



Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy

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, tablets, smart watches, any video/picture or audio recording devices 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.
- Misuse of electronic devices may be harmful
- Unsupervised access to the internet/mobile phones can contribute to 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 St. Nicholas’ P.S.

Aims:

- To protect the privacy of staff and students in line with GDPR and

Child Protection Policy.

- To lessen intrusions and distractions to children's learning.

Internal School Procedures: The following are the guidelines for mobile phone/electronic device usage in the school;

- Children are not allowed to use mobile phones/electronic devices during school hours.
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic devices into school. In exceptional circumstances, such as when out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, school tours etc. Parents must write a note to the class teacher explaining why the child needs the phone and then the child will be allowed carry a phone. If a child brings a phone to school it must remain switched off in the child's school bag.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.
- All electronic devices including smart watches are banned, even during after school activities.
- Any pupil using a mobile phone or electronic device during school hours, on school grounds will have it confiscated. This is regardless of the device being on or off. It will not be returned until their parents contact the class teacher or school principal in person.
- Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents and vice versa, removing the need for students having mobile phones.
- 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.
- Staff are permitted mobile phone usage for school matters or emergencies.

Note: St. Nicholas' P.S. takes no responsibility for any damage or loss to mobile phones or electronic devices.

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 comes on stream.

Implementation: This policy has been in place since September 2019.

Reviewed on the

Ratified by the Board of Management on:

Chairperson signature:
