

TCDSB Acceptable Use Policy

The **TCDSB Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)** governs the proper use of technology and electronic communication in our schools. The purpose of the AUP is to provide students and their parents with a set of guidelines that outline the safe and appropriate use of technology within our Catholic School system. Included in the AUP is a definition of **electronic communication** to include social media, website publishing, and the use of **personal electronic devices (PED's)**. In addition it addresses expectations surrounding the **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** policy effective as of September 2012. While these devices are not mandatory for classroom activities, they may be included when there is a clear educational purpose that has been identified by the teacher.

Definition:

Electronic communication includes but is not limited to Internet use, e-mail, and social media, browsing, publishing or posting on web sites, downloading, accessing or storing files and use of personal electronic devices.

The use of an electronic communication system within the Board has an educational and professional purpose. The term ***educational and professional purpose*** includes classroom activities and limited high quality, self-discovery activities.

All parents and students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the AUP. For parents, the full text of the TCDSB AUP can be found at: <http://www.tcdsb.org/board/policies/aup>

A summary of the AUP expectations for students in the TCDSB:

Behaviour Expectations:

- It is a privilege, not a right, to use the Board's network and devices. Privileges may be restricted or taken away if the AUP is violated.
- Students must use their own student account and keep it private when using the board network or devices.
- Students must use the network and electronic communication for educational purposes only.
- All students and their parents must sign the "Student Access Agreement" before they will be allowed to use the Board's network and devices.

Personal Safety & Privacy:

- A student should tell the school Principal or teacher immediately if they feel uncomfortable or not safe because of a message they received from an electronic communication such as an email, text message or photo.
- Parents should discuss with their children the importance of protecting their personal information and privacy when using any electronic communication such as the internet.

Unacceptable Activities:

- Trying to access or “hack” parts of the Board network or any other computer network is prohibited.
- Purposely breaking, destroying and intentionally abusing Board computers, network, hardware, software, or electronic devices.
- Installing, accessing or sharing unauthorized equipment, software or media files such as games.
- Engaging in any bullying or threatening behaviour such as cyberbullying, making threats, or posting inappropriate material about another student to a social media site is unacceptable and will be dealt with according to the Education Act or school codes of conduct.
- Impersonation or using a false identity.
- Any use of inappropriate language (obscene, profane, threatening, harassing, bullying, racist or disrespectful) posted publically, privately, or on any websites.

Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement

- Students must not plagiarize and must obtain permission for any copyright materials they use.

Bring Your Own Computer / Personal Electronic Device (PED):

- The student use of PEDs is a privilege, not a right and can be removed if it interferes with student learning.
- Students can bring Personal Electronic Device (PED) such as cell phones and laptops to school, but are not allowed to use them during class time unless allowed by the teacher. Students are responsible for securing their own devices and MUST turn them off and put them away during regular school hours.
- The teacher may send a student to the office if a PED is used inappropriately during class time. The administrator may confiscate the device and store it securely until the matter is resolved.
- The school Principal may decide when and where PEDs are allowed in the school.
- Students can use PED's to connect to the school network for internet access only. PEDs are NOT permitted in examination rooms, unless the teacher has granted permission.
- Board Technical support will be not be provided for any hardware, software or connectivity issues, and users may not install any Board/Ministry licenced software, unless the software has been licensed for home use.
- All student PEDs must have anti-virus protection on them before they can connect to the Board's network.
- Students cannot take pictures or capture video with their PEDs in private areas such as washrooms or change rooms.
- Any pictures or videos published electronically and taken on school property or at a school event must have the permission of the individual(s), their parents or the principal/designate.
- Any images or video that negatively impact the school climate must not be captured, transmitted or posted under any circumstances.

Disciplinary Consequences:

- In the event that a student violates this policy, the student (and parent, where applicable) will be provided with a notice of violation and will meet with a school administrator/designate.
- A school administrator/designate may deny, restrict or suspend a student's access to the Board's network upon any violation of this policy or other rules of the school. Appropriate legal authorities will be contacted if there is any suspicion of illegal activities.
- The Board will cooperate fully with legal authorities in any investigation relating to illegal activities conducted through the Board's system.