



## **Policy on the Use of Mobile Phones and Mobile Devices by pupils and staff in St. Patrick's Primary School**

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Whilst we at St. Patrick's recognise the tremendous benefits that modern mobile communications bring, we are also conscious of the fact that the inappropriate use, especially of phones with integrated cameras, could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images. In cases of genuine emergency, contact between school and home can be quickly established in line with our existing procedures.

With this in mind we have drawn up the following guidelines:

### **PUPILS**

1. St Patrick's pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones or devices to school.
2. If a pupil brings a mobile phone or device to school, it will be held in the school and returned only to the parent, guardian or carer.

### **STAFF**

Staff, both teaching and non-teaching, should not make or receive telephone calls or text messages during working time. Teaching staff and support staff may use their phones only at break times or lunch time provided they are not involved in supervisory duty. Supervisory staff should not use their mobile phones during working hours.

Exceptions to this restriction are the principal, vice principals and caretaker whose duties are such that office staff may need to contact them at any time anywhere on the school site. Teachers with pupils with additional needs may also need to keep their phones switched on.

### **PARENTS**

Parents must be aware that they are not permitted to use mobile phones or devices in the school building due to Child Protection issues.