



Clonroche, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford Y21PY59
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Principal:
John Ryan

Chairperson:
Brídín Murphy

Mobile Phone and Smart Devices Policy

Reviewed September 2027.

Introductory Statement:

This policy was amended in response to multiple incidents of cyberbullying and online abuse which has detrimentally affected the wellbeing of numerous pupils in Clonroche NS .

Rationale:

- In keeping with the values and ethos of our Catholic school, Clonroche National School is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment for all children. We believe in supporting the holistic development of every pupil—spiritually, emotionally, socially, and academically.
- The increasing presence of smartphones in the lives of young children presents challenges to their wellbeing, concentration, relationships, and ability to fully engage with the world around them. Evidence shows that early access to smartphones can negatively affect mental health, sleep patterns, attention spans, and can expose children to inappropriate content and peer pressures far beyond their years.
- As educators and parents working in partnership, it is our collective responsibility to protect childhood, encourage real-life connections, and promote healthy habits. This policy aims to support pupils in focusing on learning, play, and meaningful human interaction during their primary years.

Relationship to School Ethos:

The use of mobile phones and other electronic hand held devices 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 Clonroche National School.

Aims:

- **Parents/Guardians are urged not to purchase, gift, or allow their child to own a smartphone or mobile device for the duration of their time in Clonroche National School. This agreement reflects our shared commitment to safeguarding the wellbeing of all children and protecting them from unnecessary digital exposure during their formative years.**
- This agreement/policy will act as a tool for parents especially - to prolong the time that children go without getting a phone in their primary school years.

Internal School Procedures:

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone/ electronic device usage in our school:

Pupils:

- Pupils will not own a mobile phone during the duration of their time in Clonroche N.S.
- Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones or smart devices to school at any time, including during school hours, on school grounds, or while participating in school-related activities such as school tours, matches, or after-school events.
- Mobile phones, smartphones, smartwatches, and similar devices are not permitted for use or possession by pupils enrolled in Clonroche National School, regardless of whether the device is switched off or not in use.
- If a device is brought to school in error, it must be handed over to the class teacher immediately. It will be stored securely and returned only to a parent or guardian at the end of the school day.
- The school accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft, or damage of any mobile phone or device that is brought to school contrary to this policy.
- Should a pupil be found in possession of a phone or device during the school day or at a school event, parents/guardians will be contacted and the device will be confiscated.
- Communication between home and school will always be facilitated through the school office or staff. In the event of an emergency, appropriate contact arrangements will be made.
- Clonroche National School promotes imaginative, and social engagement during childhood aligned with our Catholic ethos and values of simplicity, presence, and care.
- All electronic gadgets are disallowed, unless as part of supervised curricular work.

Staff:

- Staff must have their phones on 'silent' or switched off during class time.
- Staff may not make or receive calls during teaching time. If there are extreme circumstances, the member of staff will have made the principal aware of this and can have their phone in case of having to receive an emergency call.
- Unless in emergency, calls/ texts must be made/ received in private during non-contact time.
- If phones are used to take photographs at school events, they must be transferred to a school device at the earliest convenience and deleted from personal devices. They must not be stored on personal devices.
- In the event of an unplanned school closure (i.e. snow closure or a heating failure) the school's Aladdin Connect service will be used to send each family a text message informing them of the change of circumstances. *It is therefore imperative that parents supply the school with at least one up-to-date mobile number.*

Parents & other visitors:

- Mobile phones must not be used to take photographs in the school building or grounds.

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

Roles and Responsibilities:

All staff share in the coordination and implementation of this policy.

Evaluation:

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

Implementation:

This policy was ratified by the BOM on 13th May 2025.



Chairperson



Principal

21/9/26

Date



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Appendix A – Parent/Guardian Agreement

Mobile Phone and Smart Device Agreement

I/we have read and understood the Clonroche National School Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy. I/we agree to support the school in its efforts to promote the wellbeing of all children.

I/we confirm that our child:

Name of child: _____

Class: _____

- ☐ Will not be given, gifted, or allowed to purchase a smartphone or smart device while attending Clonroche National School.
- ☐ Will not bring a mobile phone or smart device to school.

Signed:

Parent/Guardian 1: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian 2: _____

Date: _____

Child's signature: _____