

Ballybay National School

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Communication Device and Mobile Phone Use Policy

Pupils are not allowed to bring a tablet, iPad, smartwatch, Apple watch, mobile phone or other electronic communication device to school – i.e. into the school building, onto the school grounds, on educational outings, tours or on sporting outings. (*Exception may be made where a pupil needs one for ongoing medical needs – approval must be received from the Principal.*)

Any such devices brought to school must be switched off, handed over to teachers, and held in the office. Confiscated devices must be collected by the child's parent/guardian in the office.

The school will take no responsibility for any phone which is lost, damaged or stolen while on the school premises.

Mobile Phone Policy for All Staff

Leave phones on silent on during teaching hours.

Only use phones for school / teaching purposes during class.

Take/make personal calls and texts during break/lunch times only.

Leave staff room or office to make or answer calls.

Do not use personal mobile phones to take pictures or recordings of pupils.

Use the school equipment to record or photograph pupils.

Caution

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. Such use includes personal attacks, harassing another person, posting private information about another person, via SMS messages/chat rooms/apps/social network sites, taking/sending/uploading photos, phone calls and circulating objectionable texts and images. Where school authorities suspect that a pupil has engaged in such behaviour, the Gardaí or TUSLA may be notified. In such case the parent(s) will be informed.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of Parents, Staff and Pupils to adhere to this policy. Any student who is feeling unwell at school and needs to go home, or who needs to contact their parents for any reason must arrange this through the office.

Evaluation

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

This policy was reviewed by the Board of Management and staff in consultation with the Parent Association, and will be reviewed again as necessary.

Signed: Mash Deir, chairperson

Date: 13/11/19