

MOBILE PHONE AND ELECTRONIC GAMES POLICY

Scoil Mhuire, Clondra, Co Longford

Introductory Statement:

THIS POLICY was formulated on in March 2018 by the staff of Scoil Mhuire, Clondra in conjunction with the development of our Child Safeguarding Strategy. Mobile phones and electronic games have previously been banned in accordance with our General School Policy and Code of Behaviour.

Rationale:

There has been a significant increase in hand-held electronic devices amongst the school population over recent years.

- iPods, mobile phones, Game Boys, PSPs, MP3s, photographic and electronic devices that are capable of recording or have access to the internet 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 due to frequent use.
- Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns.
- Mobile phones or other electronic devices may be used to gain unsupervised access to the internet.

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 Scoil Mhuire, Clondra.

Aims:

- To ensure the school environment remains free of unauthorised electronic devices.
- 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 the use of mobile phones/electronic games, photographic devices or any device that has the capability of accessing the internet, during school hours.
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games/devices into school..

- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary or teacher, using the school landline phone.
- All electronic devices are banned, even during after-school activities.
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school risks having it confiscated and not returned until the school day is over.

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.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed as necessary, but at the latest, March 2022.

RATIFICATION: This policy was ratified on _____

SIGNED: _____

Mr Denis Glennon, Chairperson, Board of Management,
Scoil Mhuire, Clondra, Co Longford.