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Mobile Phone and Smart Devices Policy

Introduction and Rationale:

The possession and use of mobile phones and smart devices by school students is now extensive, even in the primary school sector. The use of mobile phones and personal smart devices (iPods, iPads, PSPs, MP3s, Smart Watches etc.) presents several 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 regarding inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.

This policy has been developed to manage the issue of mobile phones, and other personal smart devices. Relationship to Our School Ethos The use of personal mobile phones and other electronic smart devices contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment, a provision that is central to the mission statement and ethos of Nenagh Community National School.

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

School Procedures

- The use of personal mobile phones and other personal smart devices 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 extra-curricular activities. The children should, therefore, not bring mobile phones and other personal smart devices to school or when engaging in school-related activities.
- Mobile phones and other personal smart devices that are found in the school should be handed to the school Office.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the School Secretary using the school phones 067 32005 or 0864137755
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school Office remains the first point of contact and can ensure that your child is reached quickly and a message passed onto them.
- Staff are permitted to use their phones for school-related business only or for emergencies. Staff should not use their phones for personal reasons during teacher-pupil contact time. Staff should keep their phone safely and discreetly stored during class time.

If a parent has written documentation from a medical professional, or other professional, stating that their child having a phone/smart device in school is essential i.e. a child with type 1 diabetes needs a phone for blood sugar monitoring, the following will apply:

Parents must send the Board of Management a letter requesting that their child be permitted to bring his/her mobile phone/smart device to school. They must also furnish the school with written evidence from the relevant professional. The BOM will decide regarding the request and this decision will be communicated in writing to the parents. Only in exceptional circumstances will these requests be granted.

Sanctions

- Any child found to have a phone/ personal smart device in school without permission will have the phone/device confiscated. The device will not be returned until a parent/guardian/carer 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.
- Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone or other personal smart device for any purpose, it will be confiscated from the pupil and returned only to the parent/guardian/carer.
- The school will not be liable for replacing mobile phones or other smart devices that are lost, stolen or damaged.
- The school incorporates this policy into the Code of Behaviour and Discipline 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 smart device to take photographs, video footage or recording of other pupils or staff members, or shares inappropriate messages this will be regarded as a Level 2 or Level 3 inappropriate behaviour, and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the School's Code of Behaviour. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone/personal smart 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.

School Trips and Outings:

Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones and other personal smart devices with them on school trips and tours. Teachers will have a contact number if it is necessary to contact a parent/guardian.

Policy Adoption and Review:

- A copy of the Mobile phone and Smart Devices Policy is made available to school personnel and to the Parents' Council.
- The policy is readily accessible to parents on request.
- A copy of the Policy is also published on the school website.

This policy will be reviewed by the school management authority periodically.

This Policy was adopted by the Board of Management on:

_____21_/__10__/__2026___

Chairperson of BoM	Date	Principal	Date
	21/10 /2026		21/10 /2026