



## **SCOIL NAOMH TREASA**

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### **Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy**

#### **Introduction and Rationale**

This policy was prepared in consultation with the staff, parents, Board of Management and Student Council.

The possession and use of mobile phones by school pupils is now extensive, even in the primary school sector. The use of mobile phones, smart watches and personal electronic devices presents a number of problems that can prove intrusive and distracting in a school environment. They can be used to cause discipline problems or as a means of bullying others. The capacity of many devices to take photographs, make video or sound recordings could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.

#### **Relationship to Our School Ethos**

The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment and is not conducive to learning - a provision that is central to the mission statement and ethos of Scoil Naomh Treasa.

#### **Aim of Policy**

School Management is introducing a policy that prohibits the use by students of mobile phones, smart watches and other personal devices, while on school premises or involved in school activities such as tours, trips or extra-curricular activities. This is in order to create a safer environment and to lessen intrusions on, and distractions to, children's learning.

#### **School Procedures**

- The use of mobile phones by children who attend the school is not allowed while the children are in the care of the school staff, while at school, on trips from the school or involved in extracurricular activities. The children should, therefore, not bring mobile phones, smart watches or other personal devices to school or when engaging in school-related activities.
- Mobile phones that are found in the school should be handed to a member of staff.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through school staff.
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains the first point of contact.

#### **Sanctions**

- Any child found to have a phone, smart watch or electronic device in school or at an afterschool activity, without permission, will have the phone confiscated. The device will not be returned until a parent/guardian collects it. Similarly, the use of all personal

electronic devices is not permitted during the school day – this includes arrival, class time, breaks and dismissal.

- The School will not be liable for replacing mobile phones or other devices that are lost, stolen or damaged.
- The School incorporates this policy into the Code of Behaviour 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 device to take photographs, video footage or recording of other pupils or staff members, or shares inappropriate messages, this will be regarded as serious unacceptable behaviour, or very serious unacceptable behaviour, and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the schools Code of Behaviour. Parents will be required to collect their mobile phone, smart watch or electronic device from the principal. The principal will ask that any recordings made of school related activities be deleted before the electronic device will be released to parents.

#### **Using Devices / Mobile Phones Inappropriately - Cyberbullying:**

- Children using mobile phones, smart watches or electronic devices to bully other children or send offensive messages/calls outside school which impacts a child/children in school will face disciplinary actions as per the school's Code of Behaviour.
- It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use mobile phones, smart watches and electronic devices 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 and Tusla.


#### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

All parents and staff share in the coordination and implementation of this policy. A copy of this policy will be published on our school website.

#### **Ratification and Review**

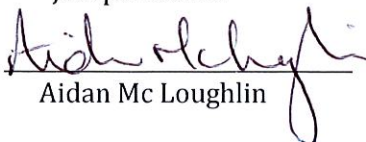
This policy will be reviewed regularly. This Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 10/5/21. It was reviewed, updated and ratified on 13/2/25.

**Chairperson of BOM:**

Signed:   
Joseph Collins

Date: 13/02/25

**Principal:**

Signed:   
Aidan Mc Loughlin

Date: 13/02/25