

Castleblakeney National School

Castleblakeney, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway Tel. No. 090 9678433 U.R. 16464I

Mobile Phone and Electronic Games 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:

- Students' Personal Electronic devices such as phones, tablets, cameras, consoles or any device capable of making audio/visual recordings are not permitted on the school premises or to be in the possession of the student while attending school events.
- Some electronic devices may be harmful due to frequent use
- Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns

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 Castleblakeney N.S..

Aims:

- To ensure students leave personal electronic devices at home.
- 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 to use personal electronic devices during school hours
- Pupils are not allowed to bring personal electronic devices into school or on school outings.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary or a member of staff using the school landline phone.
- Children needing to contact parents while on a school outing will be facilitated by a staff member.
- All electronic gadgets 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
- Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents
- Classroom supervision is usually organised if a class teacher has to contact other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child
- Staff personal calls are normally confined to break times
- Staff are permitted mobile phone to aid with educational activities and in cases of emergency.

Roles and Responsibilities:

All staffs 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:

This policy will be implemented from 13/12/2021.

Signed: *Mr. Martín Gíblin* Chairperson

Date: 13th December 2021

