



**School Mobile Phone
&
Electronic devices Policy**

*St Joseph's N.S. Rehins
Ballina
Co. Mayo
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Roll No.: 18561Q

School Mobile Phone and Electronic devices Policy

Introduction

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in mobile phone hand held electronic devices amongst the school population over recent years.

Rationale

The following procedures have been put in place to ensure minimal and safe usage of mobile phones and electronic devices in our school, due to the facts that

- Mobile phones, iPads (Tablets) etc, Game Boys/PSPs, MP3s/iPods etc. are intrusive and distracting in a school environment and can reduce constructive socialisation.
- Strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorised technology in a school situation.
- Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns.

Aims:

- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning during the school day.
- To ensure children have maximum opportunities to socialise positively during break times and on school trips.
- To ensure that electronic devices in and owned by the school (iPads, computers, etc.) are used under the instruction and supervision of staff only, and are used for educational and learning purposes.

Relationship to School Ethos

The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices 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 Rehins National School.

Guidelines and Procedures for Children

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

- **Children are not allowed to use mobile phones or their own personal electronic games or devices during school hours.**
- Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones or their own personal electronic games or devices on school trips or tours.
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic devices into school.
- In exceptional circumstances, when a mobile/device is required after school pupils should hand their mobile and/or device to the class teacher/ Principal for safe keeping. It will be kept in a locked drawer/ filing cabinet throughout the school day. The device should be powered off and may be collected at the end of the school day.

- Liability for any loss, damage or theft of any device is NOT under any circumstance the responsibility of the staff or Board of Management.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary or class teacher (using the school landline phone / school mobile phone).
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic device to school, and does not hand it to the teacher/school principals risks having it confiscated and not returned until a Parent/Guardian collects it.
- The use of School-owned electronic devices (iPads/Chromebooks/laptops etc.) is strictly under the supervision of staff and in line with our IT Policy and Acceptable Usage Policy.

Guidelines and Procedures for Staff

- If a class teacher has to contact other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child, this contact is made using the school landline or Aladdin system.
- The organisation of school events such as sporting games, events etc. should be organised on the school landline but calls relating to such school business may also be received and made on teachers' personal phones during the school day.

- The Principal may have her mobile phone turned on at all times so that she is contactable by outside agencies/staff (in case of emergency) at all times.
- Staff personal mobiles may also be used to contact the Principal/office in the case of an emergency in the classroom/yard/ on school trips etc.
- Staff personal calls and texts are ordinarily confined to break times (but not while on yard duty).
- All staff should have their phones on silent during class time. It is acknowledged that teachers and SNAs may need to be contactable by their family / their children's school etc. during the day, so phones may be left in view (while on silent) throughout the school day.
 - Staff personal calls on their mobile phones may be answered in cases of such emergencies.

The Board of Management will monitor the implementation of all aspects of this policy and amend as required.

The policy will be reviewed, as necessary, in the light of experience.

This policy has been drawn up in order to keep the children safe. Therefore, we ask all parents/guardians to support us in its implementation.

Signed :

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Fayal Besb', written over a horizontal line.

Chairperson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jane Burke', written over a horizontal line.

Acting Principal