

Mobile Phone/ Electronic Gadget 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 can be intrusive and distracting in school. There may also be possible harmful effects due to frequent use and children could be particularly vulnerable in this regard.

Relationship to School Ethos:

The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices 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 Toonagh National School.

Aim:

To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning.

Procedures:

- The use of personal **camera phones or cameras on electronic gadgets** by pupils is forbidden in the school or at school related activities.
- Pupils are forbidden to use mobile phones in the school.
- Children who need to have a phone, for communication with parents or minders before or after school, deposit their phones in the teacher's desk on their way into school, for safe keeping during the school day, and collect them from the teacher before going home time in the evening.
- If any child is caught with a phone in their possession during the school day it will be confiscated and will not be returned until his/her parents call to the school, in person, to collect it from the Principal.

- Use of mobile phones by staff for essential calls should be kept to a minimum and should be taken/made if possible in an open area where pupils are not present, preferably at break times. Staff, whose phones are on, are advised to keep their phones on silent whilst on the school grounds.
- The office phone is available to all staff and students for emergency and/or urgent calls.

Evaluation:

This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis and amendments added as new technology comes on stream.

Implementation:

This policy was amended, presented to, considered and re-adopted by the Board of Management on the 28/11/2016

Signed:

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date

Principal Teacher

Review Date: _____