



MOBILE PHONE & 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:

- Mobile phones, IPods, 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
- Mobile phones could be used to conduct bullying campaigns or other inappropriate activities.

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 St. Mark's JNS.

Aims:

- To keep intrusions and distractions to children's learning to a minimum.

Internal School Procedures:

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone/electronic games usage in the school;

PUPILS

- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games into school.
- Children are not allowed to use mobile phones/electronic games during school hours.
- In exceptional circumstances, such as when out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, etc., children may be allowed carry a phone as parents may need to be contacted. Permission to do so must be requested from the Principal.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline/ mobile phone.
- All electronic gadgets are banned, even during after school activities.

(The only exception to this is for pupils from the Speech and Language class who travel long distances to school on the bus.)

- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school will have it confiscated and not returned until the school day/week is over.

STAFF

- Staff have access to the school landline and school mobile phone for 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 use of mobile phone should be confined to cases of emergency - this includes texting.
- For Health & Safety reasons staff should carry a mobile phone when they are away from the school building e.g on school tour , at swimming, out on playing field, at church etc.

Roles and Responsibilities:

All staff 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 has been in place since June 2014

Ratification

This policy was ratified by BOM on _____

Signed _____

Chairperson BOM



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