

Cherrywood Educate Together National School

Mobile Phone and Smart Device Usage Policy

Roll Number 20535E

Mobile Phone Policy

Introductory Statement

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances and the concern of our community to the impact of these advances on the school going population.

Rationale

- Mobile phones are intrusive and distracting in a school environment. Strategies need to be in place to reduce the intrusiveness and disruption of unauthorised technology in a school setting.
- Use of internet enabled mobile phones have severe Child Protection concerns for the population of the school.
- Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns.
- Mobile phones may be used to exclude other pupils.
- Mobile phones may be used to take photographs without permission.

Relationship to School Ethos

The use of mobile phones contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment conducive to learning, a provision that is central to the ethos of the school.

Aim: To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning and to protect children in the school.

Internal School Procedures

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone, electronic games and internet enabled smart devices including watches.

Children are not allowed to bring internet enabled mobile phones and/or internet enabled smart devices to school.

Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.

If a parent/ guardian feels that a mobile phone is necessary for the journey to/ from school, they should provide a phone which has no internet access or camera function. This phone should be kept turned off and kept in the child's school bag at all times during the school day.

Pupils are not allowed bring electronic games into school

Breaches of this Policy

- Pupils who use a mobile phone on the school premises without permission will be required to hand over their phone to the Principal and the parents will be asked to collect it from the Principal after a period of one day.
- If pupils break the rules for a second time the phone will be confiscated for a period of one week and at the end of this period the parents will be asked to collect it from the school principal
- Where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile phone may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the gardaí for further investigation. Parents will be informed in such circumstances.
- Pupils using mobile phones to bully other pupils or send offensive messages/calls will face disciplinary actions as per the school Code of Behaviour.
- .The school will incorporate this policy in the Code of Behaviour and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of school discipline.

Lost, stolen or damaged phones

- The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones stolen/ damaged while travelling to and from school.
- Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to a member of the school team. The phone will be kept in a locked cabinet in the office.

- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged electronic games as they are not allowed on the premises.

Roles and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all the school team to share in the coordination and implementation of this policy.

Evaluation

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