



## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

### RATIONALE

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 school’s missions statement, which notes that GETNS aims to provide a safe, caring, happy and disciplined environment where children’s self-esteem and self confidence can be nurtured within an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation.

### Aims and objectives

Through this policy, the school aims to lessen intrusions on, and distractions to, children’s learning. However, we note that there are some circumstances in which there is a need for a child to bring a mobile phone to school, this policy aims to present clear rules and conditions for use

### Appropriate use

#### *Staff*

Mobile phones are used by staff on school tours and excursions, at sports events away from the school, etc. In such circumstances, emergency telephone contact details for all participating pupils are brought by the Teacher-in-Charge, and designated staff members take responsibility for ensuring that contact is best maintained with school and parents, as appropriate.

Personal telephone calls and use of social media by staff are confined to break times. Telephone calls should be made or received in an area where pupils are not present, unless in exceptional circumstances. Staff may sometimes use their iPhone for lesson content etc. or for access to the internet when school Wi-Fi is not functioning.

#### *Students*

While aware of the potential misuse or abuse of mobile phones by children, it is accepted that mobile phone may occasionally need to be brought to school by pupils, in special circumstances and under very particular conditions. Students are not allowed to use mobile phones during school hours. Students who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school office. Any pupil who brings a mobile phone to school without permissions risks having it confiscated and only returned by the Principal to his/her parent, or another other nominated adult.



## Procedures

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone usage in the school.

### Parental request

Parents who wish their child to bring a mobile phone to school must apply to the Principal in writing, stating the reasons why the phone is needed at school. An application form is available through the school office (see attached) or can be downloaded.

A child who has been approved a phone must keep it switched off and in his/her schoolbag at all times during the school day.

## Health and safety

The school takes no responsibility for the loss, breakage, or theft of any electronic equipment.

## Role and responsibilities

It is the responsibility of each parent, through their child, to ensure that the rules are followed as a condition of having permission to have a mobile phone in school. Any breach of these rules will result in the confiscation of the mobile phone.

Confiscated phones will be returned only to the parents of the child in question. Should a child breach the conditions more than once, he/she will lose the privilege of being allowed to bring a mobile phone to school.

## Success criteria

It is hoped that this policy will ensure the provision of a safe school environment, conducive to learning, while also accommodating those individual circumstances that require children to be contactable by parents immediately before or after school hours.

## Communication

School personnel and members of the school community will be informed of the policy's ratification and it will be published on the school website.

### **Ratification by Board of Management:**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Liam Friel - Chairperson Board of Management



## MOBILE PHONE

**Pupil's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to apply for permission for my child to have a mobile phone in school on the following conditions.

1. Parents/guardians who wish their child to carry a mobile phone must inform the Principal of this in writing, giving reasons why the phone is essential for school.
2. No child will be allowed to bring a camera phone to school.
3. A child who has a phone must keep it switched off and in his/her schoolbag at all times during the school day, while on school premises.
4. The school takes no responsibility for the loss/breakage/theft of any mobile phone.

I understand that any breach of these conditions will result in the confiscation of the mobile phone, that confiscated phones will be returned only to the parents of the child in question, and that should my child breach the conditions more than once, he/she will lose the privilege of being allowed to bring a mobile phone to school.

Reasons why mobile phone is needed in school:

**Signature(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_