



# The Pomfret School

*CHALLENGING THE MIND ★ ENCOURAGING THE HEART*

## **INTERNET USE POLICY**

CODE: G11

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Students and teachers have access to:

1. electronic mail communication with people all over the world
2. information and news from government groups such as NASA, as well as the opportunity to correspond with scientist and other scholars at research institutions
3. public domain software and shareware of all types
4. discussion groups on a plethora of topics
5. many university library catalogs, the Library of Congress and ERIC

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. On a global network it is impossible to control all materials. We believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this world-wide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure materials that are not consistent with the educational goals of the school.

Internet access is coordinated in the US through a complex association of government agencies and regional, state and international networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users, who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that the students are made aware of the responsibilities involved in the use of the Internet. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the networked resources. If a user violates any of these provisions, his or her access will be terminated and future access could possibly be denied.

### **INTERNET - Terms and Conditions**

1. Acceptable use - the purpose of the Internet, is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in conjunction with the educational objectives of our district. The Pomfret School's use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for those networks. Transmission of any material in violation of US or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use of commercial activity is not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.
2. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of that privilege.

3. Network etiquette - users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include but are not limited to the following:
  - a. BE POLITE. Do not send abusive messages to ANYONE.
  - b. USE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
  - c. Use of the Internet for illegal activities is strictly forbidden, including violation of copyright.
  - d. Do not reveal your personal home address or phone number or password.
  - e. Do not reveal any personal information about another person such as a home address or home number.
  - f. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt, delete, or damage the network for other users.
  - g. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be the private property of the person who accessed it.
  
5. Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities shall be reported to the authorities.
  
6. Liability – The Pomfret School will not be responsible for any damages you may suffer. This includes the loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained is at your own risk. Any computer connected to a network should have anti-virus software installed. The Pomfret School specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
  
7. Security -
  - a. DO NOT REVEAL YOUR PASSWORD TO ANYONE.
  - b. Do not use another individual's account.
  - c. Attempts to log in to the system as any other user will result in cancellation of your user privileges.
  
8. Vandalism - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and will be reported to the proper legal authorities. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any of the agencies connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

| <b><u>Unit:</u></b> | <b><u>Board of:</u></b> | <b><u>Warned</u></b> | <b><u>Adopted</u></b> | <b><u>Re-warned:</u></b> | <b><u>Re-adopted</u></b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pomfret             |                         |                      | 6/11/98               |                          |                          |