

Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy

Introductory Statement:

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances amongst the school population over recent years.

Rationale:

- iPods, mobile phones, tablets and iPads are intrusive and distracting in a school environment unless supervised.
- Strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorised technology in a school setting.
- 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 games contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment and is not conducive to classroom learning –a provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of the Monastery C.B.S.

Aims:

- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning.
- To remove opportunities for bullying.

Internal School Procedures:

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone and electronic games usage in the school.

- Pupils are not allowed to use mobile phones in school. In exceptional circumstances where pupils would need to contact parents/guardians after school, the pupil is obliged to deposit the phone at the school office on arrival in the morning and to collect same at time of departure.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline.
- Handheld gaming consoles e.g. PSP, NINTENDOS are permitted during break times and on some school trips at the discretion of the class teacher. However personal tablets and iPads are not allowed.
- The taking of personal photographs and/or videos from the above mentioned devices is not permitted within the school precincts.

- On grounds of health and safety all staff members and visitors should ensure that mobile phones are either “switched off” or in “silent mode” during school hours while within school precincts
- The Board of Management requests the School Principal to display signs to this effect for the benefit of visitors to the school.
- Staff have access to the school landline if calls need to be made to parents or guardians.
- Classroom supervision is usually organised between class teachers if a teacher has to make a call on behalf of a child.

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 will be implemented as of September 2014.

Ratification:

- This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 26th June 2014.

Review:

- This policy will be reviewed in June 2017.