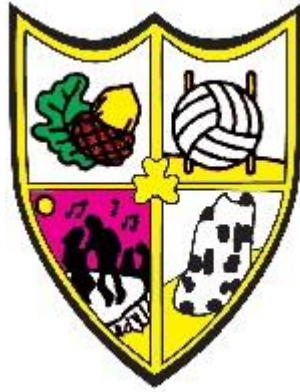


Clocha Rince NS



Mobile Phone and Digital Technology Policy

Introductory Statement

This policy was developed by the staff during Croke Park hours. It was presented to the Parents' Association and to the Board of Management for further input prior to ratification.

Rationale

- I Pods, mobile phones, Game Boys, PSP's, MP3's, Kindles etc. are intrusive and distracting in a school environment
- Strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorized technology in a school situation
- Some electronic devices may be harmful due to frequent use
- Mobile phones and other digital technology may be used to conduct bullying campaigns (cyber-bullying)
- Mobile phones and other electronic devices may be used to access the internet unsupervised. The school's AUP Policy prohibits this.

Relationship to School Ethos

The use of mobile phones and other digital technology contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment conducive to learning, a provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of Clocha Rince National School.

Aims

- To help ensure the health and safety of each pupil.
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning
- To decrease the risk of cyber-bullying events occurring.

Internal School Procedures

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone / digital technology usage in the school:

1. Children are not allowed the use of mobile phones / digital technology during school hours or during a school organised event.
2. Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or games into school. In exceptional circumstances the Principal may permit a pupil to bring a mobile phone. In this instance, the child will ensure it is switched off and hand it to the class teacher at the beginning of the school day for collection at the end of the day.
3. Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so by using the school landline phone. The teacher, or child when directed by the teacher, will request the school secretary to contact the parent on school landline.
4. All electronic gadgets are banned, even during after-school activities.
5. Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or item of digital technology to school will have it confiscated. The item will be returned after a parent has called to the school to collect it.

6. Staff has access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents.
7. The above policy does not apply to members of staff. However all staff members are directed not to use their mobiles during class time.
8. The school may purchase any electronic item as required and for educational use.

Roles and Responsibilities

All members of 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.

Communication of Policy

This policy will be placed on the school web-site and all parents will be informed via text messaging system to consult the web-site. New enrolments will be directed to web-site.

Ratification and Review

This policy was presented to the Board of Management on 9th December 2015 for ratification. It will be reviewed as the need requires and upon the development of other forms of digital technology.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____