St. Ciaran’s & St. Manchan’s National School

Boher

**Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy**

**Introductory Statement:**

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

**Rationale:**

* 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
* Some electronic devices may be harmful due to frequent use
* Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns, sharing of images without consent.

**Relationship to School Ethos:**

The use of mobile phones and other electronic games contravenes 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. Ciaran’s & St. Manchan’s National School.

**Aim:**

* To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children’s learning

**Internal School Procedures:**

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone/electronic games usage in the school;

* Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games into school, except in the case of a school tour when they may bring a mobile phone to contact parents regarding collection times.
* Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school phone
* Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school will have it confiscated and not returned until the end of that week or collected by a parent.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

All staffs share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy.

**Evaluation:**

This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis and amendments added as new technology comes on stream.