

Scoil Teampall Toinne,
Béal Átha Póirín,
Co. Thiobraid Árann.
Alias
Ballyporeen NS

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| <p>Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy 2014-2015</p> |
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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:

- Electronic gadgets such as iPods, mobile phones, Game Boys, PSP's, MP3's etc. 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 use of mobile phones and other electronic gadgets 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 Scoil Teampall Toinne.

Aims:

- To ensure an appropriate and safe use of technology in the school environment
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning

Staff Work Calls

- Calls to parents/guardians should be kept as short as possible. Where a lengthy conversation with parents/guardians is required, appointments should be made to meet parents
- Calls to other professionals and organisations should be made in consultation with the Principal and classroom supervision will be arranged where appropriate

Personal Calls

- Personal calls should be carried out during break time
- In cases of urgency, a staff member should use discretion in making calls
- Incoming personal calls should be reserved for urgent matters
- Texting should follow the rules in relation to calls
- to involve the Gardaí.

Children's Phones

- Generally, children are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school. If, at the request of parents, a child takes a mobile phone to school, it must be switched off and left in their school bag as soon as the child enters the school grounds.
- Pupils are forbidden to switch their phone back on until they leave the school grounds after school
- These same rules apply when the children are on any school outing, including school tours, swimming lessons etc. Mobile phones may only be used by the children on such occasions with the explicit permission of the teacher.
- Pupils who ignore this policy and are found with their phones switched on will have their phone confiscated. It can be collected in the secretary's office by the pupils parent/guardian at the end of the day.
- If a teacher or staff member has a suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, the pupil will be asked to hand over the phone to the teacher or the school principal. The child's parents will be contacted and will have to collect the phone from the school
- Where there is evidence that the material on the phone may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the phone will be handed over to the Gardaí for further investigation and the parents will be informed
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones
- Pupils who use mobile phones to bully other pupils or to send offensive messages or to make offensive calls will face disciplinary actions as per the school's Code of Behaviour
- The same applies to pupils who take unauthorised photos or recordings of other students or staff members
- It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the school in this regard is ineffective, as with all incidents, the school may consider it necessary

Signed: _____(Principal)

_____(Chairperson Board of Management)

This policy was updated and ratified by the Board of Management in February 2015.
This policy will be reviewed as required.