



Presentation Primary School

Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

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Roll No. 12180 U

Policy on the Use of Mobile Phones for Students

Introductory Statement

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances which have seen a significant increase in hand held electronic devices amongst the school population over recent years.

Rationale:

The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment for all, which is conducive to learning, the provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of *Presentation Primary School*. Strategies must be put in place to reduce the use of unauthorized technology in a school situation.

Aims

- To ensure the safety of all, pupils and staff
- To ensure pupils do not bring mobile phones/electronics to school or when involved in school activities such as tours/trips or extra-curricular activities
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning.

Students

The school requests that students do not bring mobile phones to school.

The school will always facilitate students who need to make an urgent phone call to parents/carers. Typically, such calls relate to the care or safety of students – a student feeling unwell or being unclear about arrangements for getting home on a particular day.

If a student has a reason to make an urgent phone call to their parents/carers, they will discuss the concern with their class teacher. With teacher consent, a student can make an urgent call from the school office. The call will be supervised by a member of staff. Students are not allowed to receive calls in school. In situations relating to a student's care or safety, school staff will always pass on an urgent message from a parent/carer to a student. In the interests of safety, the school will not accept messages for a student from anyone other than a parent/carer.

If in **exceptional circumstances** it is absolutely essential that a child must have a mobile phone with them in school for out of school hours, the following steps must be adhered to:

- The child's parents/guardians must write a letter to the Board of Management outlining the reasons why the child must have a phone in school.
- Once this has been agreed, the child must then hand their phone to the school office in the morning.
- The child is responsible for collecting the phone from the office at the end of the school day. This phone is not to be turned on, on school grounds i.e. until past the entrance gate to the school.
- If a child brings a phone to school without prior agreement between parents and the Board of Management, this phone will be confiscated and the child's parents must make arrangements to collect the phone from the office.

Smart Watches may be used to read the time only. If a pupil decides to use a smart watch for other purposes the watch will be confiscated and the principal will make contact with the parents to arrange for the return of the watch.

Reviewed November 2023

Chairperson's signature: _____

Date: _____