Highlights from the NYCDOE's Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Limitations on Internet Usage

- A) Personal Safety Violations For Students
  - Student users will not post or transmit photographs or personal contact information about themselves or other people without prior written parental consent from the parent of the student whose information is being posted. Such consent must be delivered to the child's teacher or principal. Personal contact information includes, but not limited to, home address, telephone number, school name, school address and classroom.
  - Student users will not agree to meet with someone they have met online without their parent's approval and participation.
  - Student users will promptly disclose to their teacher or other school employee any message they receive that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.
- B) Inappropriate Language
  - Restrictions against inappropriate language apply to public messages, private messages, and material posted on Web pages.
  - Users will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, abusive or disrespectful language.
  - Users will not post information that could interfere with the educational process or cause a danger of disruption in the educational environment.
  - Users will not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
  - Users will not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If a user is told by a person to stop sending them messages, they must stop. However, nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit supervisory use of e-mail in connection with Department activities and employment.
  - Users will not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.
- C) Privacy Violations
  - Users should not repost a message that was sent to the privately without permission of the person who sent them the message.
  - Users should not post private information about another person.
- D) Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement

- Users will not plagiarize works that they find on the internet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were original to the user.

- E) Access to Inappropriate Material

  - Users will not use the Department system to access material that is profane or obscene (e.g., pornography), that advocates illegal and dangerous acts, or that advocates violence of discrimination towards other people (e.g., hate literature). For students, a special exception may be made if the purpose is to conduct research and is approved in writing by both the teacher and the parent. Department employees may access the above material only in the context of legitimate research expressly approved in writing by the employee's supervisor.
  - If users inadvertently access such information, they should immediately disclose the inadvertent access in a manner specified by their school or central division office. This will protect users against an allegation that they have intentionally violated the Internet Acceptable Use Policy