

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 hand held electronic 'gadgets' amongst the school population over recent years.

Rationale:

- 'unauthorised' iPads, iPods, mobile phones, electronic devices 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

Relationship to School Ethos

The 'unauthorised' 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 Cushinstown National School.

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 during school hours.
- Recording devices/unauthorized recording of any kind is not permitted
- Mobile phones or electronic games are not permitted during out-of-school activities, after-school matches, school tours (suggestion 'or during') Christmas concerts.
- The school phone and/or authorized mobile phones may be used for all contact home during school hours.
- All electronic gadgets are banned, even during after-school activities.
- Classroom supervision is organised if a class teacher needs to make a call.
- Staff personal calls are confined to break times unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

Sanctions

- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic device must understand that it will be confiscated.
- On a first offence the mobile phone or electronic device will be confiscated overnight and will be returned to the student at the end of the following day.
- On a second offence the mobile phone or electronic device will be confiscated overnight and will need to be collected by a parent or guardian.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Management and all staff are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Evaluation

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

Implementation

This policy was reviewed in May 2017.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Cushinstown N.S.

Signed: *Fr. Sean Devereux* **Chairperson, Board of Management**

Date: 2 June 2017