Scoil Ghormáin Naofa

Castletown, Gorey, Co. Wexford.

 *Mobile phone and Electronic device policy*

Chairperson BOM: School Principal:

Joe O’Shaughnessy  Emer Russell

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in mobile phone hand held electronic devices amongst the school population over recent years. This policy was drawn up in consultation with staff, students, parents and board of management of Scoil Ghormáin Naofa

**Rationale:**

The following procedures have been put in place to ensure minimal and safe usage of mobile phones and electronic devices in our school, due to the facts that

* Mobile phones, Tablets (iPads etc), Game Boys/PSPs, MP3s/iPads, Smart phones etc. are intrusive and distracting in a school environment and can reduce constructive socialisation during break times.
* Strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorised technology in a school situation.
* Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns.

**Aims:**

It is our aim:

* To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children’s learning during the school day.
* To ensure children have maximum opportunities to socialise positively during break times.
* To ensure that electronic devices in and owned by the school (iPads, computers etc.) are used under the instruction and supervision of staff only, and are used for educational and learning purposes
* To play our part in creating a safe, anti-bullying environment and we see electronic devices as being conduits of this behaviour

**Relationship to School Ethos**

The use of mobile phones and other electronic 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 Scoil Ghormáin Naofa.

**Guidelines and Procedures for Children**

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

* Children are not allowed to use mobile phones or their own personal electronic games or devices during school hours.
* Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic devices into school.
* In exceptional circumstances, when a mobile/device is required after school pupils should hand their mobile and/or device to the class teacher/ Principal for safe keeping. It will be kept in a locked drawer/ filing cabinet throughout the school day. The device should be powered off and may be collected at the end of the school day.
* Liability for any loss, damage or theft of any device is NOT under any circumstance the responsibility of the staff or Board of Management.
* Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary or class teacher (using the school landline).
* Use of mobile phones/electronic devices are not permitted even during after school activities/outside of school activities such as GAA etc.
* On occasion, children may be permitted to bring a mobile phone on school tour so that they can advise a parent if transport is delayed etc. Strict guidelines will be given in this situation and parents will be advised.
* Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic device to school, and does not hand it to the teacher / school principals risks having it confiscated and not returned until a Parent/Guardian collects it.
* The use of School owned electronic devices (iPads/ laptops etc.) is strictly under the supervision of staff and in line with our IT Policy and Acceptable Usage Policy.
* Additionally, under the SPHE curriculum, education will be provided around internet safety and safe use of social media.

**Implementation Date**

The Supervision Policy was presented to the Board of Management for approval and adoption in November 2018 for immediate implementation.

**Ratification & Communication**

The BOM officially ratified this policy in November 2018

All parents were invited to review this policy prior to ratification and will be able to access this policy on our school website [www.castletownnationalschool.ie](http://www.castletownnationalschool.ie) following ratification and thereafter prior to enrolment.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson BOM Principal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_