

Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

During the academic year 2019/20, a number of discipline issues arose in the school as a result of breaches of the existing mobile phone policy. Staff felt that it was becoming increasingly difficult to monitor and implement the policy, while children appeared to be in possession of the latest, state of the art smartphones which were being misused on occasion by some. Discussion arose at our staff meeting on 15th January 2020 and it was decided to consult the wider school community for their views.

Background

Following consultations with the school staff, members of the Board of Management and the Parents' Association in the spring term of 2020, **a decision was unanimously taken that mobile phones among pupils would be completely banned in our school.** It was agreed that we would inform the parents of this change in policy prior to the Easter Holidays with a view to implementing the ban immediately after the Easter break. Due to the unforeseen school closure on March 11th as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic, it was not possible to implement this change as envisaged.

Communication

Prior to the re-opening of the school on September 1st a letter was sent out to the school community outlining our logistical plan for re-opening and also details of our new Mobile Phone Policy. Parents were reminded of this in the September Newsletter which was sent home at the end of the month and the change was explained to the pupils by their individual class teachers and also over the intercom by the principal.

Protocols and Sanctions

As and from September 1st 2020, **pupils are totally forbidden to bring mobile phones to school.** They must not have a phone in their possession at any time while on the school premises.

Any pupil who ignores this policy and who takes a phone to school either with or without her own knowledge will be subject to the following sanctions:

1. The phone will be immediately confiscated and given to the principal.
2. The pupil's parent will be contacted and informed of what has occurred.
3. The parent will be required to come into the school office and sign a form in order to get the phone back.
4. In the case of a second offence, Steps 1, 2 and 3 above will apply again, but the pupil will be put on detention for one day and the problem discussed with the parents over the phone.
5. In the case of a third offence, Steps 1,2 and 3 will apply again, but this time the pupil will get 3 days of detention and the parent will be called into the school for a meeting.

A mobile phone which is found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to the Principal. If no one comes forward to claim the phone within a week, the Principal will hand the phone over to the Gardaí.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or more frequently if the need arises.