



St Louis Senior Primary School Mobile Phone / Electronic Games Policy

Introductory Statement

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

- I Pods, 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 unauthorized 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 conducive to learning, a provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of *St. Louis Senior Primary School*.

Aims

- To provide a safe school environment
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning
- To decrease the opportunity to conduct bullying in any form

Internal School Procedures

Mobile phones must be switched off by all callers to the school.

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

1. Children are not allowed the use of mobile phones / electronic games during school hours
2. Pupils may bring mobile phones to school but they must be turned off at the gates of the school. Mobile phones are to be kept in the pupil's school bag. The school accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen mobile phones. In sixth class mobile

- phones are handed to the teacher in the morning. He/she keeps them in a locked press during the day. Phones are returned to the children at the end of the school day.
3. If a mobile phone is activated during school time, it will be confiscated by the class teacher and handed over to the principal. A parent/ guardian will be contacted and required to come to the school to collect it when the school day is over.
 4. When pupils are engaged in out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, school tours etc., children are not allowed to carry a mobile phone. If parents need to be contacted, the teacher/ organiser will have a mobile phone and he/she will make any necessary phone calls.
 5. Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.
 6. All electronic gadgets are banned, even during after school activities, unless they are to be used to enhance the learning opportunities of the pupils and are used under the strict supervision of the class teacher.
 7. Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents.
 8. Classroom supervision is usually organized if a class teacher has to contact other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child.
 9. Staff: In general, phones are switched off during school time.
 10. Staff personal calls are to be confined to break times.
 11. Staff are permitted mobile phones in case of emergency. Personnel may not make or accept phone calls or text messages in front of pupils.

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 December 2004.

It was reviewed again in April 2010.

The revised policy has been in operation since *May 2010*.

The policy was reviewed by the staff and Board of Management in June 2018.

This policy was ratified at a Board of Management Meeting in June 2018

Signed: _____
Chairperson of B.O.M.

Date: 11th June 2018