Galbally National School

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.

**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
* Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns

**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 Galbally National School.

**Aims:**

* To ensure a “technology free” school environment
* 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 of mobile phones/electronic games during school hours
* **Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones, electronic games, cameras or any modern appliances that can record videos or take photographs into school. In exceptional circumstances, such as when out of school activities and after school games are scheduled if a child’s parents wish them to have a phone they must furnish a note and leave the phone on the teachers desk until 3pm.**
* **In the case of school tours etc., children will have access to their leader’s phone.**
* 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 a mobile phone or electronic game to school risks having it confiscated and not returned until the parents have been contacted.
* Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents
* If a class teacher has to contact other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child it should if possible be done at break times or after school.
* Staff personal calls are normally confined to break times and staff will not normally accept calls in classroom or on supervision duties.

**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 was reviewed at a Croke Park meeting on 11th February 2013