

LONDON CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Acceptable Use Policy for the Internet September 2009

Introduction

One of the results of exploring, working, inventing and playing in God's world has been computer technology. Technology can be viewed as a gift from God, to be received thankfully and to be used joyfully in His service. However, as with any gift from God, technology can be used for good or for evil. Therefore, it is important that God's people be equipped to use it wisely, in every area of society and culture. In its service to students, we will strive to use it in responsible and stewardly ways.

Computer technology at London Christian Elementary School will be used to enhance the education of students, preparing them to be lifelong learners and enabling them to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society. Many areas of living and learning are presently affected by computer technology. As Christian educators, we recognize this and take advantage of computer technology as one means by which we can manage God's creation and give Him glory.¹

At London Christian Elementary School, we believe that the Internet is a valuable educational tool that can enhance the learning program of the school. Although the Internet is not an end or subject in itself, we affirm that its responsible and productive use will open up a world of information for our students. The following are several examples of what a student can do on the Internet:

- Do research in almost any field of study.
- Download graphics, text, video clips, and other multi-media sources of information for use in class presentations and writing projects.
- Take virtual tours of the great museums of the world.
- Learn about distant cultures by accessing information about languages, geography, history and political systems.
- Observe science experiments in progress.
- Practice Christian discernment and obedience.

Providing students with access to the Internet can make a tremendous contribution to the educational program at LCES. However, there is a dark side to the Internet, and we should enter this new phase in our educational program with care, being aware of both the advantages and the drawbacks that Internet use brings.

The Internet can be compared to the public library where children are brought intentionally by parents or teachers. A wealth of information awaits the child there. Children are directed to the children's corner, the young adult section, or perhaps to the reference sections. There are always objectionable materials

¹ Parts of these statements were adapted from the OACS thematic statement, Using Computers to Learn (2nd ed., 2000) and the CSI publication, Developing a Technology Integration Plan (1998).

available to the child in the library, but with guidance, we introduce children to the tremendous value of the library and the wealth of knowledge and information available to them. Children are led to use of the Internet much in the same way that they are guided to experience the library. We can direct the student to many educationally sound sites, and with increasing discernment and guidance, they will learn the value of the Internet as a source of information and knowledge. With this in mind, we believe that it is important to teach our students about making Christian choices with regard to the type of material they access. It is our belief that by training our young people how to deal with objectionable material now, they will be better suited to make the same type of value judgments as adults.

The Internet is basically a link to thousands of computer networks and millions of individual users around the world. Since there is no single source of information or service, the Internet must be seen as a decentralized web of information that is difficult to govern or censor effectively. The security provided by the London Christian Elementary School computer network is designed to restrict access to some objectionable material. However, the very design of the Internet is such that access to objectionable material may be obtained by the willful use of various search and retrieval tools. Thus, although our school will make every effort possible to restrict access to inappropriate materials, it must be understood that London Christian Elementary School is unable to control completely the information on the Internet.

Some sites accessible on the Internet contain materials that may be judged obscene or otherwise inappropriate for educational use for the elementary school setting. We neither condone nor permit the use of these materials in the Christian school. Accordingly, no student at London Christian Elementary School may access the Internet at school without written permission from the parent(s) and without the direct supervision of the professional staff.

Guidelines for Student Use of the Internet at LCES

- Technology is a gift from God. As with any gift, appreciate and use it, as God would want you to.
- You must always have permission from your teacher to use the Internet. Your teacher will be close at hand to help you, guide you, and make sure that you are using the computers appropriately.
- A filter has been placed on the computers to prevent you from experiencing sites that are not good for you to look at. Do not attempt to disarm it, get around it, or tamper with it in any way. It is there for your protection.
- Even though the school has worked very hard to protect you from bad sites, you may accidentally come across something that is not right. Tell your teacher immediately. A good rule of thumb to follow is to never view, or display any materials you would not want your parent or teacher to see.
- The purpose of using the Internet at LCES is to support you, the student, in your education by providing you with access to unique resources for educational purposes. Most Internet games are not educational activities, so don't play them on the computers at school, unless your teacher has found an activity that is part of your lesson.
- Do not use chat lines on school computers. This is not an educational activity.
- Many resources on the Internet are copyrighted materials. This means that someone else wrote them and owns them. Do not copy these materials or take credit for creating them. This is called *plagiarism*, and it is wrong.
- Be polite on the Internet. Use appropriate language. Stay away from slang or any expressions by which someone might be offended, even if you aren't. Observe Christian standards of behavior, etiquette and sensitivity towards others. Remember: what you do and say online represents Christ and your school.
- Never, ever give out any personal information about yourself or anyone else. This includes, among other things, your phone number, personal address, your full name, a photo of yourself, or any information that might help someone to identify you.
- Do not use the school computer to buy or sell any goods or services.
- Remember that the use of the Internet at LCES is privilege, not a right. If you are found to be misusing the Internet, your teacher will remove this privilege from you.

Family Name _____

London Christian Elementary School

PARENTAL Consent Form for Student Internet Use 2009-2010

I have read and understand the London Christian Elementary School Internet Acceptable Use policy (available on school web page). I understand the benefits, as well as the concerns and limits of responsibility contained therein.

_____ My child(ren) have my permission to have access to the Internet at LCES.

_____ I also agree to explain the terms of the Acceptable Use policy to my child(ren) and will assist the school in helping them understand both its benefits and potential dangers, as well as in providing ethical instruction concerning the access of its materials.

Signature

Date

Student Application for Internet Use 2009-2010

I have read and understand the London Christian Elementary School Internet Acceptable Use policy (available on school web page). I agree to abide by the guidelines of use stated in the policy, and I understand that if I don't abide by these guidelines, my teacher will remove my Internet privileges.

Signature

Grade

Date

Student Application for Internet Use 2009-2010

I have read and understand the London Christian Elementary School Internet Acceptable Use policy (available on school web page). I agree to abide by the guidelines of use stated in the policy, and I understand that if I don't abide by these guidelines, my teacher will remove my Internet privileges.

Signature

Grade

Date

**Student Application for Internet Use
2009-2010**

I have read and understand the London Christian Elementary School Internet Acceptable Use policy (available on school web page). I agree to abide by the guidelines of use stated in the policy, and I understand that if I don't abide by these guidelines, my teacher will remove my Internet privileges.

Signature

Grade

Date

**Student Application for Internet Use
2009-2010**

I have read and understand the London Christian Elementary School Internet Acceptable Use policy (available on school web page). I agree to abide by the guidelines of use stated in the policy, and I understand that if I don't abide by these guidelines, my teacher will remove my Internet privileges.

Signature

Grade

Date

**Student Application for Internet Use
2009-2010**

I have read and understand the London Christian Elementary School Internet Acceptable Use policy (available on school web page). I agree to abide by the guidelines of use stated in the policy, and I understand that if I don't abide by these guidelines, my teacher will remove my Internet privileges.

Signature

Grade

Date

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER

Agreement for Internet Use

2009-2010

I have read and understand the London Christian Elementary School Internet Acceptable Use policy (available on school web page). I agree:

- that students must follow the guidelines as stated in the LCES Acceptable Use Policy for the Internet.
- that part of my role as a staff member at LCES is to help students abide by the guidelines of use stated in the policy.
- to directly supervise those students of whom I am in charge, whenever they are on the Internet.

I understand that my use of computers at LCES may be monitored.

I agree to uphold the *Vision and Mission* and the *Values Statements* of London Christian Elementary School through my personal use of the Internet as stated in the attached LCES Long Range Plan.

Staff/Volunteer Signature

Date

***Any adult who uses computers regularly at LCES will sign this agreement.**