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## **Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy Scoil Bhríde 13910N**

### **Introduction**

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. The availability of the Internet to the pupils through these devices is also covered in this policy

### **Rationale**

- Social and entertainment devices such as iPods, mobile phones, smart phones, Nintendo DSi, PSP's, MP3's and certain types of Kindles 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.
- This policy is aimed to run in conjunction with the Scoil Bhríde Safety Statement, Scoil Bhríde Child Protection Policy, Scoil Bhríde Anti-Cyber Bullying/Anti Bullying for Children Policy and the Scoil Bhríde Acceptable Usage Policy.
- These devices may be used to conduct bullying campaigns and expose our pupils to dangerous cyber-environments

### **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 our school. "Scoil Bhríde is an all girl's Primary School founded on the Presentation philosophy of Education and Catholic faith. We strive to proactively nurture and educate each child to her fullest potential and at every stage of her development. We believe in striking balance and we encourage the cultivation of strong relationships within the school and community."

### **Aims**

- To ensure a "technology safe" school environment.
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning.
- To ensure that multi-media cannot be exploited to harm pupils of Scoil Bhríde.

## **Internal School Procedures:**

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone/electronic games usage in the school;

- Children are not allowed to use mobile phones/electronic games or other electronic devices which have wi-fi or photographic ability during school hours
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games/devices into school. In exceptional circumstance, children may bring the phone to school as long as they have a note from their parent/guardian which explains why they need the phone. The phone must also be turned off at all times. Both the phone and note are kept in the Principal's office.
- Scoil Bhríde will take no responsibility for any phone which is give to our Principal for storage in exceptional circumstances.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone
- All mobile phones and electronic gadgets are banned during school trips or after school activities. Our Principal Séamus O'Connor or teacher in charge will at all times have a contact list with them and will make contact with parents/guardians in emergency situations.
- Any pupil who is found with a mobile phone or electronic game in school without permission, risks having it confiscated. The device will not be returned until the parents/guardians of that children make an appointment with our school Principal to collect it.
- Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents
- Classroom supervision is usually organised if a class teacher has to contact other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child
- Staff personal calls are normally confined to break times
- Staff are permitted mobile phone usage only in cases of emergency
- Staff are permitted to take photos and videos for educational purposes on their own devices. All members of staff will remove these images from their personal devices once they are not needed anymore.

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

Our Principal Séamus O'Connor as well as the rest of our staff here in Scoil Bhríde share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy.

### **Evaluation:**

This policy is monitored on an annual basis and amendments added as new technology comes on stream.

### **Implementation:**

This policy has been in place since April 2014.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed in 2020.

### **Ratification**

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**Chairperson**