



## **LUCAN EDUCATE TOGETHER**

### **POLICY ON USE OF MOBILE PHONES OR OTHER MOBILE DEVICES**

#### **Introduction:**

With the increase in use of mobile phones by children in the school community, it is necessary to have a policy on their use during the school day. This policy aims to safeguard all in our school community and is developmentally appropriate. This policy is in agreement with the INTO guidelines for the use of mobile phones in all primary schools.

#### **Guidelines:**

While the increased use of mobile phones by children in the school community is acknowledged, the school policy is that mobile phones should not be brought onto the school premises by children unless there are exceptional circumstances warranting this. Where parents / guardians consider it necessary for a child to have a phone in order to be contactable on route to or from school they will be required to complete the attached confirmation indicating that they accept the school policy and are giving consent for their child to bring a phone to school. The child will also be required to indicate that they accept the school policy with regard to appropriate use of the phone while on the school premises. A child may not have a phone in school until their parent / guardian have completed the attached confirmation and the child has also indicated their acceptance of the school policy.

1. Pupils who bring a phone to school without the consent form being signed by their parent / guardian will have their phone confiscated and it will be necessary for a parent / guardian to call to the school to have the phone returned to them.
2. Children who have been given permission to have a mobile phone in school must turn off their phone once they have entered the school grounds and are not allowed to use their phones while waiting in line. Phones must be handed to their class teacher when they enter the classroom. The phone will be returned to the child at the end of the school day and may not be turned on until the children have left the school grounds.
3. Pupils should mark their phones clearly with their name. The school has no responsibility for any phones brought on to or used on the school premises or at a school event or activity in contravention of this policy. It is the

responsibility of parents to insure phones if required and parents / guardians should be aware that the school's insurance does not cover the loss / theft / damage of their child's phone while on the school premises or while travelling to and from school.

4. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for pupils and parents. It is strongly advised that pupils use a password / PIN code to ensure unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones. Pupils must keep their passwords / PIN code confidential. Mobile phones and / or passwords / pins should not be shared.
5. Pupils are not allowed to use phones to take photos or make voice or video recordings while on the school premises, including at after school activities or events outside school hours. Pupils using a mobile phone in this way or to bully other pupils or send offensive messages or images will face disciplinary action as per the school Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy.
6. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. In addition to applying the school's disciplinary policy the school will where appropriate, report such incidences to the Gardaí. Where there is a suspicion that the material on a mobile phone may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the Gardaí for further investigation. Parents will be informed in such circumstances.

<b>Activity:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Reviewed:</b>	
<b>Ratified by Board of Management:</b>	
<b>Effective from:</b>	
<b>Next Review Date: *</b>	

**\* Unless reviewed at an earlier date if deemed necessary by a change in law, Department policy, or to reflect changing school circumstances.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairperson:**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal:**



## Mobile Phone Pledge

I have read and understood the Mobile Phone Policy and have discussed it with my child / children. I understand that, where there are breaches of this policy, there will be an appropriate sanction.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Child)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

