



*Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál*  
*New Inn,*  
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*Phone/Fax (052) 7462122*

### **MOBILE PHONE POLICY**

It is the school policy that pupils **do not** bring mobile phones to school. In the event of phones being on site the following procedures apply:-

- When a pupil brings a mobile phone to school, the phone must be kept out of sight, switched off during the school day and may not be used, for any purpose, on school premises, grounds or during off-site school activities (such as school swimming or sports activities). The only exception to this is in an emergency or with the approval of a teacher.
- Pupils who ignore this policy and use a mobile on school premises without permission will be required to hand over their phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from the school office.
- If a teacher has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, pupils will be required to hand over the phone to a teacher and parents will be asked to collect it from the school. Where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the gardai for further investigation. Parents will be informed in such circumstances.
- The school will incorporate this policy in the school's discipline policy and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of school discipline.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for pupils/parents including phones brought on an out of school event such eg: tours/matches.
- The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.

- Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to a member of staff.
- It is strongly advised that pupils use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g. by other pupils, or if stolen). Pupils must keep their password/pin numbers confidential. Mobile phone and/or passwords should not be shared.
- Pupils using mobile phones to bully other pupils or send offensive messages/calls will face disciplinary actions as per our Cyber Bullying policy.
- It should be noted that 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 deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the gardaí.
- On occasions, at the discretion of the school principal, children may bring their mobile phones to school for events. A consent form will be sent to parents and children must ensure they use the device for the purpose/ rules set out.

Ratified by Board of Management on Date: February 27<sup>th</sup> 2023

Signed: *Breda Hickey*