



Mobile Phone and Electronic Device 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, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, Game Boys, PSP's, MP3's (the list is not exhaustive) etc. 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
- Some electronic devices may be harmful to children 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 and is not conducive to learning - a provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of St Ronan's NS.

Aims:

- To ensure a safe school environment
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning

Internal School Procedures:

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

- Children are not allowed to use mobile phones/electronic games/ devices during school hours
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games into school. In exceptional circumstances, such as when there are out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, school tours etc., children may bring a phone to school, but the phone must be handed to



the teacher before class begins to be returned at home time (A form must also be signed by the parent/guardian giving their permission for the child to have the phone in school. Parents must come to the school office to fill out this form specifying the dates the phone can be used)

- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone. Mobile devices may not be used by pupils on school grounds
- All electronic gadgets are banned, even during after school activities
- Any pupil who brings/uses a mobile phone or electronic device to school without the above permission will have it confiscated and a fine of €10 will apply before the device is returned

Roles and Responsibilities:

All staff share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy. St. Ronan's N.S. does not accept responsibility for lost or stolen devices.

Evaluation:

This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis and amendments added as new technology comes on stream.

Implementation:

This policy has been reviewed and implemented on 12/02/24.

Signed _____
Chairperson BoM