



Star of the Sea Primary School

Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy

Introduction

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances which have seen a significant increase in hand-held devices amongst the school population in recent years. These devices include mobile phones, game devices and other photographic and messaging devices.

Rationale

The unauthorised use of Tablets, i-Pads, i-Pods, mobile phones, Gameboys, Nintendo DS, PSP, MP3 etc. can be intrusive and distracting in a school environment.

These devices can allow images, texts or recordings to be made or viewed by pupils without consent or supervision.

Pupils may be exposed to inappropriate and/or unsuitable images, texts, etc. through the unauthorised use of these devices.

Mobile phones etc. allow internet access without policing.

Mobile phones or other devices could be used to conduct bullying campaigns.

School Ethos

The use of students' personal mobile phones and other electronic devices contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment for both pupils and staff. The use of digital technology for teaching and learning is done solely with the use of school owned devices which have filters and firewall settings.

School Procedure and Policy

- Mobile phones are not allowed in school or at school related events e.g. swimming, school tours, football matches etc.
- All other electronic devices are not allowed in school.
- In all circumstances, parents who need to contact or communicate a message to their child may do so through the secretary's office.
- Children who need to contact home during school time may do so through the secretary's office.
- All calls and contact made by staff to parents are done through the secretary's office.
- Staff personal calls and mobile phone use are to be confined to break times.
- When requested in writing by parent/guardian, the Principal may allow a pupil to bring a mobile phone to school. In these exceptional circumstances the mobile phone must be switched off.

Pupils are not allowed to use the mobile phone for any purpose during the school day. Permission to allow a child to bring a mobile phone must be sought by parents/guardians annually.

- Pupils are forbidden to take photographs with any electronic devices during school activities.
- The school accepts no responsibility for any electronic device brought into the school premises.
- Parents must supply the school with updated contact details.
- Any pupil found to be in possession of a mobile phone without authorisation during school hours will have the phone confiscated. The mobile phone will be left in the office until the parent collects it.

Roles and Responsibilities

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

Evaluation

This policy will be monitored regularly and amendments made as required.

Implementation

This policy was approved by all parties – staff, B.O.M. and parents and ratified by B.O.M in 2014. It is due for review in 2019/2020