

Ovens N.S.

Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy for staff and children

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, portable gaming devices, tablets , MP3's, smart watches etc. are intrusive and distracting in a school environment
- Strategies need 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.

Aims:

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

Internal School Procedures:

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone/electronic games usage in the school;

- Children are not allowed to use mobile phones/electronic games during school hours
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones, smart watches etc. or electronic games into school. In exceptional circumstances, such as when out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, school tours etc., children may be allowed carry a phone as parents may need to be contacted. Parents must inform the school to seek permission.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone
- All electronic gadgets are banned, even during after school activities
- Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school risks having it confiscated and not returned until the school day is over or at the end of the week
- Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents
- Classroom supervision is usually organised if a class teacher has to contact other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child
- Staff personal calls are normally confined to break times
- Staff may only use mobile phones, during class time, in case of emergencies.

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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.

Implementation:

This policy has been in place since December 2011.

It was reviewed and ratified on 31/1/2020.

Signed:

M. C. M.
Chairman, BOM

Mobile Phone Contract

The user's responsibilities

I will not text, reply to texts or place phone calls after ____pm.

I will not use any of my phone's functions (games, music etc.) after ____pm on school nights. My phone will then be switched off and unable to receive texts until after breakfast. I will not take my phone to my bedroom.

I will not use my phone during meals or while someone is talking to me.

I will not exceed the limit of my plan.

I understand that I am responsible for knowing where my phone is, and for keeping it in good condition.

I will be considerate about how I use my phone in public, especially quiet places.

I will obey any rules my school has regarding cell phones.

I will not take or send indecent pictures of myself or anyone else.

I promise I will alert my parents when I receive suspicious or alarming phone calls, text messages or come across any inappropriate images or sites.

I will not use obscene language in my texts.

I will not send threatening or mean texts or bully anyone in any way.

I will not use my phone to view obscene images or movies.

I will not use my phone while riding a bike, driving, crossing the road or in any other unsafe way.

I will not send indecent or embarrassing photos of my family or friends to others. In addition, I will not use my phone's camera to take embarrassing photos of others.

I will not lend my phone for unsupervised use. I will not allow my phone to be used by anyone else to do anything that I am not allowed to do.

I will not obtain another phone without permission. If I do get another phone, it is covered by this contract as well. I will not use other people's phones to do anything prohibited in this contract.

I understand that having a cell phone is a privilege, and that if I fail to adhere to this contract or other family rules my cell phone may be taken, or some other consequence may be carried out.

I understand that my parents may check my phone, including contacts, pictures, videos, text messages, or anything else stored in it.

Parent responsibilities

I/We will support our/my child when he or she alerts me/us to an alarming text message that he or she has received.

_____ best interests will always be my/our priority.

I/we may check your phone occasionally and so I/we must always know your password.

Signed (user): _____ Signed (parent/s): _____

Date: _____ Date to be reviewed: _____