

Policy on Mobile Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Bohermore National School

Rationale:

- iPads, tablets, mobile phones, cameras, 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.
- It may also be possible to access unsuitable material on the internet through these devices.

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 Bohermore National School.

Aims:

- To reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorised technology in the school environment.
- To lessen distractions to children's learning.
- To protect children from bullying.

Mobile Phone Use by Staff

1. Staff use of mobile phones will be confined to break times and after school (except in the case of an emergency).
2. In very exceptional circumstances (e.g. an ill family member) the teacher may, with the permission of the principal, have their phones on for a period. An explanation should be given to the class in this case.
3. Staff are reminded to be careful when using their personal mobile phones to contact parents. For privacy & personal safety, teachers should use the school phone or if personal phone must be used, the personal phone number should be withheld through the phone settings.
4. Personal phones should never be used to take photographs of children, or the school environment, or staff, or to store their personal data. Instead school iPads or school

cameras should be used for official school photography. (Please see our Data Protection Policy for storage of photos)

The following are the school rules for mobile phone/electronic games usage in school;

- Pupils are not allowed to use mobile phones or electronic games to school.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through school personnel using the school landline.
- Any pupil found in possession of a mobile phone or electronic game will have it confiscated. A parent/guardian will be requested to collect the phone/tablet from the principal.
- On school tours mobile phones and tablets are not permitted. Parents can be contacted on the school mobile phone in case of emergency.
- Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents.

Roles and Responsibilities:

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

Evaluation:

This policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis in light of new technological developments.

Implementation and Circulation.

This policy will be implemented immediately following ratification by the board of management and circulated to parents.

Ratification.

The policy was updated to include current technologies. It was ratified by the board of management on _____.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson of the Board of Management