

Monaleen N.S.

Mobile Device Policy



Mobile Device Policy

Introductory Statement:

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in hand held electronic devices amongst the school population over recent years. It replaces the Mobile Phone policy which was in place from 2011 until 2019.

Rationale:

- Some children carry mobile devices with them for safety and security reasons (e.g. walking home after school or after an extra-curricular activity) or for other reasons (entertainment while at after school child-minding etc.).
- iPods, mobile phones, hand-held gaming systems, tablets, smart watches and other mobile technology are prevalent amongst primary school age children. This policy will outline procedures around the use of these devices during school time or while on school trips.
- Many electronic devices have recording capabilities (audio and or video/photo). Such devices may constitute serious risk of policy breaches around recording and/or photographing children or adults in school or while engaged in school activities (see Acceptable Use Policy and Data Protection Policy).

Relationship to School Ethos:

Monaleen N.S. is an inclusive school committed to the holistic education of all of our pupils. The health, safety and wellbeing of all our pupils and staff are of paramount importance.

Aims:

- To ensure that children and adults conform to the procedures outlined in this policy in relation to the use of mobile devices in school.
- To eliminate breaches of privacy caused by unauthorized recording on mobile devices in school or on school trips.
- To eliminate distractions caused by the use of mobile devices during the school day or on school outings.
- To ensure that no incidents of cyber-bullying can take place while the pupils are under the care and supervision of Monaleen National School.

Internal School Procedures:

The following are the guidelines for mobile electronic device usage in the school;

- Children are not allowed to use mobile devices (including but not limited to mobile phones, i-Pods, smart watches with video/photo/audio recording technology, gaming consoles etc) during school hours or while on school trips.
- If a pupil brings one of the aforementioned electronic devices to school, it must remain switched off in the school bag until the child has left the premises after school hours, or until an after school or extra-curricular activity off premises has concluded (e.g. football training at the GAA Field, school tour).
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.
- Un-authorized use of a mobile device during school hours or while on a school trip/activity will result in the device being confiscated, and kept in the office until it is collected by a parent/guardian. Additional sanctions may also apply, in accordance with our Code of Behaviour.
- Un-authorized recording/photographing/videoing of a fellow pupil, staff member or visitor to the school may result in serious sanctions. The device will be withheld until a parent or guardian comes to the office and the recordings are deleted.
- Staff are encouraged to use the school landline for communication with parents.
- Staff personal calls are normally confined to break times.
- Staff may use their personal devices to take photographs for the school App/website/newsletter etc. As soon as the photograph has been transferred to its intended location, it will be deleted from the staff member's personal device (in accordance with our Acceptable Use Policy and our Data Protection Policy).

Roles and Responsibilities:

All staff members share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy.

Evaluation:

This policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis and amendments will be made as new technology comes on stream.

Implementation:

This amended policy has been in place since February 2019.

Communication with parents

This policy will be published on the school website and promoted on the school App.

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be launched in February 2019 and implemented fully from February 2019. The policy will be reviewed on a two year cycle.

The school management team and the teachers will implement this policy.

The Board of Management ratified this policy on _____.

Chairperson

Principal

Date of Implementation: _____

Review Date: _____