



# St Francis National School

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## Mobile Phone & Electronic Devices Policy

### Introduction

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

### Rationale:

- Unauthorised iPods, mobile phones, tablets, video watches, 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
- Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns

### Relationship to School Ethos:

The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices/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 St Francis NS.

### Aims:

- To ensure a "technology 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 devices usage in the school;

- Children are not allowed the unauthorised use of mobile phones/electronic devices during school hours.
- Pupils may not use personally-owned devices in school (e.g. laptops, tablet computers, digital-cameras, and smartphones) for educational purposes, unless explicitly stated in notes read and signed by parents/guardians and written by their class teacher/school principal.

- Pupils are only allowed to bring personal mobile phones into school with expressed permission from parents/guardians. At the beginning of the school day pupils carrying these devices must give them to the class teacher for safekeeping until the end of the school day (refer to the Acceptable Usage Policy)
- In exceptional circumstances, such as when out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, school tours etc., children may be allowed to carry a phone as parents may need to be contacted. This must be clearly arranged with the school staff, primarily the class teacher.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone
- Any pupil who brings an unauthorised mobile phone or electronic device to school risks having it confiscated and not returned until the school day is over.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

All staff share in the coordination and implementation of this policy.

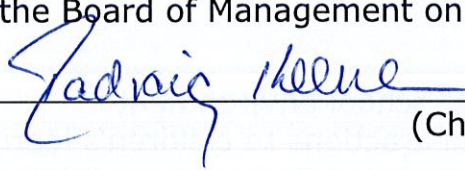
**Evaluation:**

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

**Next review September 2023**

**Mobile Phone & Electronic Devices Policy**

Ratified by the Board of Management on 27/9/2022 (Date)

Signed:  (Chairperson, Board of Management)