Internet Policy

The Internet and related software applications have the potential to be an extremely powerful teaching and learning tool available to teachers and students at Hillcrest Primary School. At the same time, the Internet also has many negative aspects, which may be detrimental to the school community. The following procedures aim to allow the school to make best use of the many positive benefits of Internet usage while safeguarding teachers and students from the pitfalls.

World Wide Web (WWW)
Access to the World Wide Web is provided to all workstations in the school’s computer lab and networked classroom workstations. The system currently utilises a Broadband link provided to the school as part of the Department of Education’s e2c initiative.

• All student Web access is for the sole purpose of school-related research and is strictly supervised by the classroom teacher. No student is allowed access to the Web without a teacher being present within the room.
• Use of search engines, e.g. Ask Jeeves, Google, Yahoo etc is allowed where there is a clear purpose and under the supervision of the class teacher. Indiscriminate ‘Web Surfing’ for personal or non school-related research is not allowed.
• Wherever possible student Web access is limited to ‘known’ sites of educational value, which have been previewed by the teacher to ascertain its content and age suitability.
• Staff use of the Web complies with the Department of Education’s policy on the subject. Reference- Internet Usage and Policy Guidelines (1996)

Hillcrest Primary School Intra/Internet Website
A school intra/internet Website is developed. These sites will be used as a tool for communicating relevant information within the school community and as a vehicle for displaying its achievements. These sites will be maintained by the LT coordinator and updated at regular intervals.

• All content placed on the school’s Websites complies with Department of Education policy, including the requirement to gain specific permission from parents/guardians in regards to the placement of student images and names on the Websites. (See Learning Technologies letter and permission slip.)

• To protect student privacy, certain details will not be placed on the school’s Website. These include:
  o Photographs of individual children, unless specific permission has been granted.
  o Student surnames.

E-Mail/Chat Room
Students do not have access to an E-Mail user account at the school at present and are prohibited from operating a personal E-Mail account, e.g. Hotmail, while at school. Furthermore, students are prohibited from accessing Internet ‘Chat Room’ sites.