



SCOIL MHUIRE CARLANSTOWN

MOBILE PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

Introductory Statement:

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances which have seen a significant increase in the number of hand held electronic 'gadgets' amongst the school population in recent years.

Rationale:

- iPods, mobile phones, iPads, tablets, smart watches, PSP's, MP3's etc. are intrusive and distracting in a school environment and strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorised technology in a school situation.
- Mobile phones and other such devices may be used to conduct bullying campaigns

Relationship to School Ethos:

The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices/ 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 Carlanstown NS.

Aims:

- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning
- To reduce the risk of bullying for all our children by ensuring a safe, secure school environment

Internal School Procedures:

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

- Children are not allowed to use mobile phones/electronic devices/games during school hours.
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic devices/games into school or to out of school activities, matches, school tours etc
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the using the school landline phone.

- Teachers will bring the pupil contact numbers to all out of school activities and will call or message parents/guardians as necessary.
- If a child needs access to a mobile phone after school, parents are requested to send a letter to the principal detailing same. The mobile phone should be given to the principal with the letter before school begins. It will be held safely in the office until the end of the school day and given to the child after they have been dismissed from class.
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school will have it confiscated until the school day is over and will only be returned to the parent/guardian.
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone to school and uses it inappropriately will be reprimanded in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour and Anti – Bullying Policy. It will be considered a serious/gross breach of the Code of Behaviour.

Roles and Responsibilities:

We ask all parents to support the school staff in the in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy for the safety and protection of all children.

Review & Evaluation:

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

Ratification and Implementation:

This policy was discussed and ratified by the Board of Management on the 26th January 2015 and will be communicated to the school community with immediate effect.

Signed Kay Coughlan 26th January 2015
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Sarah Curran 26th January 2015
Principal