

Mobile Phone, Personal Device and Electronic Games Policy Scoil Mhuire Milford



Introduction

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in mobile phone, hand held electronic devices and internet enabled devices amongst the school population over recent years.

Rationale

The following procedures have been put in place to ensure minimal and safe usage of in mobile phone, hand held electronic devices and internet enabled devices in our school, due to the facts that

- Mobile phones, Tablets (iPads etc), Game Consoles, Chromebooks etc. are intrusive and distracting in a school environment and can reduce constructive socialisation during break times.
- Strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorised technology in a school situation.
- Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns.

Aims:

It is our aim to:

- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning during the school day.
- To ensure children have maximum opportunities to socialise positively during break times.
- To safeguard the school community from the intrusive threat posed by mobile phones and other electronic devices.
- To ensure that electronic devices in and owned by the school (iPads, computers etc.) are used under the instruction and supervision of staff only, and are used for educational and learning purposes.

Relationship to School Ethos

The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment and is not conducive to learning, a provision which is central to the objectives of Scoil Mhuire Milford . Inappropriate use of such devices can also seriously compromise the school's ethos of RESPECT

Guidelines and Procedures for Children

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

- Children are not allowed to use mobile phones or their own personal electronic games or devices while on school grounds, during school opening hours or during after school activities such as Homework Club, sports, etc.
- We strongly recommend that mobile phones **not** be brought into school.
- If parents/guardians feel it is absolutely necessary for their son/daughter to have a mobile phone in school, the phone must remain switched off during school hours, during school activities and while on school grounds. It must be given to the class teacher at the beginning of each day and it is the responsibility of the child to collect it from the teacher each day.
- Any breach of such school rules will result in immediate confiscation of the mobile/device and possible suspension. The mobile/device will only be returned to a parent or guardian after a meeting with the school principal.
- Liability for any loss, damage or theft of any device is NOT under any circumstance the responsibility of the staff or Board of Management.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary or class teacher (using the school landline phone / school mobile phone).

Use of School Devices -

- The use of school owned electronic/internet enabled devices (Chromebooks, tablets/ laptops etc.) is strictly under the supervision of staff and in line with our Acceptable Usage Policy.

Mobile/Device Awareness and Education-

- Additionally, the school staff and Board of Management will ensure educational talks by experts for pupils, parents and staff in an effort to keep pupils and parents educated on any risks associated with mobile phones, tablets or internet enabled devices - such as cyber bullying, social media security and content.

Guidelines and Procedures for School Staff

- Classroom supervision is usually organised if a class teacher has to contact other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child. This contact is then made using the school landline or school mobile.
- The organisation of school events such as sporting games, events etc. should be organised on the school landline or school mobile, but calls relating to such school business may also be received and made on teacher's personal phones during the school day.
- The Principal may have his/her mobile phone turned on at all times when in classrooms, so that they are contactable by the office / staff (in case of emergency) at all times and to allow him to take Attendance on Aladdin app in the case of class teacher absences.
- Staff personal mobiles may also be used to contact the Principal / office in the case of an emergency in the classroom / yard etc and to take attendance through the Aladdin app.
- Staff personal calls and communication are ordinarily confined to break times (but not while on yard duty).
- All staff should have their phones on silent during class time.
- It is acknowledged that teachers, SNAs and staff may need to be contactable by their family or in the case of an emergency during the day, so phones may be left in view (while on silent) throughout the school day. Staff personal calls on their mobile phones may be answered in cases of such emergencies.

Implementation, Review and Communication

The Board of Management will monitor the implementation of all aspects of this policy and amend as required.

The policy will be reviewed, as necessary, in the light of experience and changes to the nature of communication, mobile phones and other electronic devices. This policy was reviewed in 2023 and will be ratified on 30/03/23 subject to Board Approval

John Dillon		
_____		30/3/23
Chairperson	Date	
Danny O Flynn		
_____		30/3/23
Principal	Date	