

School Policy on the Use of Mobile Phones and Other Devices

Scope:

This policy applies to all pupils. It is our clear intention that mobile phones and other devices will not be used by pupils for calls, messaging, posts, photography or recording while they are attending school or school events.

Definitions:

"Device" in this policy shall mean any mobile telephone, smart phone or any other device, gadget, camera or the like that can be used for Calls, Messaging, Internet/Social Media/Bluetooth, Recording of Sound, Video, Photographs or other Images.

"School Grounds" shall mean the school premises inside the gate at Stonebridge Road or any other place or vehicle where a pupil is present for school activities, including but not limited to buses, swimming pool complex, church, tour venues and the like.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to reduce as much as possible the risks that may be associated with use of Devices by pupils, including but not limited to:

- Disruption to class
- Distraction of pupils from their school work and/or social engagement
- Loss, Theft or Damage to property and/or potential associated injury to pupils
- Filming/photographing/recording of others with or without consent and subsequent use of such material.

School Rules Relating to Devices:

- Pupils are strongly discouraged from bringing Devices to school.
- Pupils who do bring a Device must switch it off before entering the School Grounds and it must remain in their school bag.
- Pupils are forbidden to switch their Device back on until they leave the School Grounds unless with permission of and under supervision by a teacher or the Principal.
- Pupils failing to follow this policy will face disciplinary action under the school's Code of Behaviour and Discipline.
- Pupils who use Devices for bullying or for any inappropriate or offensive messages, calls, posts etc. which relate in any way to the school or wider school community, whether made inside or outside school, will face disciplinary actions under the school's Code of Behaviour and Discipline. In cases where the school feels that a criminal offence may be involved it will not hesitate to notify the Gardaí and/or other relevant authorities.
- Devices may be confiscated by a Teacher, Principal or School Secretary if seen.
- Also, if a teacher or staff member has a suspicion that a Device has unsuitable material stored on it, the Device may be confiscated.
- In the event of confiscation, Devices may be returned to Pupils at going home time or their Parents/Guardians may be contacted to come and collect the Device from the school and discuss the matter with the Teacher and/or Principal.

- Where it is felt that there is a possibility that material on the Device may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the Device will be handed over to the Gardaí for further investigation and Parents/Guardians will be informed.
- The school accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any loss, theft or damage of any kind to any Device brought by a Pupil to School Grounds, or for any consequential loss.
- Pupils are strongly advised, as with all property, to clearly label Devices with their name.
- Any Device found in the School Grounds must be handed to a member of staff immediately.
- It is strongly advised that where possible pupils have passwords/PIN numbers to prevent unauthorised use of Devices. PINs and passwords should remain confidential.