

**Vision**

Dream, Inspire, Act.

**Mission**

Genesis Global School aims to nurture all students to become resilient and confident learners as socially responsible leaders serving diverse communities and cultural contexts.

**Policy Monitoring**

Date of review: June 2024

Reviewed by: Principals and Administrative head.

Date of next review: June 2025

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and following any concerns and/or updates to national/local guidance or procedure.

## **INTERNET & NETWORK USAGE POLICY**

### **Policy Rational**

The aim of providing internet access, computers and network as resources to scholars is to enhance the learning through access to vast, diverse resources enabling them to research and thereby disseminate successful educational materials, procedures and practices. The use of computers must support education and research that is consistent with the High-quality teaching and Learning Outcomes of the curriculum. Resources provided are required to be used in a responsible, ethical and legal manner.

Accessing Information Technology Equipment, It is expected that all students will respect the Information Technology equipment with which they have been provided, and realise that using this equipment is a privilege, not a right. Students are encouraged to use the school's computer network and internet connections for educational purposes. Students must conduct themselves in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner at all times. Unauthorised or inappropriate use of the resources, including violations of any of the guidelines below, may result in cancellation of the privilege and further disciplinary action being taken.

### **Guidelines and Responsibility**

- Students should be conscious of the language used while communicating online.
- Student should not use abusive, threatening, bullying, intimidating and/or harassing messages to others. Use appropriate language.
- Respect copyright information attached to any digital resource.
- Students should avoid sharing personal/ false information while communicating online or browsing sites which are not appropriate for their age.
- Appropriate use of hardware and software. Hardware and software should not be destroyed, modified or abused in any way. Vandalism shall result in the recovery of cost of the entire system, damaged and undamaged.
- GGS network should be used only for academic research, and practice directly related to school assignments and extracurricular projects supervised by school faculty.

### **Middle Years Programme / Diploma Years Programme/ CBSE**

- Be polite; do not send abusive, threatening, bullying, intimidating and/or harassing messages to others. Use appropriate language.
- Hardware or software should not be destroyed, modified or abused in any way. Vandalism shall result in the recovery of cost of the entire system, damaged and undamaged.
- Do not use the network in a way that it disrupts the use of the network by other users (e.g., sending mass E-mail messages or annoying other users using unprofessional practices). It should be used only for research, information gathering, and academic practice directly related to school assignments and extracurricular projects supervised by the School faculty.
- Transmission of any material in violation of any Indian regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret or material protected by other people using the network and should not subscribe to Internet mailing lists, distribution lists or Usenet Newsgroups.
- The School will not be responsible for any loss of data resulting from delays, no deliveries, wrong deliveries or service interruptions caused by their own negligence, errors or omissions.
- Do not reveal personal addresses, phone numbers or passwords of students, teachers or other staff

of the School including your own.

- Use of the network to access or process pornographic materials, sexually explicit material, materials depicting extreme violence and files dangerous to any individual or group is STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
- Attempts to modify, remove or bypass configurations installed in your computer to prevent accessing prohibited resources i.e. pornographic material and other objectionable materials through proxies, is forbidden. Such violations shall result in cancellation of usage privileges and will be dealt with as such by the Principal of the School. This will also result in IMMEDIATE loss of access.
- Student shall log into the School network only with their respective Username and Password. Anyone trying to login on a different user shall have his privileges cancelled. User Login attempts to all computers are constantly monitored.
- Every section of School has a schedule for usage of the Internet. All students must adhere to the schedule that applies to their section of School.

The School has the right and capabilities to monitor at all times and log record instances of Internet usage that may reveal information such as which internet sites have been accessed by users. There is real-time, consecutive surveillance of Internet usage and computer logon events as standard practice. With that understanding, School will cooperate fully with local, state or Central Govt agency officials in any investigation concerning or relating to any illegal activities conducted through the School Network.

The School may take any one or more of the following actions in response to complaints and violations:

- Issue warnings: written or verbal
- Suspend or terminate the student's account
- Bring legal action to enjoin violations and/or to collect damages, if any, caused by violations
- Device may be confiscated up to 3 months.

Violation of these policies may subject students to strict disciplinary procedures including termination.

- From time to time, the Network Administrator will make determinations on whether specific uses of the network are consistent with the acceptable use and practice.
- School has the right to terminate the privileges of a particular user if s/he violates the norms and guidelines set by the School for Network use.
- The user is forbidden to upload, download any material that belongs to others
- and that may lead to any kind of nuisance by posting on e-mail or social networking site intentionally or unintentionally or any action that violates any applicable local, state, national or international law or other rules and regulations.
- Posting of information related to the School, School staff, students, Images of the School, the School Logo, initials or seal in any form on the Internet or in any form of communication without specific written permission of the Principal and/or his/her designee shall be prohibited. The posting of any such information on any website, bulletin board, chat room, email, social networking sites or other messaging system without permission or the posting of images or information in any format related to the school, staff, or students that are defamatory, abusive, pornographic or which could be construed as threatening or impugning the character of another person is strictly prohibited.
- Users shall not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of or modify files, other data or passwords belonging to other users or misrepresent other users on the network.

## What is Cyber-Bullying?

Cyberbullying refers to bullying or harassment on social media. The misuse of technology to harass, humiliate, threaten, embarrass, or target someone. Cyberbullying is the act of posting photos, videos, and messages that threaten to embarrass or hurt another's reputation, character, and feelings online.

Digital bullying refers to bullying using technology. Any social platform can be used, including social media, messaging platforms, emails, online forums and even gaming platforms. Scaring, embarrassing, enraging, or shaming those targeted is the goal.

## Cyberbullying impact

Cyberbullying also has detrimental effects on victims. Cyberbullying lowers down the morale of the victims; it makes them weak emotionally and mentally. Many victims of severe cyberbullying suffer depression and commit suicide as a result.

Sometimes the perpetrator(s) might threaten the victims to upload illicit photographs or even morph their photographs and videos in such a way that it spoils the reputation and character of the victims. Many victims, out of the fear of loss of reputation or character assassination, take dire steps such as committing suicide.

Not only that, but children also who are victims of cyberbullying can have a lifetime impact on their mind and go through anxiety, depression, loneliness, sadness, and other mental illnesses. They can also face loss of interest in activities and loss of attention which can lead to a downfall in their grades. Many victims tend to start smoking, drinking alcohol and even become drug addicts to evade the trauma of cyberbullying.

## Laws against cyberbullying in India

There are no specific laws in India which provide protection against cyberbullying. However, the provision of Section 67 of the Information Technology Act deals with cyberbullying. Section 67 of the IT Act prescribes punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form for five years and with fine which may extend up to Rs. 10 Lac. Following are some other provisions of the cyber-bullying laws in India: Section 507 of the Indian Penal Code: This section of IPC provides that if anyone receives criminal intimidation through anonymous communication then the person giving threats shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend up to two years. Section 66 E of IT Act: This section of the IT Act provides for punishment for violation of privacy. It states that any person who intentionally violates the privacy by transmitting, capturing, or publishing private pictures of anyone shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend up to three years or with fine which may extend up to Rs. 3 Lac.

## Violation of the Internet Network Policy by a Student:

Any violation of the above policy may result in the following sanctions: •

- Loss of school-provided technology and network privileges
- Possible referral to other appropriate authorities in more extreme cases.
- Monetary reimbursement to the school for any material damages or loss.

Disciplinary sanctions may include student contract, suspension, or expulsion depending on the nature and severity of the bullying/harassment. **Cyber-bullying** – even where the incident has been recorded out of school times and off the school premises - may result in technology privileges being removed and the administration of disciplinary procedures.

## **Moral Responsibility**

It is a moral responsibility of each student and staff member to use IT infrastructure ethically and utilize these resources for growth of the education system and the community as a whole. Proper use of this infrastructure will help you to keep the system efficient, fast and effective to serve you in a better manner.

## **Team of Reviewers-**

This team consists of ICT representatives from:

- Junior School (PYP)
- Middle School (MYP)
- Middle School (CBSE)
- Senior School (DP)
- Senior School (CBSE)
- Principals

**Annexure to be signed by Parents and Students.**

**TO BE READ AND SIGNED BY THE STUDENT**

I understand and will abide by the above Internet and Network Usage Policy of the School. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offence. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, device may be confiscated for 3 months school disciplinary action may be taken and/or appropriate legal action may be instituted.

I also declare that I shall not connect any system to Internet with any other source other than the Genesis Global School Server using my own Id given to me by the School. I further agree that I will always endeavor to use my computing device responsibly and shall bring all violations of this policy known to me, to the attention of the School authorities.

Student Name .....

Class .....Date ...../...../.....

Admission No .....

Student's Signature .....

**PARENT UNDERTAKING**

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions of the Genesis Global School's Internet and Network Usage Policy. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and GGS has taken available precautions to monitor student access. However, I also recognize it is impossible for GGS to restrict all controversial materials, and I will not hold them responsible for the materials acquired on the network. I hereby give my permission for my child to have access to the school Internet/Intranet.

Parent/Guardian: .....

Signature: .....Date:...../...../.....

Email ID (in caps): .....