Marymount N.S. The Rower.

Pupils' Mobile Phone Policy

Introductory Statement and Rationale
At Marymount National School, we recognise the importance of creating a safe and conducive learning environment for all our students. This policy is established to address the use of mobile phones on school premises and during school-related activities.

Relationship to Our School Ethos
This policy aligns with our school's ethos of fostering an inclusive and respectful educational atmosphere. We believe that limiting mobile phone use contributes to a more engaged and interactive learning environment.

Aim of Policy
School Management is introducing a policy that prohibits the use by students of personal mobile/smart phones, and other personal devices, while on school premises or involved in school activities such as tours, trips or extra-curricular activities. This is in order to create a safer environment and to lessen intrusions on, and distractions to, children's learning.

School Procedures

- The use of personal mobile/smart phones and other personal devices by children who attend the school is not allowed while the children are in the care of the school staff, while at school, on trips from the school or involved in extracurricular activities. The children should, therefore, not bring mobile phones and other personal devices to school or when engaging in school-related activities.
- Mobile/Smart phones and other personal devices that are found in the school should be handed to the School Office.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the School Secretary using the School landline phone 05143838 or the school mobile 0894179517.
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the School Office remains the first point of contact and can ensure that your child is reached quickly and a message passed onto them.

In the event that a parent thinks that their child having a phone in school is essential, the following will apply:

- The parent must provide a written note to their teacher/principal.
- The mobile phone, when permitted, must be turned off and kept in the class teacher's desk for the duration of the school day.

- The teacher will return the mobile phone to the student at the end of the school day but the mobile phone must remain turned off on school premises.
- Marymount National School accepts no responsibility for lost/stolen/damaged mobile phones.

Sanctions

- Any child found to have a phone/ personal device in school without parental letter will have the phone/device confiscated. The phone will not be returned until a parent/guardian/carer collects it. Similarly, the use of all personal electronic devices is not permitted during the school day – this includes arrival, class time, breaks and dismissal.
- Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone or other personal device for any purpose, it will be confiscated from the pupil and returned only to the parent/guardian/carer.
- The School will not be liable for replacing mobile phones or other devices that are lost, stolen or damaged.
- The School incorporates this policy into the Code of Behaviour and Discipline and Acceptable Use Policy, and will treat breaches in the same manner as any other breach of these Policies.
- If a pupil uses a mobile phone or personal device to take photographs, video footage or recording of other pupils or staff members, or shares inappropriate messages this will be regarded as a serious inappropriate behaviour, and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the School's Code of Behaviour and Acceptable Use Policy. This may include notification to parents, detention, suspension from school/school related activities.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone/personal device to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the School in this regard is deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the School may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí.

School Trip and Outings

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

This policy is implemented to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, with a strong focus on their education. We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to this policy, as it helps us create an environment where child safety and well-being come first.

Roles and Responsibilities

All staff share in the coordination and implementation of this policy.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 11/01/2024

Policy to be reviewed in October 2025

Signed:

Liam Mulholland
Chairperson-Board of Management **Date: 11/01/2024**