



St. Martin's NS, Brittas, Co. Dublin



Mobile Phone, Smart Phone, Electronic Games and Uploading 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. It is to ensure the safety of all children in the school who may be effected by the use of such gadgets.

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.
- Devices may be used to record and post items on social media, which all current research shows may be detrimental to children and teenagers' wellbeing.

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 St. Martin's NS, Brittas, Co. Dublin.

Aims:

- To ensure a "technology free" school environment
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning
- To eliminate potential cyber bullying in the school.
- To promote the mental wellbeing of the children in the school.

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 or electronic games into school. In exceptional circumstances, as agreed with class teachers and school Principal, children may be allowed to bring a phone. This should be accompanied with a written request from a Parent and/or guardian. The phone is to given to the teacher for the duration of the day and will be returned at the end of the school day.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours, will be accommodated by using the school landline phone.
- All electronic gadgets are banned, even during after school activities
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school, without written consent from the parent will have it confiscated and not returned for a 4 week period. It must then be collected by an adult.
- Children found recording on devices will also have their devices confiscated. The device in question will be returned after a period of two months or at the end of the school term, whichever is longer
- In the event that a child uploads anything recorded in school to any version of social media, the device will be confiscated and returned after 6 months or at the end of the school year, whichever is longer. Further sanctions may be imposed if deemed necessary.
- Staff has access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents.

- Classroom supervision is organised if a class teacher has to contact other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child.
- Staff are asked to keep personal calls to a minimum during class times

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 October 2014, and was updated by staff in May 2018.