

Scoil Chiaráin Naofa ,
Dubhras ,
Cinn Mhara
Co na Gaillimhe.

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

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 Chiaráin Naofa

Aims:

- To ensure a "technology free" school environment
- 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 of mobile phones/electronic games during school hours
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games into school. During out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, school tours etc., children may not be allowed carry a phone
- 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
- 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

Phone Policy for Staff & Pupils

Mindful of the duties and responsibilities assigned to staff in working with children, it is vital that staff be engaged with children at all working times. In this context, access to phones should be limited to urgency only.

Work Calls

- Calls to parents/guardians should be kept as short as possible. Where a lengthy conversation with parents/guardians is required, appointments should be made to meet parents
- Calls to other professionals and organisations should be made in consultation with the Principal and classroom supervision will be arranged where appropriate

Personal Calls

- In general, personal calls should be carried out during break time
- In cases of urgency, a staff member should use discretion in making calls
- Incoming personal calls should be reserved for urgent matters
- T.Y Students /School Visitors and Work Experience Students are required to turn off phones during school hours and confine phone usage to break -times and after school hours ,
- T.Y Students /School Visitors and Work Experience Students are required to adhere to Acceptable User policy in relation to accessing Internet on phones

Mobile Phones

- Mobile phones may be turned on during lunch time
- In case of urgency, staff should use discretion in making calls
- Texting should follow the rules in relation to calls

Children's Phones

- Children are not allowed to use of mobile phones/electronic games during school hours
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games into school. During out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, school tours etc., children may not be allowed carry a phone

Pupils who ignore this policy and are found with their phones switched on will be dealt with according to the Code of Behaviour

- If a teacher or staff member has a suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, the pupil will be asked to hand over the phone to the teacher or the school principal. The child's parents will be contacted and will have to collect the phone from the school
- Where there is evidence that the material on the phone may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the phone will be handed over to the Gardaí for further investigation and the parents will be informed

- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones
- Mobile phones which are found in the school without a name must be handed to a member of staff immediately
- Pupils who use mobile phones to bully other pupils or to send offensive messages or to make offensive calls will face disciplinary actions as per the school's Code of Behaviour
- The same applies to pupils who take unauthorised photos or recordings of other students or staff members
- It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the school in this regard is ineffective, as with all incidents, the school may consider it necessary to involve the Gardaí.

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Roles and Responsibilities:

All staffs 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 has been in place since March 2018