



School Policy on the use of Mobile Phones at School 2018-2019

Context

Scoil Bhríde is keen to embrace new technologies and software for improving the provision of education and the skill level of its staff and students. It is with this in mind that the management of the school proposes a policy that is both fair and progressive in allowing the teaching and learning environment every opportunity to advance the school in the 21st century. In accomplishing this, the school endeavours to provide opportunities for the incorporation of ICT into classroom practice.

The school sees protecting the teaching and learning environment as essential to achieving what is set out in our mission statement. Excellence, care and respect are three key words within this mission. The school is mindful of the wellbeing of our students and seeks to promote positive mental and physical health. Scoil Bhríde, in consultation with staff, parents, students and management, and in accordance with its intentions to implement the findings of published research, pursues policies that aim to implement a healthy approach to the many aspects of life and learning.

The Policy

It is recommended that students leave their phones at home everyday.

Students should note:

- Any mobile phone brought in from outside the schools are the responsibility of its owners at all times and the management of Scoil Bhríde does not bear or accept responsibility for the loss or otherwise of any such mobile device at any time.
- Students in 1st, 2nd and 3rd year who bring a mobile phone onto the premises during school hours, must ensure that the device is turned off and secured in the student's own locker, which must be padlocked all the times during the school day, including break and lunchtime hours. Transition year, 5th year and Leaving Cert Students are allowed to use their phones during lunch hour.
- This means that no mobile device should be found on a junior student's person at any point during the school day and only during lunch hour for senior students.
- Students are advised that should they wish to contact home or be contacted from home then they may ask their year head to use the school phone based in the front office.
- The school also advises students not to lend any mobile phone to another person on the premises and all students should have a pin code on their mobile phone.
- Students are not allowed to recharge their mobile device on the premises as part of the health and safety of all people using the school
- **At no point or at any time can a mobile device be used to record video or sound of any other person or event in the school without permission. The school has two digital cameras available for use at school events.**

Sanctions for breach of this policy

- The school assumes that this policy will be adhered to by all students at all times. However, in the rare event where this is not the case, the mobile phone will be confiscated until the end of the school day. If the student has to leave the school early (having supplied a written explanation from home) then the mobile phone may be returned when the student has informed her year head and signed the sign out book. Parents will be informed by SMS about the incident and advised of the consequences of this happening again
- In the event that there is a second breach of this policy during the same academic year then the parents/guardians of the student must collect the mobile phone. They will be informed of this by SMS from the school.
- In the event that there is a third breach of the Policy then the student’s parent/guardian will have to collect the phone again and a Blue Card will also be issued to the student. Parents will be informed of the Blue Card in line with our Code of Behaviour.
- In all incidents where a phone is confiscated from a student then the student’s Year Head will be informed.

My Daughter and I have read this Policy and are happy to comply with all parts of the Policy.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Student Signature Date.....