

## **Mobile Phone Policy for St. Brendan's Boys' N.S.**

### **Rationale**

Mobile phones can be intrusive and distracting if they are permitted to be used in the school situation. In addition there is the issue of possible harmful effects of the frequent use of mobile phones and children are particularly vulnerable in this regard.

### **Aims and Objectives.**

This policy provides for

- Keeping mobile phones out of sight and switched off during the school day.
- Forbidding the use of mobile phones on school premises, grounds or during a school outing such as sports, swimming or tour.
- In an emergency a mobile phone may be used only with the expressed approval of the teacher in charge.
- Staff members should confine the use of mobile phones to a minimum (essential calls) and calls should not be taken in the classroom but rather in an open area and preferably where pupils are not present.

### **Procedures and Practices.**

1. Use of cameras in phones during school activities is strictly forbidden.
2. Any instance of using a camera in changing rooms as part of a school activity will be dealt under the school rules as gross misbehaviour.
3. The use of mobile phones to bully others or send offensive messages/calls will be dealt with severely as per Code of Discipline.
4. Pupils who ignore this policy and use a mobile phone or have it switched on during school hours without permission will be required to switch it off, hand it over to the teacher and the parents will be required to collect it from the school.
5. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is entirely a matter for pupils/parents.
6. Each pupil bringing a mobile phone to school should mark it clearly with his name.
7. Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to a member of staff.
8. Pupils are advised to use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that there cannot be unauthorised use and these numbers must be kept confidential.

### **Communication**

This policy will be explained to the pupils annually and a copy will be on the school website.