

Coill Dubh N.S.
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Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy

Introductory Statement:

This policy was drawn up in response to the increased ownership of hand held electronic 'gadgets' amongst the school population over recent years.

Rationale:

- iPods, mobile phones, Game Boys, PSP's, MP3's etc. are intrusive and distracting in a school environment
- 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
- The school cannot guarantee the security or safety of these devices if they are on the school premises
- Virtually all mobile phones now have cameras and are frequently used in instances of cyber-bullying

Relationship to School Ethos:

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 Coill Dubh N.S.

Aims:

- To formally document the schools existing practice in relation to hand held electronic devices
- To help foster an environment where pupils can feel safe and secure.
- 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 mobile phones/electronic games during school hours.
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games into school.
- If a device is inadvertently brought to school it should be handed into the office as soon as its owner becomes aware of its presence. In this situation the device will be returned to its owner at the end of the school day.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.

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- All electronic gadgets are banned, even during after school activities.
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school risks having it confiscated and not returned until one of their parents collects it or requests its return in writing.
- Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents.
- Contact details can be accessed using "Databiz"
- Staff personal calls are normally confined to break times.
- Staff are permitted mobile phone usage only in cases of emergency.

Roles and Responsibilities:

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

Evaluation:

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