

Scoil Mhuire, Moylagh

Mobile Phone & Electronic Device Policy



Introduction

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in mobile phones and hand held electronic devices amongst the school population over recent years.

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 students are not allowed to bring their mobile phones or electronic devices to school.

Mobile phones, Tablets (iPads etc), iPods etc. are intrusive and distracting in a school environment and can reduce constructive socialisation during break times.

In addition, they are a potential and real source of bullying and abuse through texting and the dissemination of unacceptable and inappropriate images.

Strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorised technology in a school situation

Aims:

It is our aim to:

- Lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning during the school day.
- Ensure children have maximum opportunities to socialise positively during break times.
- Ensure that electronic devices in and owned by the school (iPads, computers etc.) are used under the instruction and supervision of staff only and are used for educational and learning purposes.



Relationship to School Ethos

The unauthorised use of mobile phones and other electronic gadgets contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment conducive to learning, a provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of Scoil Mhuire, Moylagh.

Guidelines and Procedures for Children

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

- Children are not allowed to use mobile phones or their own personal electronic games or devices during school hours.
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic devices into school.
- In exceptional circumstances, when a mobile/device is required after school, pupils should hand their mobile and/or device to the class teacher/ Principal for safe keeping. It will be kept in a locked drawer/ filing cabinet throughout the school day. The device should be powered off and may be collected at the end of the school day.
- Liability for any loss, damage or theft of any device is NOT under any circumstance the responsibility of the staff or Board of Management.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary or class teacher (using the school landline phone / school mobile phone).
- Use of mobile phones/electronic devices are not permitted even during after school activities such as football training.
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic device to school, and does not hand it to the Teacher/School Principal risks having it confiscated and not returned until a Parent/Guardian collects it.



- The use of School owned electronic devices (iPads/ laptops etc.) is strictly under the supervision of staff and in line with our IT Policy and Acceptable Usage Policy.
- Additionally, the school staff and Board of Management will ensure regular educational talks by experts for pupils, parents and staff to endeavour to keep pupils and parents educated on any risks associated with mobile phones, tablets or internet enabled devices - such as cyber bullying, social media security and content.

Guidelines and procedures for Staff

- Classroom supervision is usually organised if a class teacher has to contact other professionals, outside agencies, or parents in relation to a particular child. This contact is then made using the school landline or school mobile.
- The organisation of school events such as sporting games, school tours, etc. should be organised on the school landline or school mobile.
- The Principal may have her mobile phone turned on at all times when in classrooms, so that they are contactable by staff (in case of emergency) at all times.
- Staff personal mobiles may also be used to contact the Principal in the case of an emergency in the classroom / yard etc.
- Staff personal calls and texts are ordinarily confined to break times (but not while on yard duty).
- All staff should have their phones on silent during class time.
- It is acknowledged that teachers may need to be contactable by their family / their children's school etc. during the day, so phones may be left in view (while on silent) throughout the school day. Staff personal calls on their mobile phones may be answered in cases of such emergencies.



- Every 2 years an external speaker will be invited into the school to speak to the children about mobile phone use, Social Media, Online Safety and other topical subjects at an age appropriate level.

Roles and Responsibilities

All staff, parents and pupils share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy.

All staff, parents & pupils have a responsibility for appropriately using electronic gadgets & phones.

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 _____ and was reviewed in September 2018. It will continue to be implemented following ratification.

This Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 14-12-2018 (Date)

Signed: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Colin Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Colin Smith

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Emma Colgan', written over a horizontal line.

Emma Colgan

Principal