

Scoil an Chroi Ro Naofa Urlingford NS

ICT and Social Media Policy

The following policy relates to the use of mobile telephones, other technological devices and social media in our school.

Mobile phones:

In School:

Pupils are not allowed to have mobile phones in school.

1. Mobile phones will be confiscated if found and returned at the end of the day. A repeat offence will see the telephone confiscated and returned only to a parent/ guardian.
2. Pupils have , at all times, access to the school telephone and have the ability to contact their parents when necessary.
3. Messages from parents will be taken and passed on to pupils, generally at break time to minimise disruption of classes.
4. The following activities are strictly prohibited **on any type of device**: taking photographs: recording video and audio clips; use of the internet; use of social media.

After School Activities:

In exceptional circumstances that a child may need a mobile phone for an after-school activity (e.g. sports games) a pupil may bring a mobile phone to school under the following regulations:

1. The pupil has a letter from his/her parent/guardian outlining the necessity for the pupil needing the mobile phone.
2. The mobile phone is turned off and handed up to the pupil's class teacher during the school day.
3. The teacher supervising the after school activity will receive the device and keep it until it is needed.
4. The pupil will receive the mobile phone from the supervising teacher only when the pupil needs to use it or the pupil is going home from the activity.
5. The use of the phone during any school activity will be limited to calling or texting a parent/ guardian only.
6. The following activities are strictly prohibited **on any type of device**: taking photographs: recording video and audio clips; use of the internet; use of social media.

Please note that for after school activities, the teacher in charge will be able to contact any parent/guardian if necessary. When an activity necessitates travel by bus, parents/guardians will be advised of the expected arrival home time and will receive a text update where that time changes significantly. These measures should minimize the instances of a pupil needing a phone.

Any pupil who brings a mobile phone to school does so at his/her own risk and the school takes no responsibility for any damage or loss.

Teachers

Teachers may have their mobile phones with them in school. They are required to have their phones on silent during school time.

Teachers would be expected to have a mobile phone with them on school organised events that take them away from the school, during school time (e.g. school trips)

Other Electronic Devices.

Pupils are not allowed any other electronic devices in school, this includes cameras on school trips.

If a pupil brings such a device to school, the device will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. A repeat offence will see the device confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian.

Any pupil who brings such a device to school does so at his/her own risk and the school takes no responsibility for any damage or loss.

Social Media.

The use of Social media is not allowed in school. The school internet system is filtered by the NCTE (National Council for Technology in Education) and access to social media sites is prohibited on our system.

- a. The majority of Social Media sites have a younger age limit of 13 years (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat) Therefore children in primary school are generally too young to access these appliances legally. (with the exception of a small minority of pupils at the end of Sixth Class)

Therefore, the use of such platforms by primary school children should not occur and the use of such platforms by children in primary school is the responsibility of their parents. This is reflected in our Anti-Bullying Policy

- b. The school does acknowledge that there are children who may have access to these platforms. In the event that the school becomes aware of the use of social media impinging on the school life of a pupil, the parents/guardians of that pupil and any other pupil involved will be informed immediately.
The misuse of social media that impinges on the school life of any pupil will be dealt with under the school Code of Discipline.

Signed - Principal

Date

Chairperson of Board of Management