

Scoil Íosagáin

Policy on: Mobile Phones & Electronic Games

Scoil Íosagáin 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 '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
- 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.

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 - a provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of Scoil Íosagáin.

Aims:

- To ensure a "gadget free" school environment that prohibits the use by students of mobile phones, and other personal devices, while on school premises or involved in school activities such as tours, trips or extra-curricular activities
- to create a safer environment and 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 to use mobile phones/electronic games during school hours
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games into school.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone
- All electronic gadgets are banned, even during after school activities
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school risks having it confiscated and not returned until the school day is over. On second and subsequent

occasions, the phone or gadget is kept by the class teacher or in the principal's office to be collected by a parent or guardian.

- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones both in school and travelling to and from school.
- 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 calls are normally confined to break times
- Staff are permitted mobile phone usage only in cases of emergency

Roles and Responsibilities:

All 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.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

Ratification:

This policy was re-ratified by the Board of Management with no changes in December 2017.

Signed P. J. Harrington
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 12th Dec 2017

Signed Alma Quinn
Principal

Date: 12th Dec 2017