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Scoil Ailbhe Mobile Phone, Smart and Recording Device Policy

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Introduction and Rationale

In Scoil Ailbhe, the welfare and wellbeing of our students is of paramount importance. In light of the extensive ownership of these devices of primary school aged children, we have updated and reviewed our policy. The use of mobile phones and personal smart devices (e .g ipods, ipads, PSPs, MP3s, smart watches) presents a number of problems, which can prove intrusive and distracting in a school environment. The capacity of these devices to take photographs and make video/sound recordings, could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regards to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.

In the best interest of our pupil safety, there is a complete ban on possession of mobile phones, smart and all recording devices by students in our school, on our grounds and at all school related events.

Relationship to Our School Ethos

The use of the above devices contravenes the provision of a safe school environment for everyone.

Aim of Policy

The aim of this policy is to create a safer environment and to lessen intrusions on and distractions to, children's learning.

School Procedures

- The use of personal mobile phones and other personal smart devices by children who attend the school is **not** allowed while the children are in the care of the staff, while at school, on trips from the school or involved in extra – curricular activities. The children are **not** allowed to bring mobile phones and other personal smart or recording devices to school or when engaging in school – related activities.

- Mobile phones and other personal smart devices which are found in the school should be handed to the school office.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone (0504) 21448.
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains the first point of contact and can ensure that your child is reached quickly and a message passed onto them.
- Staff are permitted to use their phones for school – related business only or for emergencies. Staff should not use their phones for personal reasons during teacher – pupil contact time.

Sanctions

- Any child found to have a phone/personal smart or recording device in school without permission will have the phone/device confiscated. The device will not be returned until a parent/guardian/carer collects it.
- Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone or other personal smart device for any purpose, it will be confiscated from the pupil and returned only to the parent/guardian/carer.
- The school will not be liable for replacing mobile phones or other smart devices that are lost, stolen or damaged.
- The school incorporates this policy into the Code of Behaviour and Discipline Policy and Acceptable Use Policy, and will treat breaches in the same manner as any other breach of these policies.
- If a pupil uses a mobile phone or personal smart device to take photographs, video footage or recording of other pupils or staff members, or shares inappropriate messages, this will be regarded as a gross misbehaviour and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the School's Code of Behaviour.

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

School Trips and Outings

- Children are **not** permitted to bring mobile phones, smart and any recording devices with them on school trips and tours. Teachers will have a contact number in the event that it is necessary to make contact with a parent/guardian.

Policy adoption and review

A copy of this policy is made available to school personnel, the Parents' Council and is available to parents on request.

It is also published on the school website.

It will be reviewed by school management periodically.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on _____

Signed:_____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Principal

Date: _____