



St. Patrick's Junior School

TENNIS COURT LANE, SKERRIES, CO. DUBLIN

K34 D799

Principal: Máire Ní Chróinín

Deputy Principal: Gráinne Connolly

Roll Number: 16333Q

RCN: 20118839

Pupil Phone and other Digital Devices Policy

Rationale:

Department of Education Circular 0044/2025 bans the use of and access to personal mobile phones by pupils during the school day, including during breaks. The Department recognises the need to build digital competence and an effective digital education ecosystem, so as to develop competent, critically engaged and active learners.

However, excessive mobile phone use and screen time generally, can have a detrimental impact on pupils' concentration and academic performance. Ensuring that pupils are not using their mobile phone for personal use during the school day can help to address these issues and foster an environment conducive to learning, as well as supporting in-person engagement with peers.

The Department of Education requires schools to formalise and implement a policy to prohibit fully the use of personal mobile phones by pupils during the school day, including during breaks and at lunchtime. This policy builds on the existing Digital Devices Policy which has been in force in the school for a number of years.

Policy Scope:

Devices covered under this policy includes use by pupils of any and all devices which have

- phone capability
- video and/or sound recording capability
- Internet connectivity capability

Including but not limited to: phones, smart phones, phone watches, "Smart" watches, tablets, digital recorders, cameras.



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Policy Content:

It is not envisaged that pupils will bring any kind of digital devices into school. Where digital devices are needed as part of a lesson, devices will be those purchased by the school for use in classrooms. Any photographs or videos of any pupil, any staff member or of the school grounds, or sound recordings of any pupil or staff member needed as part of a lesson will be carried out under the direct supervision of a teacher or by the teacher themselves and a school device will be used for this purpose.

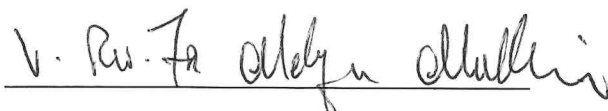
Where pupils have a mobile phone / smart watch / other digital device for reasons of monitoring/safety on the journey to or from school, the device must be switched off on arrival at school and kept switched off in the child's schoolbag for the duration of the school day. It may be switched on again outside the school gate prior to the journey home. Parents of that pupil should contact the class teacher via the class level email before the device is sent in with the pupil, notifying them that the child has a digital device and confirming that it will only be used in conformity with this policy.

If a digital device is found switched on in a pupil's possession (including in a pupil's schoolbag) it will be confiscated and the parent of the child will have to collect it from the Principal's office.

Under no circumstances are pupils allowed to photograph at school any pupil (including themselves) any member of staff, or any part of the school buildings/grounds, to take video of any pupil (including themselves), any member of staff or any part of the school building/grounds, or to make a voice recording of any pupil (including themselves) or any member of staff on their own device or on a device belonging to another pupil.

This policy will be reviewed in 3 years, or sooner if necessary.

Approved by the Board of Management on 15/06/2026.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'V. Rev. Fr. Melvyn Mullins', written over a horizontal line.

Very Rev. Fr. Melvyn Mullins, Chairperson.