

## Mobile Phone / Electronic Games Policy

### Introductory Statement

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

### Rationale

- I Pods, mobile phones, Game Boys, PSP's, MP3's etc. are intrusive and distracting in a school environment.
- Some electronic devices may be harmful due to frequent use
- Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns
- The use of mobile phones is not conducive to learning which is central to the mission statement and ethos of our school.

### Relationship to School Ethos

The use of mobile phones and other electronic games 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 St.Colman's N.S.

### Aims

- To reduce intrusions on and distractions to the teaching and learning in St.Colman's N.S.

### Internal School Procedures

#### Policy:

- **For Staff**

In consideration of the duties and responsibilities assigned to staff in working with children, it is vital that staff be engaged with children at all times. The following also applies to staff while attending staff meetings or in service training within or outside the school.

- **Personal Calls**
  - Mobile phones should be disabled during all pupil contact time inclusive of yard supervision times.
  - Personal calls may be carried out during break times when mobile phones can be turned on.
  - In cases of an emergency, the office phone is available at all times to receive emergency calls.

Staff will be notified immediately and cover provided so as to allow the staff member take the call.

- **Work Related Calls**

All members of staff have access to the school landline for all work-related matters.

In consultation with the Principal, classroom supervision will be arranged if a member of staff has to contact other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child. In general though, this will be done outside of teaching time.

On any field trips teachers may use their mobile phone as a point of contact with parents and/or the school.

- **For Pupils**

- Pupils are not to bring mobile phones or electronic gadgets to school. If a parent feels it is absolutely necessary on a particular day, a signed note should be supplied outlining the reason why the child needs to bring a phone to school.
- All such authorised phones must be switched off and given to the teacher at the start of the school day and it will be returned at the end of the day.
- Use of a mobile phone by a pupil during the school day will result in the phone being confiscated and will be handed back to a parent/guardian by the principal.
- If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of either other pupils or teachers or sharing inappropriate messages, this will be regarded as a serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with school's Discipline Policy.
- Children who need to contact their parents during the school day may do so through the school secretary who will use the school landline.
- Children are not allowed to bring mobile phone with them on school trips. A contact number will be provided for parents which may be used to contact the teacher on the trip.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

All staff share in the co-ordination and implementation of the policy.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Principal and will be reviewed on a regular basis, usually every two years.

**Implementation:**

This policy was originally implemented in September 2013, following ratification by the Board of Management and is reviewed annually.

Scoil Naomh Colmáin