



Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy

Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy St Joseph's NS

Introductory Statement:

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in hand held electronic 'gadgets' amongst the school population over recent years.

Rationale:

- iPods, mobile phones, Game Boys, PSP's, MP3's 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 may be used to conduct bullying campaigns

Relationship to School Ethos:

The use of mobile phones and other electronic games contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment and is not conducive to learning.

Aims:

- To ensure a "technology safe" school environment
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning

Internal School Procedures:

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone/electronic games usage in the school;

- Children are not allowed the use of personal mobile phones/electronic games during school hours without consent. (Children in possession of any personal devices in the school are to be brought to the attention of the teacher by the parent or guardian of the child and the rationale for its requirement on that day. Permission of use of the personal device may be denied by the school)

- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.
- In exceptional circumstances, such as when out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, school tours etc., children may be allowed carry a phone as parents may need to be contacted. Parental permission is required by the child.
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school without permission risks having it confiscated and not returned until the school day is over, parents will be notified.
- Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents.
- Classroom supervision is usually organised if a class teacher has to contact other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child.
- Staff personal phone usage is confined to break times and are only permitted during class time in cases of emergency.

Roles and Responsibilities:

All staffs 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.

Implementation:

The Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy for St. Joseph's NS was ratified by the Board of Management.

Chairperson: **DAVID FLAHIVE**

Date: **07/03/2017**
