**Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy**

**Introductory Statement:**

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in hand held electronic ‘gadgets’ amongst the school population over recent years, and in response to Cyber Bullying issues.

**Rationale:**

* IPods, mobile phones, I pads, PSP’s, MP3’s, kindles 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, I pods etc may be used to conduct bullying campaigns

**Relationship to School Ethos:**

The use of mobile phones and other electronic games/gadgets 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. Colman’s N.S..

**Aims:**

* To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children’s learning
* To ensure a technology safe school environment by implementing appropriate internet blocks as approved by the Department.

**Internal School Procedures:**

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

* Children are not allowed to use of mobile phones, I pods, electronic games etc during school hours
* Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones, I pods or electronic games into school. In exceptional circumstances, such as when out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, school tours etc., children may be allowed bring a phone as parents may need to be contacted but this phone must be handed up to the office till home time (accompanied by a note from the parent/guardian)
* If a child “accidentally” brings a phone to school it must be given to the class teacher or the principal for the duration of the school day and collected at 2.55p.m.
* Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone
* All personal electronic gadgets are banned (except in exceptional approved situations)
* Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school risks having it confiscated and not returned until the school day is over (first offence)Confiscated and not returned till end of the week (second offence) Confiscated, duration of the confiscation at the principals discretion –normally no longer than two weeks, and parent asked to come and collect the phone (third offence)
* Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents
* 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.

**Implementation:**

This policy has been in place since September 2008 reviewed 2013 and 2019

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