



St. Ita's Special School

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Roll No. 18936k

MOBILE PHONE / ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICIES

All pupils who bring a mobile phone to school must hand them to their teacher at the start of the day and the phone will be locked in a cupboard. It should be switched off during the school day and may not be used, for any purpose, on school premises, grounds or during off-site school activities (such as school swimming or sports activities). The phone will be handed back at the end of the school day.

Electronic devices can only be brought to school on a Friday as per class rules.

Staff are not permitted to use mobile phones during class time and they must be kept switched off/on silent

Pupils who ignore this policy and use a mobile/electronic device on school premises without permission will be required to hand over their phone/device to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from the school office.

Following a number of consultative meetings with students, staff and parents, agreement was made on the following issues.

In the most senior two classes in the school students may have limited use of their mobile phone/electronic devices during school under the following conditions.

1. Phones/electronic devices may be returned to students for break time or recreational time if used in the designated mobile phone area with adult supervision. A mobile phone pass system has been suggested after consultation with student committee and may be adopted by senior teachers.
2. Senior pupils may use their phones/electronic devices for music and games but not for texting, phone calls or the taking of photographs

Senior Students on school trips may also have access to their phones/electronic devices with the permission of school staff and under supervision.

If a teacher has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, pupils will be required to hand over the phone/electronic device to a teacher and parents will be asked to collect it from the school. Where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile/electronic device may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone/electronic device will be handed over to the Gardai for further investigation. Parents will be informed in such circumstances. Students who refuse to comply with this policy will have their mobile phone/electronic privileges withdrawn and reviewed after three months

The school will incorporate this policy in the school's discipline policy and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of school discipline.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones/electronic devices. The safety and security of mobile phones/devices is wholly a matter for pupils/parents.

The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones/electronic device stolen while travelling to and from school.

Pupils should mark their mobile phone/electronic device clearly with their name.

Mobile phones/electronic devices which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to a member of staff.

It is strongly advised that pupils use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorized phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g. by other pupils, or if stolen). Pupils must keep their password/pin numbers confidential. Mobile phone and/or passwords should not be shared. Pupils using mobile phones to bully other pupils or send offensive messages/calls will face disciplinary actions as per the School Code of Behaviour. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone/electronic device to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the School in this regard is deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí. This policy was

Ratified by Board of Management on _____
Date

Signed _____
Chairperson, Board of Management