



Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy

Introduction:

This policy was drawn up in consultation with the staff, parents, pupils and Board of Management of St. John the Apostle, Knocknacarra NS in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in hand held electronic devices amongst the school population over recent years.

Rationale:

The prevalence of the misuse of social media apps on smartphones and electronic devices and the evidence of the detrimental effect on pupil's social and emotional wellbeing have prompted the introduction of this policy.

Data enabled devices with unlimited access risk the exposure of young pupils to inappropriate content, which can be easily accessed and shared via social media. Use of smartphones and electronic devices provide opportunities for and/or can expose children to cyberbullying.

Internal School Procedures: The following are the guidelines for smartphone/electronic games usage in the school;

All smart phones and electronic gadgets are banned, during school and after school activities.

In exceptional circumstances, such as when out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, school tours etc., children may be allowed, with written parental permission, to have a non-data enabled simple mobile phone at school, as parents may need to be contacted after the activity. In the event that a pupil has such a phone, pupils must hand up their phones to their class teacher on arrival to school. The phone will be stored safely and securely until dismissal time.

Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so, through the school secretary, using the school phone. Staff have access to the school phones in each classroom, if urgent calls need to be made to parents.

Any pupil who brings a smartphone or electronic device to school risks having it confiscated by the principal and it will not returned until requested by their parents/guardians.

Roles and Responsibilities: All staff, parents and pupils share in the coordination and implementation of this policy.

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

Ratification and Implementation: This policy was ratified by the BoM on May 22nd 2018.

(Strict implementation of this policy will commence from September 2018.)