



SMART DEVICE POLICY

The Board of Management of St. David's National School has put in place the following policy in relation to smart devices.

For the purposes of this policy, the terms 'mobile phone' and 'smart device' include a device that can connect to a mobile network, WiFi or internet service, a device that can make voice/video calls or send/receive text/video/voice messages, sound/video recordings and any other digital or other communications of any kind. It also includes any device that can take photographs/videos or connect to social media apps and services. For the avoidance of any doubt, this includes but is not limited to all types of phones, tablets, smart watches, music players and any other such devices.

RATIONALE

The Smart Device Policy recognises and endeavours to adopt the values that are set out in the ethos of the school for those at work in the school. It attempts to support and sustain a harmonious and safe environment for all staff and pupils.

The possession and use of smart devices by school pupils is now extensive, even in the primary school sector.

Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. Therefore, the school strongly discourages pupils from bringing any smart devices to school.

In addition, smart devices are a potential and real source of bullying and abuse through texting and the dissemination of unacceptable and inappropriate images.

AIMS

The school is prepared to allow smart devices on the premises but **only** within the parameters of the policy as stated below:

- Student smart devices must be switched off and put in their bag before they enter the school premises and must remain there until they leave the school premises.

- Students must present a note to the school principal if it is necessary for them to carry a mobile phone. Students who do not comply with these rules will be given one warning and then have phones confiscated. If confiscated, the principal will contact parents/guardians to inform them that they must collect phones from the school principal. If unreachable, the principal will return the mobile phone to ensure the safety of the child after school hours. In this situation, a meeting will be called between the principal and parents/guardians to discuss the breach of school rules. The school does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to smart devices.
- If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a smart device of either other pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken according to the school's Code of Behaviour.

No smart devices of any kind are permitted during the school day – this includes arrival at school, class time, breaks and end of school.

Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a smart device for any purpose it will be confiscated from the pupil and returned only to parent/guardian.

If a teacher has any suspicion that a smart device has unsuitable material stored on it or has been used to record/access unsuitable material, the pupil will be required to hand over the smart device to a teacher and parents/guardians will be asked to call to the school to discuss the issue. We must always be aware that photos/videos can be taken, uploaded and even deleted within seconds.

Where there is suspicion that the material on the smart device may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone may be handed over to the Gardai for further investigation. Parents will be informed of such circumstances. The Board of Management will take the abuse of smart devices very seriously.

Emergency calls can be made/received on the school phone by permission of the class teacher.

Children are not permitted to bring smart devices with them on school trips/tours. Teachers will have a contact number in the event that it is necessary to make contact with a parent/guardian.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed as and when is required.

RATIFICATION

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on date shown below.

Ratified by Board of Management on:

Signed: Rev Ruth O'Kelly
Chairperson

V. Rank
Principal

Date: 31/1/23

31/1/23

MOBILE PHONE PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

I/We give permission for our child/children (name(s))

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to bring their mobile phone into school.

My child/children requires their mobile phone in school because

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We have read the smart devices policy on the school's website and understand its implications.

Signed:

Parent / Guardian

Date:

PLEASE RETURN THE CONSENT FORM TO THE SCHOOL