Cookstown High School

Bring Your Own Device (B.Y.O.D.) Policy

Document Reviewed: November 2018

Next Review: November 2021

Rationale:

Cookstown High School seeks to provide pupils with up to date, relevant learning experiences and to develop independent learners with inquiring minds. We see Information Communication Technology as one way of enabling pupils to develop the skills, knowledge and behaviours they will need as responsible citizens in the global community. Pupils learn collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking in a variety of ways throughout the school day.

Personal internet capable devices are now common place in the lives of our young people, enabling them to access information and process data in real time wherever they are. It is essential for teaching strategies and resources to remain current so that learners see the relevance of their school experience. To increase access to technology in a learning context, Cookstown High School permits personal devices on our guest network and school grounds for all pupils. Pupils are required to follow the responsibilities stated in our Online Safety Policy and the guidelines of this B.Y.O.D. policy.

Cookstown High School strives to provide appropriate and adequate technology to support classroom teaching and learning. The use of personal devices by students is therefore optional, and a signed copy of the B.Y.O.D Policy must be returned to school to avail of the opportunities arising from the policy.

Ethos:

Cookstown High School promotes an ethos of tolerance and respect for all members of the community. The use of all resources shall at all times operate within the context of that ethos. An important component of B.Y.O.D will be education about appropriate online behaviours. We will review internet-safety with pupils throughout the course of the school year and will offer reminders and reinforcement about safe online behaviours. In addition to the rules outlined in this policy, pupils will be expected to comply with all class and school rules while using personal devices. The use of technology is not a necessity but a privilege. Abusive use of devices will result in sanctions and may result in withdrawal of the privilege.

Device Types:

For the purpose of this policy, the word "devices" will include: laptops, netbooks, cell phones, smart phones, IPods, IPads, tablets, and eReaders. **Please note that connection of gaming devices with internet access, is not permissible.**

Guidelines:

- Pupils and parents/guardians must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, Online Safety Policy and all relevant Education Authority policies.

- Each teacher has the discretion to allow and regulate the use of personal devices in the classroom and on specific projects.

- Approved devices must be in silent mode while on the school campus, unless otherwise allowed by a teacher. Headphones may be used with teacher permission.

- Devices may not be used to gain unfair advantage in assignments, quizzes, or tests or for non-instructional purposes (such as making personal phone calls and text messaging).

- Pupils may not use devices to record, transmit, or post photographic images or video of a person or persons on campus during school hours or during school activities, unless with the teachers permission and as part of a learning activity.

- Devices may only be used to access computer files or internet sites which are relevant to the taught curriculum.

Pupils and Parents/Guardians acknowledge that:

- The school's network filters will be applied to a device's connection to the internet and any attempt to bypass the network filters is prohibited.

- Using devices through 'C2k Wireless' users may access:
    - Sites categorised under the Internet Advanced Security Group *
    - Sites categorised under the Internet Streaming Security Group *
    - Sites categorised under Internet Social Networking Group are partially available *

- Pupils are prohibited from:

- Deliberately bringing a device onto the premises that infects the network with a virus, Trojan, or program designed to damage, alter, destroy, or provide access to unauthorised data or information.

- Processing or accessing information on school property related to "hacking." Altering or bypassing network security policies.

- Cookstown High School is authorized to collect and examine any device that is suspected of causing technology problems or was the source of an attack or virus infection.

- Pupils and parents should be aware that devices will be subject to search by school management if the device is suspected of being involved in a violation of the Code of Conduct. If the device is locked or password protected the pupil will be required to unlock the device at the request of a member of SLT.

- Printing directly from personal devices will not be possible at school.

- Personal devices should be charged prior to school and run on battery power while at school.

- In line with the regulations for external examinations personal devices are not permitted in examinations or during a 'High Control' phase of Controlled Assessment.

Please note that any breach of the above could result in suspension from school.

Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Devices:

Each user is responsible for his/her own device and should use it responsibly and appropriately. Cookstown High School can take no responsibility for stolen, lost, or damaged devices, including lost or corrupted data on those devices. While staff will help students identify how to keep personal devices secure, students will have the final responsibility for securing their personal devices. Please check with your Home Insurance regarding coverage of personal electronic devices, as many insurance policies can cover loss or damage.

Usage Charges:

Cookstown High School will not be responsible for any possible device charges to your account that might be incurred during approved school-related use.

*Further information on sites available through C2K Groups is available through the school.

Network Considerations:

Users will have internet access within school through the 'C2K wireless' connection. The school cannot guarantee connectivity or the quality of the connection with personal devices. Cookstown High School Information Communication Technology department is not responsible for maintaining or troubleshooting student devices.

I understand and will abide by the above policy and guidelines. I further understand that any violation is unethical and may result in the loss of my network and/or device privileges as well as other disciplinary action. During the course of the school year, additional rules regarding the use of personal devices may be added.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed annually and revised accordingly.

Links to Other School Policies:

- Online Safety Policy (Online and Summary within Pupil Handbook)
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Safe Guarding and Child Protection
- Pastoral Care Policy
- RSE Policy

BYOD Device Policy opt in:

I wish my son / daughter to avail of the Learning and Teaching opportunities provided for in the B.Y.O.D. Policy

Pupil Name: _____ Year group: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____