

Mobile Phone & Digital Device Policy



-
- **Mobile Phone & Digital Device Policy**
-

Mission Statement

‘Our school concentrates on the development of the whole person, by providing for the religious, moral, social, physical and intellectual growth of our students.

Teachers, students, administrative, cleaning and ancillary staff are all members of the school community. A sense of mutual respect among all members of the school community is encouraged. We encourage good relationships between home and school, recognising this as essential to the educational process.’

While Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal accepts that it is a student’s right to have a mobile phone, the following policy aims to maintain a safe, nurturing environment where the personal dignity and rights of all the members of the school community are preserved.

The school’s policy on mobile phones is therefore devised with the intention of ensuring that teaching and learning can take place without interruption and also with the intention of protecting students and staff from potential harassment or bullying.

In order to assist the school in implementing this policy, parents/guardians are asked not to contact students by mobile phone **at any time during the school day**. Contact with the school may be made through the office at (021)4385331 and students are directed to use the office phone in emergencies. A student, who wishes to go home for any reason during the school day, must arrange to do so through the school office and not independently by mobile phone. This ensures that correct procedures for leaving school before the ending of classes for that day are observed. Responsibility cannot be taken by the school authorities for students who arrange independently to go home without following proper procedure. Any such arrangement is a breach of the Code of Behaviour for Students and will incur sanctions.

1.1 Where a student brings a mobile phone/digital device to school, the phone must be switched off and not be taken out during the school day from 8.35 to 3.30. It may not be used for any purpose on the school premises or grounds.

1.2 Students participating in school related activities (e.g. Study, Extra- Curricular Activities, School Trips, and Tours etc.) must abide by the rules governing these activities.

1.3 No photographs can be taken or recordings made while on school premises and during school related activities unless permission is given. Using mobile phones/digital devices in such a way without permission can seriously infringe on people’s rights.

2 Sanctions for Misuse of Mobile Phones/Digital Devices

2.1 A student who is found using a mobile phone/digital device outside the stated times will be obliged to leave the phone/digital device and its SIM card in the school office for five school days. A second offence requires a phone/digital device and its sim card in the school office until the end of term and a parent must accompany the student to collect the phone.

2.2 At the end of the period the phone/digital device will be returned. The school has the right to ensure in so far as is practicable, that the phone/digital device contains no images or information which would compromise any member of the school community. At the end of the five days a member of senior management will meet with the student and her parent/guardian to establish that no such information remains on the phone/digital device. At this meeting the student will be required to remove any school related images after which the phone/digital device will be returned.

2.3 Incidents where students use mobile phones/digital devices to bully other students or send offensive messages or calls will be investigated under the Anti-Bullying Policy for Students. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone/digital device to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí in such incidents.

2.4 Breaches of this policy may also be dealt with under the Code of Behaviour for Students.

2.5 The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones/digital devices. The safety and security of mobile phones/digital devices is wholly a matter for students and their parents/guardians.

2.6 It is strongly advised that students mark their mobile phones/digital devices with their names and use passwords to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones.

3 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Principal/Deputy Principal/Year Head/Class Tutor/Class Teacher

- Monitor implementation of policy
- Implement sanctions in cases of breach of policy
- Review Policy
-

3.2 Parents/Guardians

Support school policy on mobile phones/digital devices.

3.3 Students

- Comply with rules on mobile phones/digital devices.

This policy is subject to periodic review.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on