

St. Fergal's National School

Mobile Phone/ Electronic Games Policy



Mobile Phone/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 or any other recording device 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 St. Fergal's National School.

Aims:

- To ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff and other members of the School Community.
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning.

Internal School Procedures

The following are guidelines for mobile phones/electric games usage/smart watches in the school.

1. Children are not allowed the use of mobile phones/electric games/smart watches during school hours or when they are on the school premises.
2. Phones, smart watches or any electric games are not allowed on school trips. Teachers will contact the school directly if there is a delay or if a parent/guardian needs to be contacted
3. It is our preferred option and we recommend strongly that if at all possible no mobile phones are brought to school.
4. Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through their class teacher. Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents.

The following procedure is in place for any breach of these by a student:

1. The phone will be confiscated
2. It will be held by the principal.
3. Student and parent/guardian will be invited to discuss the breach of policies with principal before the phone can be returned.

If it is deemed necessary for the phones to be collected, the school accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage or the phones.

- Despite the foregoing, any parent who still wishes their child to have a mobile phone in school must sign the attached Authorisation Form which ensures that:
 - (a) the mobile phone will remain powered off (not on silent or vibration alert) at all times on school premises and during the school day.
 - (b) that if a child's phone is powered on during the school day it will be confiscated and the child's parents must come to the school in person to retrieve it.
 - (c) accepts that if a child's phone is stolen or damaged while on school premises the Board of Management will not be liable for any loss or damage.

Evaluation

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

St. Fergal's National School

MOBILE PHONE & ELECTRONIC GAMES POLICY

Authorisation Form – to be signed by pupil & parent/guardian

I authorise my child to bring a mobile phone to school for the reason that

and I agree that:

- 1) The mobile phone will be powered off (not on silent or vibration alert) at the school gate in the morning and will not be powered on until school is over.
- 2) If my child's phone is powered on at any time during the school day the phone will be confiscated and held by the Principal and will not be returned until I collect it from the school.
- 3) If the phone is lost, stolen or damaged at any time while on school premises the Board of Management will not be held liable for such loss or damage.

Signed: _____
Pupil

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Parent/Guardian

Date: _____

Related Policies

Attendance

- The area of good attendance is rewarded in a no. of ways. See attendance policy for more details.

Anti-Bullying Policy

- Bullying behaviour will not be tolerated in St Fergal's National School. Behaviour of this nature will be dealt with under the Code of Behaviour. Please refer to our Anti-Bullying Policy for more details.

Admission Policy

- The school Code of Behaviour is applied to the admission policy for parental information.
- The full Code of Behaviour will be given to parents of new children admitted to the school.
- Copies of the Code of Behaviour are available to all parents, at any stage upon request.
- Children enrolled in St. Fergal's school are required at all times to co-operate with and support the school Board of Management's Code of Behaviour.
- Parents/ Guardians must sign and accept the school Code of Behaviour as a mandatory condition of enrolment in the school.

Child Protection Policy

- Some inappropriate behaviours may result in advice being sought from Tulsa or in some cases a referral being made to Tulsa on the grounds of child protection (see Child Protection Safety Statement).

Acceptable Use Policy

- In the process of being reviewed.

Ratification and Review by Board of Management:

This Mobile Phone/ Electronic Games policy was adopted by the Board of Management on:

Date: 04/04/2022

This policy has been made available to school personnel/ members of the school community and published on the school website with hard copies available to parents in the school foyer. Copies of this policy will be made available to DES and the school's Patron if requested.

The policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management every two years or when it is deemed necessary.

Signed: Joe Behan
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 04/04/2022

Signed: Tom Sargent
Principal

Date: 04/04/2022

Date of next review: 2024 (or as necessary to the school needs)