

SCOIL NA MAINISTREACH



Policy on Mobile Phones in Scoil na Mainistreach.

In general pupils of Scoil na Mainistreach are forbidden to bring mobile phones to school . Any student found to be in possession of a phone will have the phone confiscated and the parents of the student in question will have to contact the Principal/ Deputy Principal.

In exceptional circumstances, the parents of a student may seek specific permission for the student to be allowed to bring a phone to school. This application must be submitted in writing and must be outline to precise reasons, medical or personal giving rise to the request. The Principal will consider the request and will reply in writing. If the request is acceded to the Principal will outline the conditions attached thereto.

Where a pupil is given permission to bring a mobile phone to school, the phone must be kept out of sight, switched off during the school day and may not be used, for any purpose, on school premises, grounds or during off-site school activities (such as school swimming or sports activities). The only exception to this is in an emergency or with the approval of a teacher.

Pupils who ignore this policy and use a mobile on school premises without permission will be required to hand over their phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from the school office.

If a teacher has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, pupils will be required to hand over the phone to a teacher and parents will be asked to collect it from the school. Where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the gardai for further investigation. Parents will be informed in such circumstances.

The school will incorporate this policy in the school's discipline policy and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of school discipline.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for pupils/parents.

The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.

Pupils should mark their mobile phone clearly with their name.

Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to a member of staff.

It is strongly advised that pupils use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g. by other pupils, or if stolen). Pupils must keep their password/pin numbers confidential. Mobile phone and/or passwords should not be shared.

Pupils using mobile phones to bully other pupils or send offensive messages/calls will face disciplinary actions as per the School Code of Behaviour.

It should be noted that 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 deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the gardaí.

Mobile Phones and Members of Staff.

It is accepted by the Board of Management that members of staff will bring mobile phones to school and may require to use them during the day. However the board insists that the following rules be observed:

Mobile phones should be switched to silent or turned off during all pupil/teacher contact time;

Members of staff should not accept or make calls whilst engaged in formal teacher activities;

Members of staff should make and take calls during breaktimes when they are not on duty.

Members of staff should not make or take calls whilst on yard duty;

Members of staff should turn off mobile phones for the duration of staff meetings, seminars or parent-teacher meetings.

Specific permission should be sought if a member of staff is unable to comply with the above. This might occur occasionally in the case of a sick child, relative or some other compassionate reason.

The Board of Management urges all members of staff to be professional and courteous in their use of mobile phones.

Policy B

Pupils must not bring mobile phones to school or to school related off site activities. The only exception to this is in an emergency or with the prior approval of the Principal.

Pupils who ignore this policy and bring a mobile to school, whether they use it or not, will be required to hand over their phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from the school office.