explicit images of other students automatically incurs suspension as a sanction and other consequences may follow.

9. Cyberbullying

When using the internet, students, parents and staff must treat others with respect at all times.

Engaging in online activities with the intention to harm, harass, or embarrass another pupil or member of staff is an unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour, with serious consequences and sanctions for those involved.

Measures are taken by Dominican College Muckross Park to ensure that staff and students are aware that bullying is defined as unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time. This includes cyber-bullying even when it happens outside the school or at night.

The prevention of cyberbullying is an integral part of the anti-bullying Bí Cineálta policy of our school. The school utilises Department of Education materials to educate students, for example, WebWise to educate students on this issue.

Isolated or once-off incidents of intentional negative behaviour, including a once-off offensive or hurtful text message or other private messaging, do not fall within the definition of bullying and will be dealt with, as appropriate, in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.

10. Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Dominican College Muckross Park recognises the potential benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education and is committed to its responsible and ethical use within our learning environment.

This section sets out the ethical guidelines and expectations for the use of AI in academic work by students in Dominican College Muckross Park. The policy aims to ensure the responsible use of AI tools while maintaining academic integrity and adhering to the college's values.

The selection of AI tools and technologies in Dominican College Muckross Park aligns with educational goals and the promotion of critical thinking.

Acceptable student use of AI:
Students are encouraged to use AI tools for learning and research purposes only. However, they must adhere to the following ethical guidelines:
- Students should seek guidance from teachers if uncertain about how to ethically use AI tools.
- Students should take full ownership of their learning and the authenticity of their submissions.

• Students should consider the environmental impacts of their usage of AI, using it only when deemed beneficial/necessary.
• AI tools may be used for brainstorming, research, or enhancing understanding of a topic, but not for producing the final submitted content. **Note**: If used for research students must fact check, check other sources and reference sources.
• Any use of AI tools in the development of ideas must be properly acknowledged and referenced in the assignment.
• AI generated material is allowed for assignments/homework if that use is properly documented and credited with an explanation of how the AI tool was used and the extent of its contribution.
• Students are strictly prohibited from submitting AI-generated content as their own work.
• AI tools may assist in editing and improving grammar, but they must not be used to generate entire essays, reports, or substantial sections of work without significant human input.
• AI must not be used to fabricate or falsify data, create misleading content, or assist in cheating during exams, or assignments.
• All work submitted by students, including written assignments, presentations, and projects including AAC's (Additional Assessment Components), must represent their own efforts and understanding.

What is not allowed:
• Entering personal, sensitive, or confidential data into any AI system is strictly prohibited.

• Students will not create, share or send any AI generated material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

• Staff and students must not use AI in any way to harass, insult, abuse or defame pupils, their family members, staff or other members of the Dominican College Muckross Park community.

• Staff and students must not engage in activities involving AI generated material which might bring Dominican College Muckross Park into disrepute.

AI support and ongoing development:
Dominican College Muckross Park aims to provide training and professional development opportunities for teachers to effectively utilise AI tools in their teaching practices, ensuring they stay up to date with technological advancements.

School staff and students receive training on the ethical use of AI technologies, including understanding data privacy, identifying biases, and verifying AI-generated information.

Dominican College Muckross Park promotes digital literacy and critical thinking skills to help students understand AI, its implications, and responsible usage. This includes data literacy, verification of AI-generated information, and recognising potential biases in AI tools.

A regular assessment of the impact of AI on learning outcomes will be conducted to ensure continuous improvement.

Dominican College Muckross Park will make necessary adjustments to this AI integration strategy based on assessments and feedback. It will be reviewed periodically to ensure it stays up to date with technological advancements and educational best practices.

11. School Digital Platforms

The school website and social media page(s) will be checked regularly to ensure that there is no content that compromises the safety, privacy, or reputation of students or staff.

Webpages allowing comments or user-generated content will be pre-moderated and checked frequently to ensure that they do not contain any inappropriate or offensive content.

Personal student information including home address and contact details will not be published on Dominican College Muckross Park web pages.

Plan for Reviewing the Code

A review of this Acceptable Use Policy will be carried out by the Board of Management following consultation with students, staff and parents.

This policy was ratified and adopted by the Board of Management on 10th November 2026

Signed: Mary White
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Siobhán Kelly
Principal

Date: 10/11/26

Date: 10/11/26.

Date of next review:

APPENDIX 1

DOMINICAN COLLEGE MUCKROSS PARK

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Permission Form

Legislation:

The school will provide information on the following legislation relating to use of the Internet to teachers. Students and parents shall familiarise themselves with: Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003, Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998, Interception Act 1993, Video Recordings Act 1989, The Data Protection Act 1988.

I agree to follow the school's Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) on the use of the Internet. I will use the Internet in a responsible way and obey all the rules explained to me by the school.

Student's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

As the parent or legal guardian of the above student, I have read the Internet Acceptable Use Policy and grant permission for my daughter or the child in my care to access the Internet. I understand that Internet access is intended 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.

In relation to the school website, I accept that, if the school considers it appropriate, my child's schoolwork may be chosen for inclusion on the website. I understand and accept the terms of the Acceptable Use Policy relating to publishing students' work on the school website.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

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Please read this attached school Internet Acceptable Use Policy(AUP) for Dominican College Muckross Park.

Please sign and return this Permission Form to the Year Head.