

Children's Mobile Phones

Mobile Phone Policy

St. Brigid's National School

Trafalgar Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow

Introductory Statement

This policy was drawn up in response to the technological advances that have seen a significant increase in the use of mobile phones amongst the school population over recent years.

Rationale

- Mobile phones are intrusive and distracting in a school environment. Strategies need to be in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorized technology in a school setting.
- Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns.

Relationship to School Ethos

The use of mobile phones contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment conducive to learning, a provision that is central to the ethos of St. Brigid's.

Aim: To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning.

Internal School Procedures

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone and electronic games

Where a pupil brings a mobile phone to school, the phone must be kept in the student's school bag at all times.

It should be switched off during the school day and should not be used, for any purpose, on school premises, grounds or during off-site school activities (such as school swimming or sports activities).

Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.

The only exception to this is in an emergency or with the prior approval of the Principal or a member of the school team.

Pupils are not allowed bring electronic games into school

Breaches of this Policy

- Pupils who ignore this policy and use a mobile phone on the school premises without permission will be required to hand over their phone to the Principal and the parents will be asked to collect it from the Principal after a period of one day.
- If pupils break the rules for a second time the phone will be confiscated for a period of one week and at the end of this period the parents will be asked to collect it from the school principal
- If a teacher has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, pupils will be required to hand over the phone to a teacher and parents will be asked to collect it from the school.
- Where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the gardaí for further investigation. Parents will be informed in such circumstances.
- Pupils using mobile phones to bully other pupils or send offensive messages/calls will face disciplinary actions as per the school Code of Behaviour.
- It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the gardaí.
- The school will incorporate this policy in the school's discipline policy and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of school discipline.

Lost, stolen or damaged phones

- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for pupils/parents.
- The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.
- Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to a member of the school team.
- It is strongly advised that pupils use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g. by other pupils, or if stolen).

- Pupils must keep their password/pin numbers confidential. Mobile phone and/or passwords should not be shared.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged electronic games as they are not allowed on the premises.

Roles and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all the school team to 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

Ratified by Board of Management and communicated to the school community.

Signed: Tom Sherlock

Date: 20/10/2020

Tom Sherlock
Chairperson, BOM