

St. Patrick's S.N.S.,  
Beau Piers,  
Skerries,  
Co. Dublin.  
K34 X751  
Tel: 01-849 0945  
Email: stpatsskerries@gmail.com  
Website: www.stpatssns.ie



St. Patrick's S.N.S.  
Roll Num.: 163320  
Principal: Oisín McGinty  
Deputy Principal: Kim McGregor

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# Smart Device Policy

## Introductory Statement

This policy was devised and formulated by the school community, in consultation with the Board of Management, the Parents' Association and staff of St. Patrick's S.N.S., in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Education and Skills and the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association.

## Ethos

St. Patrick's S.N.S. is a co-educational primary school, which strives to provide a caring, happy, safe and secure learning environment where the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and nurtured. While respect is paid to all religious and/or value systems, St. Patrick's S.N.S. is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Archbishop of Dublin.

## Relationship with School Ethos

This policy complements the school ethos of nurturing potential in a caring, safe and secure environment where the welfare of children is paramount.

## What is a Smart Device?

A smart device is an electronic device, generally connected to other devices via different wireless protocols such as Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, cellular networks, etc., and that can operate to some extent interactively by sending and receiving messages and/or calls. Smart devices can include, but are not limited to, devices such as phones, smart watches, iPads, tablets, laptops, etc.

## Guidelines and Procedures

- It is school policy to prohibit the possession and/or use of smart devices in any way or for any purpose by pupils in the school during school hours or while participating in any school related activities.
- Any pupil who brings a smart device to school (without written permission) risks having it confiscated and not returned until the school day is over. The confiscated item will be returned to the pupil's parent/guardian by the principal.
- Parents/guardians are reminded that in cases of urgent contact or an emergency during the school day, the School Office remains the first point of contact and can ensure that your child is reached quickly and a message passed onto them.
- Under the strict supervision of a staff member, a pupil may be permitted to use a smart device in class as part of a specific learning programme.
- The Board of Management does not accept any responsibility for the loss, damage or theft of any smart device. The decision to bring a smart device to school is entirely at the parent/guardian's risk.
- Any breaches to this policy will be dealt with in line with The School Code of Behaviour and Anti Bullying

**In the event that a parent/guardian believes that their child having a smart device in school is essential, the following will apply:**

- Parents/guardians must send the Principal a letter requesting that their child be permitted to bring a smart device to school. This letter will be kept on file.
- The school has absolute discretion whether or not to allow the request.
- Smart devices should be switched off on entering school grounds.
- Smart devices must be placed inside the school bag and may not be used, for any purpose, on school premises, grounds or during off-site school activities and school extra-curricular activities.
- Smart devices should not be switched on until children have left the school premises, including the school grounds.
- During out of school activities and school extra-curricular activities if parents/guardians need to be contacted teachers will retain a list of contacts.

### **School Procedures for Staff**

All members of staff share in the coordination and implementation of this policy. Mindful of the duties and responsibilities assigned to all staff when working with children, it is vital that all staff engage with pupils without distraction during the school day.

- Staff have access to the school landline if contact needs to be made with parents/guardians.
- Classroom supervision is arranged if a class teacher has to phone other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child during the school day.
- Staff personal calls are normally confined to break times.
- Texting should follow the same guidelines.

### **Communication**

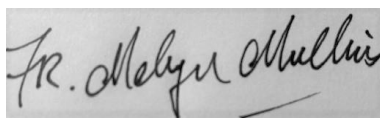
A copy of the draft Smart Device Policy was made available to all members of staff and to the Board of Management. After the Board of Management ratification, the policy was made available on the shared teacher drive. Parents/guardians were made aware of the existence and availability of the policy via Aladdin and this policy is also included on the St. Patrick's S.N.S. website at [www.stpatssns.ie](http://www.stpatssns.ie).

### **Evaluation**

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

### **Ratification/Implementation of Policy**

This policy was adopted and ratified by the Board of Management of St. Patrick's S.N.S. at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024.



Signed:

Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 18/6/2024

