



MOBILE PHONE/DEVICE POLICY

This policy has been compiled with the assistance of information gathered from Parents, Students and Teachers of Ardscoil Rath Iomgháin.

Rationale:

The following policy aims to maintain a safe and nurturing environment where the personal dignity and rights of all members of the school community are preserved in line with our school ethos, “Achieve, Respect, Develop”. This policy has been put in place in order that teaching and learning can take place without interruption and also with the intention of protecting all members of the school community.

Mobile Phones/ Devices (whether on or off), are not permitted on the school campus which includes, school buildings, environs. This also applies to all school related activities that occur on-site and off-site in the name of the school.

In exceptional circumstances, a member of senior management may give permission to students to bring phones on trips/ activities for specifically outlined uses. Prior notice of this will be given.

Should a parent need to contact a child:

- The office may be phoned, and a message passed onto the student in question.

Should a child need to contact home;

- The office phone is available for urgent calls.
- Students should request permission from the Principal or Deputy Principals before using the phone.

- We recommend that students only ring home when necessary and not as a means of requesting friends to visit or looking for books, PE gear etc. We promote student responsibility and encourage this through students organising their own belongings insofar as is possible.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school;

- In the first instance; the phone (with sim card) will be confiscated for a period of three days. If the school is closed the phone will be returned the next school day after the 3rd day of confiscation.
- In the second instance, the phone/device (with sim card) will be confiscated for a period of five days. If the school is closed the phone will be returned the next school day after the 5th day of confiscation.
- For third & subsequent offences, the phone including sim card will be confiscated for one day and a one day suspension will be given for this continuous breach of school rules.

Retrieval of confiscated property:

- Parents accompanied by the student, must make an appointment to collect the phone from the relevant member of management.
- Confiscated phones/ devices will only be returned after school, following the number of days outlined above or at a subsequent appointment.
- The school has the right to ensure insofar as is practicable that the phone/device contains no images or information which could compromise any member of the school community. In this instance the school reserves the right to look through the phone with the parent and child present, to ensure that the privacy of all members of the school community are respected.
- Using a phone to take pictures and record video/audio of others without their consent can seriously infringe on peoples' privacy and rights. Where there is a serious breach of a member of the school community's rights, the school will use their discretion to determine if the input of An Garda Síochána needs to be

sought. An Garda Síochána may also be contacted where the school has concerns in relation to material on a phone.

- Incidents where students use a mobile phone to bully others by sending offensive messages or calls will be investigated under the “Anti-Bullying policy” by the school. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person.

Students who refuse to hand up their phone:

- Any student refusing to hand up their mobile phone/device will be suspended for an additional day along with the confiscation of the mobile phone/device for five days. The student will be re-admitted after a meeting with one of his/her parents/guardians on condition that he/she hands over the mobile phone including sim card which was brought into the school in its entirety. A commitment must be given that no further breaches will occur.

The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
