



Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy

June 2022

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, tablets, PSPs, MP3s, smart watches 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
- Use of cameras (on mobile phones, smart watches or tablets) within the school environment have implications for Child Protection and GDPR

Relationship to School Ethos:

The use of mobile phones, smart watches and other electronic games / tablets 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 Bunscoil Bhríde.

Aim:

- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children’s learning
- To ensure the safety and privacy of all individuals at school

Internal School Procedures:

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

- Pupils are not allowed to bring electronic games, tablets or smart watches into school under any circumstances
- In exceptional circumstances e.g. where a child may not be returning home directly after school and may need to be contactable, a mobile phone may be turned off within the child’s bag. In such circumstances, the phone should never be taken out while at school and should never be switched on.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone

- Any pupil who brings an electronic game, mobile phone (that is visible or turned on), smart watch or tablet to school risks having it confiscated. It will be necessary for a parent to come in to school to collect the confiscated item.
- 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.

Implementation:

This policy was devised and adopted by the Board of Management in 2013. It was reviewed in 2016, in 2019 and 2022.