

Mobile Phone/ Smart Watches Policy

- Pupils are not permitted to wear smart watches to school.
- Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones/smart watches on the school premises, in the school grounds at any school event (e.g. tour/field trip) Where a pupil has a mobile phone and brings it to school, it must be turned off before coming onto the school grounds. Pupils are not allowed to have their phone on their person or in their coat pockets.
- If a child uses their phone in school or leaves it switched on, it will be confiscated and only returned to the parents of the child. Parents will be informed in advance of their child's departure from school if a phone has been confiscated.
- Mobile phones may not be used to take videos, photographs or to record another pupil or a member of staff. Using a device in this way without someone's permission can seriously infringe on a person's rights.
- To misuse a phone in this way will be deemed a serious breach of the code of behavior and may result in sanctions up to and including suspension.
- In accordance with child protection procedures, parents who accompany a class on an outing or a school tour are not permitted to take photographs or recordings using phones or other devices.
- Parents are asked not to attempt to contact their child by mobile phone during the school day. Contact with the school may be made through the office at (01) 8379745. If a child feels unwell and needs to go home, the school will contact the parent/guardian at the phone numbers provided.
- If a teacher or other staff members has a suspicion that there may be unsuitable material stored on a phone, it will be confiscated and parents will be informed. If there is a suspicion that material on a phone may provide evidence in relation to a crime, it will be handed over to Gardaí for further investigation. Parents will be informed in such circumstances.
- Pupils who use mobile phones to bully other pupils or send offensive messages/calls will face disciplinary action in accordance with the school's 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.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phone/digital devices. The safety and security for any electronic device is wholly a matter for parents /guardians.

Communication ratification and review of policy

A copy of this policy will be available on the school website and a hard copy will be sent to all parents from fourth class upwards every year. An electronic version will be available to staff members via Aladdin, the in school administrative software.

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management at its meeting in November 2018. It will be reviewed again in 2020-2023 or sooner if necessary.

Signed: _____

Date: _____