



Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy 2023-2028

Introductory Statement:

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in handheld electronic 'gadgets' amongst the school population over recent years.

Rationale:

- iPods, mobile phones, Game Boys, PSP's, MP3's 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 Scoil Diarmada.

Aims:

- To ensure a "technology free" school environment
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning
- To protect the right to privacy of both children and staff.

Internal School Procedures:

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

- Children are not allowed to use mobile phones/electronic games during school hours.
- Children are not allowed to bring any device to school that is capable of recording audio or images. This includes but is not limited to smart watches.
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games into school. In exceptional circumstances parents and guardians may, in writing, seek permission

from the school principal Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone

- All electronic gadgets are banned, even during after school activities.
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school risks having it confiscated and not returned until they collect it from the school principal.
- Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents.
- Staff personal calls are normally confined to break times

Roles and Responsibilities:

All staff 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.

Review

This policy is due for renewal and review during 2028.

This policy was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management in November 2023.

Date: 28/11/23

Signed: Eugene Wall
Chairperson, Board of Management