



Presentation  
Primary  
School

# **Mobile Phones & Smart Devices Policy**

Updated September 2023

# **MOBILE PHONE POLICY**

## **Rationale**

The possession and use of mobile phones by school pupils is now extensive, even in the primary school sector. Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions.

**Therefore, the school strongly discourages the bringing of mobile phones and smart devices to school by students.**

The school is prepared to allow mobile phones and smart devices on the premises but only within the parameters of the policy as stated below:

- . Use of mobile phones and smart devices (particularly with the advent of increasing sophisticated equipment and camera phones) presents a number of problems, including:
  1. Mobile phones and smart devices can be valuable items and might render a pupil vulnerable to theft.
  2. Mobile phones and smart devices (and their cost and level of sophistication – or otherwise) can make pupils objects of envy or disparagement and could have implications with regard to discipline and potential bullying.
  3. Even when apparently silent, the use of mobile phones and smart devices for texting purposes could be potentially undermining of classroom discipline.
  4. Use of newer phones and smart devices with integrated cameras could lead to child protections and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.
  5. Many of the above issues also pertain to I-Pads, Smart Watches and other devices etc. They can be very intrusive, distracting and antisocial in a school environment.

## **Guidelines for Children**

- . The Board discourages (and asks all parents to discourage) pupils from bringing mobile phones and smart devices to school on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen.

- . Where a pupil does bring a mobile phone or smart device to school, the phone or device must remain switched off during the school day and may not be used, for any purpose, on the school premises, grounds or during off-site school activities (such as school swimming or sports activities).
- . In cases of emergency, the school office remains the first point of contact.
- . Where a parent feels that their child having a phone in school is essential the following will apply:
  1. Pupils must switch off their phones before they enter the school grounds.
  2. Pupils must hand up their phone to the class teacher at the start of the school day.
  3. Pupils must collect their phones from the teacher at the end of the school day.
  4. Pupils must not switch on their phones until they leave the school premises.
  5. Parents must read and sign the consent form – available from the school office.
- . Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone or other electronic device, as above, for any purpose, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil and returned only to the parent/guardian or carer.
- . The school will not be liable for the replacement of lost, stolen or damaged devices.
- . The school incorporates this policy into the Code of Behaviour and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of the Code.
- . If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of either other pupils or teachers or sharing inappropriate messages via Bluetooth this will be regarded as a serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken according to the school's Code of Behaviour Policy. It may be necessary for Gardai to be involved.

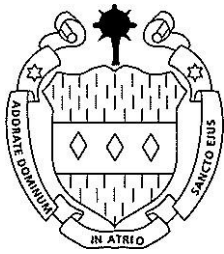
- . If images of other pupils or teachers have been taken the phone will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil in the presence of a teacher.

### **School Trips and Outings:**

- . Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones or smart devices with them on school trips and tours. Parents shall be contacted via phone or Aladdin, should the need arise.
- . Photos to be taken by Class Teacher only.
- . In the event that the tour bus is delayed by more than 20 minutes, parents will be contacted via Aladdin.

### **Guidelines for Teachers:**

Teachers are reminded that mobile phones must only be used for conducting school business during the school day.



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September 2023

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I would like to begin by thanking you for your invaluable support in upholding our school rules. Without that support, we would not be able to maintain the high standard of behaviour which we all expect.

One of the major difficulties we face, as a school community, is the use of mobile phone by the children. While the majority of children are responsible in their use of the phone, we have had a number of incidents, where phones have been used to intimidate, harass or embarrass our students.

In the interests of the children's well-being, the Board of Management and staff discourage children from bringing phones to school. If you, as a parent / guardian deem it necessary for your child to bring a phone to school, please sign the attached consent form and return it to the class teacher by Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Should you deem it necessary for your child to bring a phone to school, please discuss with them, the responsible use of that phone.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely

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Irene Deasy  
Principal

## MOBILE PHONE CONSENT FORM

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's class: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear parent / guardian,

We would prefer children not to bring phones to school. If you deem it necessary for your child to bring a phone to school, please sign the form below and return it to the class teacher immediately.

1. I understand that the school phone may be used if a child needs to contact home during the school day.  
☐
2. I understand that mobile phones are to be powered off before entering the school grounds and not switched on until departure from school grounds.  
☐
3. I understand that the school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged phones.  
☐
4. I understand that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person and that the school may be obliged to contact the Gardai should such a situation arise.  
☐
5. I understand that my child's phone will be confiscated if it is being used during school hours and that it will be returned to me, as parent / guardian, upon request.  
☐

Parents / Guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_