



## **Our Lady of the Wayside National School**

### **Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy**

#### **Introductory Statement:**

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in hand held electronic 'gadgets' amongst the school population over recent years.

#### **Rationale:**

- iPods, mobile phones, Game Boys, PSP's, MP3's etc. are intrusive and distracting in a school environment
- Strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorised technology in a school situation
- Some electronic devices may be harmful due to frequent use
- Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns

#### **Relationship to School Ethos:**

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 mission statement and ethos of our school.

#### **Aim:**

- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning

#### **Policy regarding Mobile Phones and Electronic devices:**

- If it is absolutely necessary, pupils may carry a mobile phone in their school bag. The phone must remain in their school bag and must be switched off. Children are not allowed the use of mobile phones during school hours. The school holds no responsibility for phones lost, damaged or stolen
- Electronic devices are not allowed during school hours
- Children/Parents who need to contact home/school during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone

- Any pupil who have their phone/electronic devise switched on or uses a mobile phone/electronic device in school will have it confiscated. The device will only be returned to the parent by the principal.
- Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents
- Staff personal calls are confined to break times
- Mobile phones may not be brought on school trips in line with the School Tours & Trips Policy.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

All staff share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy.

**Evaluation:**

This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis and amendments added as new technology comes on stream.

**Ratification:**

The Board of Management ratified this policy.