



## Scoil Éanna, Ballybay, Co Monaghan.

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### Mobile Phone/Smart Device Policy

#### **Introductory Statement:**

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in the number of mobile/smart devices among the school population over recent years.

#### **Rationale:**

- iPods, mobile phones, Game Boys, nintendos etc. are intrusive and distracting in a school environment.
- Strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorised technology in a school situation.
- Some electronic devices may be harmful due to frequent use.
- Mobile phones/smart devices may be used to conduct bullying campaigns.

#### **Relationship to School Ethos:**

The use of mobile phones/smart devices contravene the provision of a safe and secure school environment and is not conducive to learning - a provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of Scoil Éanna.

#### **Aims:**

- To ensure a safe school environment for our pupils.
- To minimize intrusions on and distractions to children's learning.

#### **Internal School Procedures for Pupils:**

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone/smart devices in the school:

- Children are not allowed to use mobile phones/smart devices during school hours
- Children should not bring mobile phones/smart devices into school. Only with school and parents' written permission will children be allowed bring a device on to the school premises. Mobile phones/smart devices should be switched off on entering school grounds. They will be collected by the class teacher on arrival each morning and returned before dismissal in the afternoon. They should not be switched on until children have left the school premises, including the school grounds.
- On out of school activities and after school if parents need to be contacted teachers will retain a list of contacts.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours and parents/guardians who need to get a message to their children, may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.
- All mobile phones/smart devices are banned, even during after school activities

- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone/smart device to school (without written permission) risks having it confiscated and not returned until the school day is over. The confiscated item will be returned to the pupil's parent by the principal.
- Under the strict supervision of a staff member, a child with special educational needs may be permitted to use a smart device, in class, if included in a School Support Plan (SSP) as part of a specific learning programme.

### **School Procedures for Staff:**

Mindful of the duties and responsibilities assigned to all staff when working with children, it is vital that all staff be engaged with pupils without distraction during the school day. In this context, access to personal mobile phones/smart devices should be limited to urgent use only.

- Staff have access to the school landline if contact needs to be made with parents/guardians. Where a lengthy conversation with parents/guardians is required, appointments should be made to meet with parents.
- Classroom supervision is arranged if a class teacher has to phone other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child during the school day.
- Staff personal calls are normally confined to break times.
- Texting should follow the same guidelines as calls

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

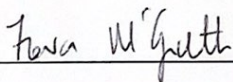
All members of staff share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy.

### **Evaluation:**

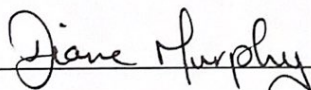
This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis and amendments added as new technology comes on stream.

### **Ratification/Implementation of Policy:**

This policy was adopted and ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Éanna at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Signed: 

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: 

Principal, Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 25/11/2020

Date of next review: November 2023