

Computer Information Technology and Internet Use

The Durham District School Board's computing and information technology facilities and resources are made available to students in support of their learning, research requirements and career preparation. Use of the computer and information technology facilities and resources of the DDSB shall be governed by all relevant federal (e.g., Copyright), provincial (e.g., Education Act), DDSB (Policies and Procedures), and local school (e.g., School Code of Conduct) laws and regulations. Use of DDSB computing and information technology facilities and resources for the illegal, political or private commercial purposes is strictly prohibited. The onus is on the user to know and to comply with these laws and regulations. Access to computers and the Internet is considered a privilege. Anyone found accessing computers or the Internet in an inappropriate way will receive school consequences and may face legal intervention. School discipline may involve a loss of computer privileges, a suspension or expulsion from school or restitution for damage or destruction of school computer equipment. Legal action may result in charges being laid by provincial or federal authorities. Students and parents/guardians will be asked to review the *DDSB's Secondary School Acceptable and Safe Use Procedure for Computing and Information Technology Facilities and Resources*. At the time of registration, you will be required to agree to terms and conditions of participation to complete the registration.

Inappropriate use would include but not limited to the following:

- harassment of others
- destruction or damage or changing of equipment
- appropriation of data or software
- unauthorized monitoring of electronic communication
- unauthorized use of other's access codes
- violation of copyright and software licence agreements
- academic dishonesty
- violation of another's privacy
- violation of computer security systems
- viewing and/or importation of pornographic, racist, illegal or private documents
- incurring costs to the school through use of telecommunication systems without prior approval

Neither the school's network nor the broader Internet (whether accessed on campus or off campus, either during or after school hours) may be used for the purpose of harassment. All forms of harassment in cyberspace often called cyber-bullying, are unacceptable. Bullying in any form will be subject to school consequences and may result in suspension.

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Durham District School Board Acceptable Use Policy

Students must review this procedure, and if the student under 18 years of age they must review this procedure with their parent/guardian. Procedures and rules regarding the use of the facilities and resources must be followed.

Acceptable Use

- Students will use the computing and information technology facilities and resources as prescribed or approved by their teacher.
- Students will accurately cite information from the Internet. Students will not plagiarize.
- Students will abide by copyright laws. Students will not download and disseminate copyrighted materials without the copyright holder's permission.
- Students will abide by school procedures.
- Students will not share passwords or data.
- Students will report all instances of hardware damage or changes to the Windows Desktop or operating system immediately.

Safe Use

- Students will not post personal information about themselves or others. This includes their home address, telephone number, picture, route taken to school, parents' hours of work, etc.
- Students will inform the teacher immediately when accidental access to inappropriate materials or with unacceptable users has been made.

Appropriate Use

- Students will be polite.
- Students will not use language that is unacceptable in the classroom, including language that is racist, sexist, harassing, violent, or otherwise unacceptable.
- Students will not send messages containing information that would cause discomfort to themselves or others if it were written on a classroom blackboard or other public place.
- Students will not use the computing and information technology facilities and resources in ways that will disrupt other users. Any tactics which harm or compromise the functionality of the system are forbidden.
- Students will assume that all communications distributed on the system are private and confidential and will not disseminate them without permission from the original author.

Reliability/Accuracy

- While the Durham District School Board (including your school) strives to maintain the efficient operation of the computing and information technology facilities and resources, it does not guarantee their reliability. Additionally, the Durham District School Board (including your school) does not guarantee the accuracy of information found on the Internet.

Recourse for Abuse/Misuse

- Students who do not follow this procedure AND those rules provided by their teachers and their school Student Code of Behaviour will have their computing and information technology privileges suspended pending review. Recourse and disciplinary measures are outlined in the school Student Code of Behaviour. Legal recourse may also be applied for criminal activities.

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