



**Cahergal N.S.**

Scoil Náisiúnta An Chathair Sheal

**Roll No: 17807r**

# **Mobile Phone Policy**

## Mobile Phone Policy – Cahergal NS

### Introduction

The Board of Management of Cahergal N.S. recognises that the possession and use of mobile phones & electronic devices is now extensive among pupils of our school. This policy lays out the limited parameters within which we will allow such devices on the premises of the school.

### Rationale

The main function of our school is teaching and learning. This is most effective in an atmosphere free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. Therefore the school prohibits the use of mobile phones or other electronic devices by pupils at school.

The rationale for this decision is based on:

- Phones/electronic devices can be valuable and loss/theft/breakage causes stress and annoyance.
- They are a source of envy among pupils which can lead to issues.
- Even when kept on silent, checking for messages and texting undermines learning and classroom discipline.
- Almost all such devices have inbuilt cameras, the use of which can have consequences in the areas of child safeguarding and data protection.
- Cyber-bullying is an increasing worry. Keeping mobile phones and electronic devices out of school may help to limit instances of it within the school population.

### Guidelines

#### Guidelines for Pupils:

The Board of Management prohibits pupils from bringing mobile phones/ electronic devices to school, for reasons outlined above. We ask parents to support us in this.

In cases of emergency, the school office remains the first point of contact, should a child need to be reached.

Where a parent feels that it is essential that a child brings a mobile phone to school, the following rules will apply:

- In exceptional circumstances, such as when out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, children may be allowed carry a phone as parents may need to be contacted. If, **at the written request of parents**, a child takes a mobile phone to school, it must be switched off and handed up to the teacher as soon as the child enters the classroom. The phone should have the pupil's name on it.
- The teacher returns the mobile phone to the child at the end of the school day.

- Pupils are forbidden to switch their phone back on until they leave the school grounds after school

Where pupils are found to have a mobile/electronic device in school without a parental letter or without having handed it up, it will be confiscated and only returned when a parent collects it.

Breaches of the above rules will be dealt with under the school Code of Conduct. If a device is found to have been used inappropriately, to have inappropriate messages or to have been used to photograph/video members of the school community, it will be regarded as a serious breach of discipline and will be dealt with accordingly under the Code of Conduct.

It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the school in this regard is ineffective, as with all incidents, the school may consider it necessary to involve the Gardaí.

(Teachers will be encouraged to teach cyber safety lessons to children, as part of Stay Safe and Anti-Bullying measures.)

The school will not be held liable for damaged/lost/broken phones.

### **Guidelines for Staff**

During teaching time, while on supervision duty and during meetings, mobile phones/electronic devices will be switched off or put on silent/discreet mode, out of sight of the pupils.

During meetings with parents mobile phones will be switched off or put on silent/discreet mode and kept out of sight.

Teachers will not use their phones to take pictures of pupils.

Phones will not be used in sight of the children except in cases of emergency. Calls for school business should be made on the school phone.

### **Guidelines for Tours/Outings**

Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones on school outings/tours. If a parent needs to contact a pupil on Tour Day, at football matches, at choir events etc he / she may phone the school and the message will be relayed to a teacher on their personal phone.

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**Circulation:**

The policy will be presented to staff at a termly meeting. It will be available in the school office for parents/guardians should they request to view or obtain a copy. The policy can be communicated by providing a written copy if requested, or by e-mail.

**Implementation/Ratification and Review**

This policy was ratified on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018. It will be reviewed every two year or as the need arises.

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**Ratification of policy for Cahergal NS**

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**Chairperson** **Date**

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**Principal** **Date**