



Scoil Bhríde Midleton

00512D

Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy

Introduction and Rationale

This policy is the result of whole staff collaboration with parents and the Board of Management.

- Social and entertainment devices such as iPods, mobile phones, smart phones, smart watches, recording devices, Nintendo DSi, PSP's, MP3's and certain types of Kindles 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.
- This policy is aimed to run in conjunction with the Scoil Bhríde Safety Statement, Scoil Bhríde Child Protection Policy, Scoil Bhríde Anti-Cyber Bullying/Anti Bullying for Children Policy, Scoil Bhríde Supervision Policy and the Scoil Bhríde Acceptable Usage Policy.
- These devices may be used to conduct bullying campaigns and expose our pupils to dangerous cyber-environments

Aims

- To ensure a "technology safe" school environment.
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning.
- To ensure that multi-media cannot be exploited to harm pupils of Scoil Bhríde.

Procedures

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

- The staff sincerely advocates that pupils would **only bring a mobile phone to school when absolutely necessary.**
 - Children are prohibited from using mobile phones/electronic games/smart watches or other electronic devices which have wi-fi, recording or photographic ability during school hours in school buildings.
 - In exceptional circumstance, children may bring the phone to school as long as they have a note from their parent/guardian which explains why they need the phone.
 - Mobile phones must be turned off before entering the school campus.
 - Both the phone and note are handed to the class teacher for the duration of the school day.

- Scoil Bhríde will take no responsibility for any phone.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.
- All mobile phones and electronic gadgets are banned during school trips or after school activities. Our teacher in charge will at all times have a contact list with them and will make contact with parents/guardians in emergency situations.
- Any child who is found with a mobile phone or electronic game in school without permission, risks having it confiscated. The device will not be returned until the parents/guardians of that children make an appointment with the class teacher to collect it.
- 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 usage only in cases of emergency.
- Staff are permitted to take photos and videos for educational purposes on their own devices. All members of staff will remove these images from their personal devices once they are not needed anymore.

The school accepts no liability for mobile phones or any consequences of the use of mobile phones.

The Board of Management is not responsible for any text, photo or social media sent or received during the school day or if a phone is lost, damaged or stolen.

Review and Ratification

This policy was reviewed in January 2023 and ratified by the Board of Management in February 2023. It will be reviewed at in 2025.

Signed: _____
Mr. Pat Fitzgerald,
Chairperson, Board of Management