



Policy on Digital and Smart Devices

Mindful of the duties and responsibilities we have to the safety and privacy of pupils and staff of Scoil Cholmille, it has been agreed that mobile phones and smart devices which can record and/or take photographs are not permitted in Scoil Cholmille SNS.

- Mobile phones are not permitted in school.
- If, at the written request of parents, a child brings a mobile phone to school, it must be switched off before entering the school grounds and handed up to the teacher as soon as the child enters the classroom.
- The teacher returns the mobile phone to the child at home time.
- Pupils are not permitted to switch their phone back on until they leave the school grounds after school.
- Pupils who ignore this policy and are found with their phones switched on will have their phone confiscated which must then be collected by their Parent/Guardian.
- The use of smart watches in the class has recently become an issue as children have recorded other pupils and Teachers in their class without consent. For the privacy of the pupils and staff it has been agreed that unauthorised smart watches/devices are not permitted to be brought to or used in School. Pupils who ignore this policy will be given a warning but if they repeatedly wear a smart device to school it will be confiscated and will be returned to the Parent when they come to the School to meet the Principal.
- If a teacher or staff member has a suspicion that a mobile phone or smart device has unsuitable material stored on it, the pupil will be asked to hand over the device to the teacher or the school principal. The child's parents will be contacted and will be requested to collect the phone/device from the school.
- Where there is evidence that the material on the phone may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the phone will be handed over to the Gardaí for further investigation and the parents will be informed
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones or smart devices.
- Mobile phones which are found in the school without a name must be handed to a member of staff immediately
- Pupils who use mobile phones to bully other pupils or to send offensive messages or to make offensive calls will face disciplinary actions as per the school's Code of Behaviour and Anti Bullying policy.
- The same applies to pupils who take unauthorised photos or recordings of other students or staff members.

This policy was reviewed at a Board Meeting on October 19th 2021.