



Mobile Phone Policy

Summer 2022

Mission Statement

*'We show our love for Jesus in all we do and say
We celebrate everyone's gifts and talents
as we enjoy learning and playing together.
We try to follow the example of St. Patrick
within our school community'*

The phrase 'other electronic devices' should be understood to include devices such as Ipods, games consoles or any other tablets.

Aim

Our aim is to:

Have a clear policy on the acceptable use of mobile phones that is understood and adhered to by all parties concerned without exception. In order to achieve this aim, we operate the following Acceptable Use Policy:

Acceptable Use

St Patrick's Catholic Primary school recognises that parents may wish their Year 6 children to have mobile phones for use in cases of emergency. However, mobiles and other devices with cameras or internet access can be used inappropriately and are potentially targets for theft and bullying. The school with agreement from Governors, has, adopted the following policy, which will be rigorously enforced.

Mobile phones and other electronic devices should not be used on school premises and students should keep them switched off and handed in at the start of the school day.

Pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.

Mobile Phones and other personal electrical devices:

- Students remain responsible for their own property. The School cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage to any electronic devices brought into school.
- Students needing to contact family members in an emergency need to do so via the School Office.
- Students who use a mobile on school premises without permission, or during school time, for example while on a school trip, will be banned from bringing their mobile device to school.
- Parents needing to contact their child or inform them of a change in home time arrangements need to do so via the School Office.

Examples of unsuitable use of a mobile phone or other electronic device include:

- taking photographs
- making recordings

- placing photographs or recordings on the internet (e.g. on social networking sites) without the permission of those in the photograph - any activity connected with cyber-bullying (sending texts, Whatsapp etc...)

- gaining access to inappropriate internet sites

If a member of the staff of the school has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it or may have been used in cyber-bullying, students will be required to hand over the phone to a member of staff.

We reserve the right to search files on personal electronic devices in cases where there is reasonable suspicion of misuse. The search will be conducted in a proper manner in the presence of another member of staff. Parents will be informed when such a search has taken place and a record of the incident is kept, including the reasons for the search and its outcome. In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the phone will be handed over to the police for further investigation.

Parents will need to recover the phone from the police in such circumstances. Parents and students should be aware that such incidents are likely to be treated seriously by the courts. Any failure to comply with the above guidelines may result in disciplinary action (in line with school policy) to be taken up to and including the consideration of permanent exclusion of the student concerned.

Parents should be aware that whilst there are obvious benefits to students having a mobile phone in terms of personal safety, there are also some associated risks such as potential for theft, bullying and inappropriate contact, including grooming by unsuitable persons.

All parents and children must read and sign the declaration letter accepting school rules regarding bringing phones in to school (Appendix A).

This policy will be monitored and reviewed as required, but at least every two years.

Appendix A

(name of parent) _____ takes full parental responsibility for my child's use of their mobile phone or other electronic device. I agree to ensure that my child follows the school's policy on use of mobile phones and other electronic devices in school.

I will use parental controls on devices that link to the internet, such as the TV, laptops, computers, games consoles and mobile phones. I understand that these parental controls are not the answer to my child's online safety, but they are a good start and will be supported by the following systems:

I will set boundaries in the online world just as I do in the real world. (Think about what your child might see, what they share, who they talk to and how long they spend online. It is important to discuss boundaries at a young age to develop the tools and skills children need to enjoy their time online).

I will talk to my child about what they are up to online. (Try to be a part of their online life; involve the whole family and show an interest. Find out what sites they visit and what they love about them, if they know you understand they are more likely to come to you if they have any problems.)

If you have difficulties setting parental controls please contact your service provider.

If my child fails to comply with the school's policy then I agree that they will not be allowed to bring their phone into school.

Signed by parent: _____ **Date:** _____

Parents – please discuss the impact of not complying with the school policy and points below
(name of child) _____ will comply with the school's policy on use of mobile phones and other electronic devices in school.

- I will not cyber bully.
- I will not send texts or messages to children at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School that are nasty, mean or could be upsetting.
- I will not send compromising photos of myself to other children at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School.

Signed by child : _____ **Date:** _____

Any failure to comply with the above guidelines may result in normal disciplinary action to be taken up to and including the consideration of permanent exclusion of the student concerned.

