



"Ag fás is ag foghlaim le chéile"

Polasaí ar Úsáid na nGuthán Póca ar Scoil

Policy on Mobile Phone Use at School



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Comhthéacs / Context:

Gaelscoil Léim an Mhadaidh is an Irish Medium Primary School, catering for pupils aged 4-11 years old. This policy has been drawn up taking staff professionalism into consideration as well as the age and maturity of our pupils. The welfare and well-being of our pupils is paramount.

Intreoir / Introduction

Today many parents view their child's use of a mobile phone as an aid to their personal safety and as a method of instant communication. We accept and respect these as valid opinions. However we must also be aware of other issues that may arise due to the use of mobile phones in school i.e. disruption of lessons when phones ring, pupils being distracted sending and receiving text messages, inappropriate use of social media and the issue also of videos and photographs being taken without pupils' or teachers' permission for a variety of purposes. Unfortunately, mobile phone technology provides another avenue for bullying among pupils. All of these issues present problems with permitting use of mobile phones by pupils on the school grounds.

Other Related Policies:

The school has a duty to ensure that safeguarding permeates all activities and functions. This policy compliments the following other Pastoral Care policies;

- Child Protection and Safeguarding



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- Staff Code of Conduct
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Outings and Educational Visits Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Whistleblowing policy

These policies are all available to download on the school's website on www.gaelscoillimavady.com

Rationale

With careful consideration to the age and maturity of our pupils, and in the interest of safeguarding, the following principles and procedures have been agreed, in consultation with stakeholders;

Use of Mobile Phones

Pupils:

- Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones at school or on trips under any circumstance.
- Mobile phones produced by pupils at school will be confiscated by the class teacher, given to the school office and a text message will be sent to the parents asking them to come to the school's office to collect the phone.



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Staff:

Our staff are role models for our pupils; therefore, we ask that;

- Staff have their phones on 'silent' or switched off during class time,
- Use of phones must be limited to non-contact time when no children are present,
- Phones should be kept out of sight (e.g. in drawer, handbag, pocket) when staff are with pupils,
- Calls/texts must be made / received in private during non-contact time,
- Phones will never be used to take photographs of children or to store their personal data,
- Staff may not make or receive calls during teaching time. If there are extreme circumstances the teacher may step outside the classroom to make or take the call, however another staff member must be present with the pupils and the Principal will have been made aware of this.

Parents & Other Visitors

- We request that parents do not use mobile phones in the school buildings or grounds,
- Mobile phones must not be used to take photographs in the school buildings or grounds, unless permitted by the class teacher or the Principal during special occasions e.g. shows, award ceremonies etc. and you must only take a photograph of your own child unless permitted otherwise by all other parents involved. Before sharing a



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photograph of your child on social media, please ensure that there are no other children in the picture or that you have the permission of the other parents involved.

We very much appreciate our parents' support implementing this policy in order to keep your children/our pupils safe at school.

The Principal assumes overall responsibility for pupils, staff and visitors to the school, assisted by the Head of pastoral Care; Mrs Charmaine Deery.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every three years by staff, The Senior Leadership Team and the school's Board of Governors. Consultation will also take place with parents and The Student Council. Compliance with the policy will be monitored on an on-going basis by the Head of Pastoral Care and the Principal.

Availability of this Policy

The policy will be part of an induction pack presented to staff, volunteers and students on work experience. This policy is available to download to all stakeholders from the school's website on www.gaelscoillimavady.com



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Sínithe ag: _____ (BOG Chair)

Dáta: _____

Sínithe ag: _____ (Principal)

Dáta: _____