

Scoil Bhríde Board of Management

Mobile Phone Policy

Where a pupil brings a mobile phone to school the phone must be:

- (a) Clearly labelled with child's name.
- (b) Switched off at the school gate – before entering school grounds.
- (c) Handed up to the class teacher before class begins – phones will be stored securely in a locked filing cabinet in the classroom.
- (d) Phones will be returned at home time and not switched on until the pupil is outside the school gate.

A mobile phone may only be used in an emergency, with the approval of a teacher.

Pupils who ignore this policy and use a mobile on school premises, without permission, will be required to hand over their phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from the office after a period of one week.

If a teacher has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, pupils will be required to hand over the phone to a teacher and parents will be asked to collect it from the school. Where there is suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the Gardai for further investigation. Parents will be informed in such circumstances.

The school will incorporate this policy in the school's discipline policy and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of school discipline.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for pupils/parents.

The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.

Pupils should mark their mobile phones clearly with their name.

Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located, should be handed to a member of staff.

It is strongly advised that pupils use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g. by other pupils, or if stolen). Pupils must keep their password/pin numbers confidential. Mobile phones and/or passwords should not be shared.

Pupils using mobile phones to bully other pupils or send offensive messages/calls will face disciplinary actions as per the School Code of Behaviour.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the School in this regard is deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardai.