



Mobile Phone and Internet Enabled Devices Policy

Introductory Statement:

This policy was drawn up in response to the significant increase in internet-enabled devices amongst the school population over recent years.

Rationale:

- Children have a right to an education free from devices which may be distracting and may affect their wellbeing.
- Strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorised technology in a school situation.
- Some electronic devices may be harmful due to frequent use.
- Studies inform us that children do better academically and emotionally the later they access social media platforms, and that in most cases these platforms are unsuitable/illegal for primary school children to access.

Relationship to School Ethos:

Scoil Fhionáin has been awarded the Digital Schools of Distinction flag, and is in receipt of funds from the Schools Excellence Fund in respect of a Coding and Robotics programme. Our commitment to the advancement of use of IT in school enhances the teaching and learning which takes place in Scoil Fhionáin.

However, the use of mobile phones and other electronic games 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 Scoil Fhionáin.

Furthermore, it is our vision that children can enjoying learning in an environment that is free from the possible effects of social media.

Aims:

- To ensure a safe school environment.
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning.

Internal School Procedures:

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone/electronic games usage in the school;

- ***Children are not allowed to use of mobile phones/electronic games during school hours.***
- ***Internet enabled devices such as Smart Watches, which contain any recording features such as camera, are not allowed in school. This is to protect children from being recorded without their consent or prior knowledge.***
- ***Smart phone communication and notification alerts, and location must be switched off.***

- ***The use of any form of recording- audio, video or photo, is strictly prohibited.***
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games into school.
- During school tours, children may get in contact with home by asking the teacher accompanying tour to get in touch on their behalf.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone
- Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents/guardians.
- Staff personal calls are confined to break times.
- Staff are permitted mobile phone usage only in cases of emergency . Recording class activities by means of camera phone is permitted, for transfer to school website www.scoilfhionain.ie.

Roles and Responsibilities:

All staff share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy.

Evaluation:

This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis and amendments added as required.

Implementation:

This policy has been in place since its ratification by Board of Management on

Date 27/2/20 Signed: Fr James Gillespie , Chairperson

