

St. Colman's National School, Cloyne.

Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy

Introduction:

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, PSPs, MP3s etc are intrusive and distracting in the school environment
- Strategies must be 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
- Some of the mentioned 'gadgets' can be used to record voices/film which may lead to Child Protection issues or compromise the school's Data Protection Policy

School Ethos:

All pupils and staff are entitled to come to school in a safe and secure environment which is conducive to teaching and learning. The use of mobile phones and other electronic gadgets contravenes this.

Aims:

- To ensure a safe, secure school environment
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning

Internal School Procedures:

The following outlines the policy procedures that are to be adhered to in this school:

- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games into school.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.
- When out of school activities and after school activities are scheduled parents may contact pupils through the school mobile phone

(089 4329426). Similarly, if necessary, the child with the permission of the teacher in charge may contact parents using the school mobile phone.

- All electronic gadgets are banned during school and during any school activities.
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school risks having it confiscated and will only be returned when parents collect it from the office.
- Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents.
- Classroom supervision is usually organised if a class teacher has to contact other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child.
- Staff personal calls are normally confined to break times.

Roles and responsibilities:

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

Evaluation:

This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis and amendments added as new technology is developed.

Implementation:

This amended policy will come into operation following a Board of Management meeting on June 9th, 2011.