



## **Gaelscoil Mhainistir na Corann (GSMNC)**

**Bán Sheáin, Mainistir na Corann, Co. Chorcaí**

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**Uimhir Rolla: 20107G**

### **Mobile phone and Smart devices Policy**

#### **Introduction**

The possession and use of mobile/smartphones by school students are now extensive, even in the primary school sector. In order to manage the issue of mobile phones, and other personal devices, this policy has been developed.

#### **Rational**

The use of mobile phones and personal devices (Smartwatches, tablets, iPods, iPads, PSPs, MP3s etc.) presents a number of problems that can prove intrusive and distracting in a school environment.

- They can be used to cause discipline problems or as a means of bullying others.
- They can be a source of distraction in the school environment.
- They can also be a source of unneeded competition between students.
- The capacity of many devices to take photographs, and make video or sound recordings could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.

#### **Aim of the Policy**

School Management is introducing a policy that prohibits the use by students of personal mobile/smartphones, and other personal devices, while on school premises or involved in school activities such as tours, trips or extra-curricular activities. This is to create a safer environment and lessen intrusions on, and distractions to, children's learning.

Therefore the school strongly discourages students from bringing mobile phones to school.

### **School Procedure: Guidelines for Parents and Students.**

- Personal Smart devices including smartwatches are not allowed in school by any student.
- A mobile phone may be brought to school by students in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes.
  - Phones are only permitted if required by students for their return journey home after school.
  - Written permission must be given by parents/guardians each term through Aladdin.
  - Phones must be entirely turned off before the students enter the school gates in the morning and not turned back on until the students leave the school grounds in the evening.
  - Phones must be immediately handed over to the class teacher.
  - Phones will not be taken on any school outings or school tours with the exception of the 6<sup>th</sup> class school tour. For this tour, the same rules apply and the phones must be turned off and given to the class teacher.
  - If a student does not follow school procedure and has a mobile phone or smart device without permission, the device or mobile phone will be confiscated. It must be collected from the office by a parent or guardian.
- In some exceptional circumstances, students in 4<sup>th</sup> class may bring a phone, however, permission must be sought from the Principal.
- Mobile phones are brought in at the owner's risk and the school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to the device.
- Parents / Guardians will speak to their children regularly about appropriate behaviour online in line with the school's Acceptable Use Policy.
- Parents / Guardians will monitor their children's activity on these devices in line with the school's AUP.

### **School Procedure: Guidelines for staff.**

- During teaching time, while on yard duty and during meetings, mobile phones will be switched off or put on 'silent' or 'discreet' mode. Staff should not use their phones for personal reasons during teacher-pupil contact time.
- Staff are permitted to use their phones for school-related business only or for emergencies.

- In very exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness in the family, a car has broken down en route to school and a mechanic has been called) the teacher may, with the principal's permission, have their phones on for a period. An explanation should be given to the class in this case.
- Teachers must only use school phones and mobiles to contact parents.
- In the event that a teacher must use their personal mobile phones to contact parents, they must deactivate their caller ID and not share their personal number.
- Staff will follow the school's AUP in regard to GDPR.

Sínte: 

**Cathaoirleach an Bhoird Bainistíochta**

Dáta: 01-06-2023

Síniú: 

**Príomhoide na Scoile**

Dáta: 01-06-2023

The policy will be updated as necessary.