

Internet access and email accounts for students

Information sheet for parents



The NSW Department of Education and Training provides your child with an Internet and email account to improve their learning opportunities in a safe environment.

We do this by providing your child with an individual username and password to login to the Internet at a school or TAFE college. This means their access to the Internet or World Wide Web will be filtered to stop inappropriate sites from being seen.

Your child also has an email account which lets them send and receive written messages. It's similar to sending letters by post only it's done electronically on a computer.

This email account will belong to your child for the entire time they are enrolled in a NSW public school or TAFE college. The unique username and password your child receives will ensure that no one else can access their email account. Your child will also be protected from inappropriate email messages because we use filtering software to block them.

Will my child be protected from viewing inappropriate material?

Yes. The NSW Department of Education and Training manages web filtering to prevent students from looking at inappropriate material on websites, such as pornography.

How will using the Internet and email benefit my child?

Using the Internet will give your child the opportunity for research and discovery on the World Wide Web. Think of it as being able to find thousands of educational books, like in a library, but on the web in a secure environment.

By having an email account your child can share ideas and work easier with classmates on projects. Email makes communication faster and easier.

We plan to add more online learning tools to this learning environment in the future.

What should I do if I want my child to have Internet access and an email account?

You do not need to do anything. Your child will be given Internet access and an email account unless you request otherwise.

Can I choose not to allow my child to use the Internet and email (online learning tools)?

Yes. As a parent you can refuse your child permission to have Internet access and an email account.

What should I do if I do not want my child to have Internet access and an email account?

You should notify your child's school or TAFE in writing if you do not agree to your child being provided with Internet access and an email account.

Will I need to give permission each year?

Your child will have access to the Internet and email as long as they are enrolled at a public school or TAFE college in NSW unless you request otherwise. You will need to notify the school or TAFE your child is attending if you no longer want your child to have Internet access and an email account.

Can my child use their email account away from school or TAFE?

Your child can access their email from computers at home if you are connected to the Internet or from other locations through private Internet service providers.

When away from school or TAFE, your child can access their student portal by typing <http://portal.det.nsw.edu.au> into the address bar of a web browser, from any computer with an internet connection.

Your child will need to use their username and password to login to their portal and access their email account.

We recommend that you install filtering software at home to stop access to inappropriate Internet sites and be aware of filtering software at other locations.

All emails will be protected through the Department's filtering services.

Is my child's privacy protected?

Yes. Your school or TAFE policy on Student Access to the Internet makes it clear that personal information and information that could result in a student being identified is not to be revealed, and that personal account details remain confidential.

All students who use the Internet at school or TAFE must abide by the code of conduct outlined in the policy. It also includes action that may be taken by a school or TAFE if a student does not follow this code of conduct. A full copy of this policy can be obtained from your child's school or TAFE college.

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For further information

You can find out more about student Internet access and email accounts on the NSW Department of Education and Training website at: www.det.nsw.edu.au or by contacting your child's school or TAFE college.