



Mobile Phones and Electronic Device Policy

Introductory Statement:

Our Lady's Grove Primary School is a co-educational Catholic primary school under the patronage of the Archbishop of Dublin and under the trusteeship of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary, in keeping with the educational philosophy of St. Claudine Thévenet.

We strive to create a loving, caring and nurturing environment conducive to the attainment of the true educational, spiritual and moral potential of each individual.

Our goal is to enable our children to become responsible individuals within their immediate communities and ultimately within society as a whole.

Rationale:

This policy was prepared in consultation with the staff, parents, Board of Management and the Student Council in order to clarify the rules regarding the children's use of mobile phones and electronic devices in Our Lady's Grove Primary School.

School Procedures:

Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones or electronic devices to school, to school-related events in school or to offsite school-related activities. The only exception to this is where a parent has sought the permission of the Board of Management and has prior approval of the Board of Management. A child who ignores this policy and brings a mobile phone or an electronic device to school, whether he/she uses it or not, will be required to hand over such a device to a member of staff. Parents will be required to collect mobile phone or electronic device from the Principal.

- In exceptional circumstances such as a medical condition or regular after-school appointments parents may apply to the Board to seek permission for their child to have a mobile phone or an electronic device in school. Parents must apply in writing to the Chairperson of the Board of Management stating specifically when and why the child requires a mobile phone or an electronic device to be brought into school
- Children bringing a mobile phone or an electronic device to school without permission from the BOM, risk having it confiscated
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone. Parents who need to contact their child during school hours may do so by calling the school landline 01-2988694

- Children who are granted permission to bring a mobile phone or an electronic device to school will place the device on the teacher's table at the beginning of the day, to be retrieved by the child at the end of the day
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones and electronic devices. The safety and security of mobile phones and electronic devices is wholly a matter for pupils/parents

Staff use of mobile phones and electronic devices

In general, teachers' mobile phones are on silent during class time. Personal calls are confined to break times. Staff members are permitted to use their mobile phones in case of emergency. In general, staff only make/accept phone calls or read/send text messages during break time or in the event of an emergency.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- All aspects of this policy will be discussed with 4th, 5th and 6th class children by the class teacher, the principal and the parents
- The class teacher will have a list of the children who have permission from the Board of Management to bring a mobile phones and/or an electronic device to school
- Devices that are confiscated will be switched off and given to the principal for safe-keeping
- This policy is part of the school's Code of Behaviour. A breach of this policy will be treated in the same way as any breach of the school's Code of Behaviour
- Children using mobile phones 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 a mobile phones 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
- All staff share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy

Ratified by Board of Management on Tuesday, 7th of February 2017

Signed : 

Chairperson, Board of Management