



Mobile Phone/Smart Device Policy

Introductory Statement:

This policy was drawn up in 2020 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. This policy was reviewed by BOM, staff, parents and pupils in November 2023.

Rationale:

- iPods, Smart Phones, Game Boys, Nintendo 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.
- The capacity of many devices to take photographs, make video or sound recordings could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images. In order to manage the issue of mobile phones, and other personal devices, this policy has been developed.

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:

School Management is introducing a policy that prohibits the use by students of personal mobile/smart phones, and other personal devices, while on school premises or involved in school activities such as tours, trips or extra-curricular activities. This is in order to create a safer environment and to lessen 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.
- 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.
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the School Office remains the first point of contact and can ensure that your child is reached quickly and a message passed onto them
- 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.

In the event that a parent thinks that their child having a phone in school is essential, the following will apply:

- Parents must send the Principal a letter requesting that their child be permitted to bring a mobile phone/device to school. This letter will be kept on file.
- Mobile phones/smart devices should be switched off on entering school grounds.
- Devices will be collected by the class teacher on arrival each morning and returned before dismissal in the afternoon.
- Devices should not be switched on until children have left the school premises, including the school grounds.
- During out of school activities and school extra-curricular activities if parents need to be contacted teachers will retain a list of contacts.
- The Board of Management does not accept any responsibility for the loss, damage or theft of any mobile phones or electronic devices on the school premises.
- Any breaches to this policy will be dealt with in line with the school The School Code of Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy.

School Trips and Outings

- Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones and other personal devices with them on school trips and tours.
- Teachers will have contact numbers in the event that it is necessary to make contact with a parent/guardian.

School Procedures for Staff:

Mindful of the duties and responsibilities assigned to all staff when working with children, it is vital that all staff engage 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:

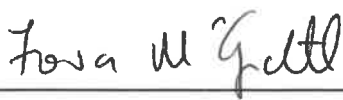
All members of staff share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy.

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 5th December 2023

Signed: 
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal

Date: 5/12/2023