



Mol an óige agus tíoçfaidh sí

Delgany National School

Smart Device Policy

Introduction

This policy was written in consultation with the Staff, Board of Management and Parents' Association. It was created in order to provide information and guidelines regarding the children's possession and use of smart technology.

School Ethos

We understand that in certain circumstances, children may need to bring mobile phones/smart devices to school in order that they can communicate with parents/guardians on their way to and from school. We would aim that children who need to bring mobile phones to school would learn to use them in a respectful manner and adhere to the regulations outlined within this policy. We also acknowledge that the Smartphone Voluntary Code demonstrates that the majority of parents do not intend to purchase a device for their child during their time in Delgany National School.

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, Kindles, i-pads, i-pods, tablets, etc.

Aims

- To outline the regulations relating to smart devices that are brought to school
- To outline what happens should these regulations not be adhered to.

Procedures

If parents/guardians need to contact their child(ren) urgently during the course of the school day, such contact should be made through the school office. The same facility is available to the children where urgent contact with a parent/guardian is required. However, if a parent/guardian feels it is absolutely necessary for their child(ren) to have a smart device in school for using on the way to and from school the following conditions will apply:

- The permission slip in Appendix 1 must be completed and submitted prior to the child bringing a smart device to school.
- It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a smart device to menace, harass or offend another person. If such circumstances prevail and measures taken by the school are deemed to be ineffective, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí or Tusla.
- School will not accept responsibility for smart devices that are lost, stolen or damaged. The safety and security of smart devices is wholly a matter for pupils/parents/guardians.
- Pupils using smart devices to bully others or send offensive messages, during school times, during after-school activities or during school activities outside of the regular school hours, will be subject to the procedures detailed in the school's Anti-Bullying Behaviour Policy.



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- Photographing or recording images will be treated as a serious misbehaviour. Uploading of any material to a public domain featuring other pupils, staff or the school premises is unacceptable.
- Devices must be switched off before children enter the school grounds in the morning, remain switched off for the duration of the school day and may only be switched on again once the children have vacated the school grounds. Pupils should ensure that alarms/reminders are turned off to avoid activation during school hours.
- Each child's smart device must be kept in their school bag during the school day.
- Devices must not be used for any purpose on school premises, school grounds, during extra-curricular activities facilitated by the school or during off-site school activities, e.g. sports activities, school outings/tours etc.
- If a device is found to be on, in use or activated on the school premises or the school grounds or at any school-related activity, the device will be given to the Principal and must be collected by the child's parents/guardians.
- It is recommended that the device should be turned off while the child is travelling on the school bus; it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their child is doing this.
- The child's name should be on his/her smart device.
- It is strongly advised that pupils use a password/pin number to ensure that other children cannot make use of their device or in the case of the device being stolen. These should be kept confidential.
- If a teacher has good reason to suspect that a smart device may contain unsuitable or offensive material, the child will be required to hand over their device, the child's parents/guardians will be notified and the child will be required to allow the contents of the device to be inspected by the school authorities in the presence of a parent/guardian. If there is good reason to suspect that a smart device may contain evidence relating to a criminal offence the Gardaí will be notified. This is in keeping with Child Protection Guidelines and the school's Child Protection Policy.
- Smart devices which are found in the school should be handed to a member of staff.
- Any misbehaviour involving smart devices will be subject to sanctions as set out in the school's Code of Behaviour.

Roles and Responsibilities

A. Children:

- Read the contract and sign it with parents/guardians,
- Adhere to the rules as laid out.

B. Parents/Guardians:



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- Read the contract and sign it with the child,
- Explain to the child what will happen if he/she does not stick to the rules as laid out,
- Support the school in cases where the rules are not adhered to.

C. Teachers:

- To implement this policy and teach a lesson relating to this policy at the beginning of each school year,
- To remind children that anyone with a smart device at school needs to have a signed contract/agreement.

D. Principal:

- To implement this policy,
- To make certain that anyone with a smart device at school has a signed contract/agreement,
- To contact parent/guardian if this agreement is not adhered to.

Success Criteria

- That the school holds a signed contract from each child who has a smart device in school,
- That the teacher/principal does not have to remove a smart device from any child.

Review

This policy will be revised in 2023 or earlier if necessary.

Ratification by the Board of Management

Ratified on 4th March 2021.

Chairperson: Reverend N. Waugh



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Appendix 1 Application to bring a smart device to school

I have read the Smart Device Policy and discussed it with my child. I give him/her permission to bring his/her mobile phone to school and we agree with the following conditions:

- The school will not accept responsibility for devices that are lost, stolen or damaged,
- It is not acceptable to use a smart device to menace, harass or offend another person,
- The device will be switched off for the duration of the school day and while the children are on the school site,
- The device will be kept in my child's school bag during the school day,
- The device will not be used to photographing or recording images,
- The device will not be used for any purpose on school premises, school grounds, during extra-curricular activities facilitated by the school or during off-site school activities,
- Pupils using smart devices to bully others or send offensive messages will be subject to the procedures detailed in the school's Anti-Bullying Behaviour Policy,
- If a teacher has good reason to suspect that a smart device may contain unsuitable or offensive material, the child will be required to hand over their device, the child's parents/guardians will be notified and the child will be required to allow the contents of the phone to be inspected by the school authorities in the presence of a parents/guardians,
- If a device is found to be on, is used or activated on the school premises or the school grounds or at any school-related activity, the device will be given to the Principal and must be collected by me/us, the child's parents/guardians.
- Any misbehaviour involving smart devices will be subject to sanctions as set out in the school's Code of Behaviour.

Pupil's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____