



ST. BRIGID'S S.G.N.S.

MOBILE PHONE AND ELECTRONIC GAMES POLICY

Introductory Statement

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

Rationale

- iPods, mobile phones, Game Boys, PSPs, MP3s, 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 may 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 St. Brigid's N.S.

Aim:

- To minimise intrusions on and distractions to children's learning.

Internal School Procedures for Pupils:

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

- Children are not allowed to use mobile phones/electronic games during school hours.
- Pupils should not bring mobile phones into school. In exceptional circumstances, and only with parents' permission (the signed form will be held in the school office), children may be allowed bring a phone on to school premises. Mobile phones should be switched off on entering school grounds. They will be collected by the class teacher each morning and returned before dismissal time in the afternoon. They should not be switched on until children have left the school premises.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours, and parents who need to get a message to their children, may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.

- All electronic devices are banned, even during after school activities. The school will not accept responsibility for the loss of or damage to such electronic devices if brought on to school premises.
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone (without written permission) or electronic game to school 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.
- Mobile phones are no longer permitted on school outings.
- Photographs may NOT be taken with camera mobile phones or digital cameras, either on school premises or during class outings/tours, unless the teacher has given his/her express permission.

School Procedures for Staff

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

- Members of Staff have access to the school landline if telephone contact needs to be made with parents/guardians or to arrange class outings/ tours, etc.
- Calls to parents/guardians should be kept as short as possible. Where a lengthy conversation is required, an appointment should be made for a face-to-face meeting 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.

Roles and Responsibilities

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

Evaluation

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

Implementation

This policy will be in place from March 2015 and will be reviewed and amended whenever necessary.