



## Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy 2019

### **Introductory Statement:**

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in hand held / mobile electronic 'gadgets' amongst the school population over recent years.

### **Rationale:**

This policy was created for the following reasons:

- IPods, mobile phones, Game Boys, PSP's, MP3's 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 inappropriately by children
- To prevent issues with phones on the journey to school
- To prevent bullying using mobile phones/electronic devices
- To comply with the Acceptable Use Policy for Internet Access
- To comply with school rules on permission for photographing/recording children
- To protect children from the possible harmful effects of frequent use of mobile phones
- To prevent ipods, mobile phones and other electronic devices from interfering with teaching and learning
- To ensure pupils' and teacher's privacy and confidentiality in school

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

The use of mobile phones and other electronic games may contravene 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 St. Corban's BNS.

### **School Procedures:**

Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic devices 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 devices are forbidden, even during after school activities.

The Board of Management of St. Corban's BNS prohibits the bringing to school and the use in school, of mobile phones/electronic devices **with cameras** by pupils in the school. Camera phones are forbidden for pupils in the school.

In certain rare circumstances, pupils may be permitted to have a mobile phone/electronic device that does not have a camera or internet access in their possession at school provided that his parents/guardians have applied in writing for permission for them to have a phone and have subsequently received written permission from the Principal and

Board of Management. The permission will only be granted for substantial health, safety or security systems.

If permission is granted it is on the understanding that:-

- a) the phone is left in the pupil's school bag while the pupil is on the school premises
- b) the phone is turned off at all times throughout the school day
- c) the phone/ device does not have a camera or internet access
- d) the Board of Management of St. Corban's BNS does not accept responsibility for any damage to or loss of mobile phones
- e) permission ends at the end of the school year (June) and must be applied for annually. The onus for seeking renewal rests with the Parent/Guardian.

#### **Breaches of the Policy – steps to be taken**

When a pupil has been found in possession of a mobile phone/electronic device without written permission and/or in breach of the Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy, the phone/device will be kept in the Principal's or Secretary's office and must be collected by the Parent/Guardian of the pupil.

Pupils who ignore this policy and use a mobile phone/electronic device on school premises or school trips without permission will be required to hand over their phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from the school office. Parents will be required to give a written undertaking that mobile phones will not be brought to school again. If the child brings the phone to school again, the phone will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school year. The school Code of Behaviour will guide the school's response to such breaches of school rules.

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

#### **Staff use of mobile phones:**

Due to health concerns about the possible harmful effects of the frequent use of mobile phones, all staff members will refrain from using mobile phones during contact time with the pupils in the school.

1. Staff members will keep mobile phones turned off during contact time with pupils.
2. The use of mobile phones by staff for essential calls should be kept to the minimum and should be taken/made if possible in an area where pupils are not present.
3. Mobile phones may be used in the staff room with the permission of the staff.
4. In exceptional circumstances staff may have mobile phones turned on in the classroom with prior approval from the Principal.

#### **Communication:**

Every teacher has been provided with a copy of this policy for their files and the policy is available to view by parents in the school.

