



## 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

### **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. Joseph's N.S.

### **Aims:**

- To ensure a "technology safe" school environment
- To control the positive use of technology for positive educational purposes
- 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;

- Children are not allowed to use of mobile phones/electronic games during school hours
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games into school. In exceptional circumstances, such as when out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, school tours etc., children may be allowed carry a phone as parents may need to be contacted and only with written consent of parents/guardians.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone
- All electronic gadgets are banned, even during after school activities
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school risks having it confiscated and not returned until the school day is over

- Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents. The Board of Management have agreed that 2 hours of Croke Park will be used to allow teachers to communicate with parents/ other professionals with regard to issues that may arise during the year so that tuition time with pupils will not be compromised.
- Staff personal calls should be confined to break times but not when supervising the school yard.
- Staff are only permitted mobile phone usage **in cases of emergency** during tuition time and on Yard Duty days where supervision has been arranged in their absence.

**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.

**Implementation:**

This policy has been put in place from September 2015