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## **Mobile Phone and Electronic Games 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.

### **Rationale:**

- iPods, mobile phones, Gameboys, PSPs, Smart Watches, FitBits 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
- Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns
- Mobile phones and some Smart Watches can be used to take photographs, which can lead to upset and conflict

### **Relationship to School Ethos:**

The use of mobile phones and other unauthorised electronic devices 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 Saint Michael's National School.

### **Aims:**

- To minimise risk of bullying and cyberbullying
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning

### **Internal School Procedures:**

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone/smart devices usage in the school;

- Children are not allowed to use mobile phones/electronic devices, including Smart Watches / FitBits during school hours, with the exception of using school iPads/ laptops for class work.
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic devices into school.

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- In exceptional circumstances, parents may apply to the Board for special permission to bring a phone to school. In this case the phone will be powered off during the school day and will be handed to the teacher on arrival. It is the pupil's responsibility to collect the phone at 2.20pm. The school does not take any responsibility for loss or damage to any mobile phone brought into school.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary 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 will be asked to hand it to their teacher and will have it returned at home time.
- Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents.
- Staff use their mobile phones to access SeeSaw, Class Dojo and Aladdin.
- Staff personal calls are normally confined to break times, except in urgent cases.

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

All staff 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 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

It was updated in June 2022

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Signed:   
Chairperson