***Scoil Niocláis***

***Frankfield***

***Grange***

***Cork***

**Mobile Phone and Electronic Games/Devices Policy**

**Introductory Statement**

This policy has been updated in response to technological advances, which has seen phones and electronic games/devices/tablets/smart watches (fit bits, apple watches, V- Tech watches etc) equipped with cameras, internet access and/or recording facilities being used inappropriately by children.

Please note discretion exists with the Board of Management to cover the fact that technology is constantly changing. We as a school cannot provide an exhaustive or explicit list of future electronic games and devices. The guiding principles of this policy are Student Safety and privacy as well as the promotion of learning.

**Rationale**

Mobile phones and electronic games/devices/tablets/smart watches can be valuable items and might render a pupil vulnerable to theft. Scoil Niocláis does not accept responsibility for the loss of or damage to mobile phones or electronic games/devices/tablets/smart watches. Even when on silent, the use of mobile phones for texting purposes could be potentially undermining of classroom discipline.

The use of Nintendo DSi, PSP, Game Boys, MP3 s, I Pods, Tablets, Smart Watches( this list is not exhaustive) is not appropriate in the primary school due to their intrusive and distracting nature. Use of phones and electronic games/devices/tablets/smart watches with integrated cameras, internet access and/or recording facilities could lead to Child Protection and Data Protection issues

 They are a potential and real source of bullying and abuse through texting and dissemination of unacceptable inappropriate images and/or recordings.

**Aims:**

To ensure that children are in a safe and protected environment
To lessen intrusions on and distractions to the child’s learning

**Internal School Procedures**

It is the Board of Management’s Policy to prohibit the use by pupils of mobile phones and electronic games/devices/tablets/smart watches while on the school premises, grounds or during off site activities e.g. school swimming and sports activities, school tours.
If a pupil is found in possession of a mobile phone/tablet, game, smart watch or other electronic device (whether ‘on’ or ‘off’), it will be confiscated. The device will be stored in the office where it may be collected by a parent/guardian and it will be signed for by the parent. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing damaged, lost or stolen phones/devices/tablets/smart watches under any circumstances including where it has been confiscated from a child by a teacher.

Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so using the school landline phone in the secretary’s office. Parents will receive text messages or school app message if children are delayed during after school activities.
The school will incorporate this policy into the school’s discipline policy.

**Electronic Games and Devices**

All electronic games/devices/tablets/smart watches are not allowed, even during after school activities, school tours and end of term parties. Children, who bring these devices to school, will have them confiscated. They will need to be signed out from the office by a parent.

**Staff mobile phones**

* Members of staff should not receive or make personal phone calls during class time or in the vicinity of children.
* Staff are asked to keep their phones on silent during class and supervision time and not to make or receive calls / texts in front of children.
* In case of urgency e.g. family illness, staff should use discretion in making calls.
Texting should follow the rules in relation to calls.
* Photos taken by staff members will be taken on school cameras/tablets only
* Photos taken by parents at school events should not be shared on social media
* Other school visitors should not take photographs of the children without permission from the Principal/ Deputy Principal.

Please note school cameras/tablets should remain on school grounds at all times when not in use and should be used for school purposes only.

**Distance Learning**

For the purpose of distance learning staff may contact parents on their mobile phones. When speaking to pupils the school expects that a parent/guardian remains in the room and listens to the conversation between the staff member and the child on speaker.

**Roles and Responsibilities**
All staff members share in the co-ordination of this policy.

**Evaluation**
This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis.

**Implementation**
This policy has been in place since \_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

**Ratification- 23/03/2017**

**Reviewed and ratified on 06/02/2020**

**Ratified and reviewed on 04/06/2020**

**Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Principal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**