



St. Finian's C.C Personal Electronic Device Policy including Mobile Phone

Rationale:

We accept the important part that electronic personal devices/mobile phone play in the life of our students and their importance as a means of maintaining contact with parents/guardians. However these electronic devices/phones have also posed major problems for all schools in relation to:

- Disruption of teaching and learning
- Invasion of the right to privacy of staff and students
- Bullying
- Truancy
- Discipline (e.g. arranging fights, illegal substance abuse, vandalism etc.)
- Recording objectionable material for display on the internet

This policy aims to maintain a safe, nurturing environment where the personal dignity and rights of all the members of the school community are preserved.

- a) Where a student brings a personal electronic device and/or mobile phone to school, the device or phone must be **switched off**.
- b) Students found breaking the above rule may have their personal electronic devices and/or phones, including SIM cards, confiscated for 24 hours for the first offence, 48 hours for the second offence and thereafter at the discretion of the Principal.**
- c) No photographs can be taken or recordings, video or audio, made with personal electronic devices or mobile phones of any person on the school premises or grounds. Using devices or phones in such a way can seriously infringe a person's rights and appropriate sanctions will be imposed. This will include the above sanction of having the phone confiscated as well as further sanctions.
- d) A refusal by a student to hand over a mobile phone to a member of staff will result in a suspension. Any member of staff has the right to confiscate an electronic device/mobile phone
- e) Incidents where students use personal electronic devices or mobile phones to bully others or send offensive messages or calls will be investigated under the Anti-Bullying policy. In the event that a mobile phone or personal device is used inappropriately (e.g. inappropriate photos / recordings / texts) all the offending material will be deleted completely and parents/guardians attend the school with their son or daughter for a meeting with the Principal to discuss the matter before the device is returned to the student. Suspension may also be imposed on the student. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a device or mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí in such incidents.

- f) The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged personal electronic devices or mobile phones. Likewise the school does not take responsibility for investigating the loss or theft of such items. The safety and security of devices or mobile phones is wholly a matter for students / parents.

- g) It is strongly advised that students mark their personal electronic devices or mobile phones with their names and use passwords to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones.

The school authorities request the total co-operation of parents/guardians in this matter as the policy is in place to ensure the health and safety of all school personnel and to provide the best possible environment in which teaching and learning can take place and where the personal dignity and rights of all the members of the school community are preserved. In order to assist the school in implementing this policy, parents/guardians are asked not to arrange to contact students by mobile phone at any time during the school day. Contact with the school may be made through the school office and students are requested to use the office phone in emergencies.

This policy will be reviewed at regular intervals.

Pupil

I agree to follow the school's Policy on personal Electronic Device including Mobile Phones.

Pupil's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

I/We agree to accept the school's Policy on personal Electronic Device including Mobile Phones.

Parent / Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Ratified by the BOM on 30-04-2014