

# St. Joseph's N.S Mobile Phone and Other Technological Devices Policy

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## Introductory Statement:

This policy was drawn up by staff, parents and Board of Management in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in hand held technological devices amongst the school population over recent years.

## Rationale:

- Strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness & dangers attached to using unauthorised technology in a school situation.
- Mobile phones & other technological devices are known to have been used to bully others.
- In line with Circular 0044/2025, schools are required to implement a policy to ban the use of and access to, personal mobile phones by pupils for the duration of the school day, including during breaks and at lunchtime.

## Relationship to School Ethos:

The use of mobile phones & other technological devices (such as Smart Watches) contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment and is not conducive to learning - a provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of St. Joseph's N.S.

## Aims:

- To improve the learning environment in schools by reducing distraction – ensuring that pupils are not using their mobile phones for personal use during the school day can help to foster an environment that is conducive to learning, resulting in improved pupil concentration and academic performance
- To reduce the risk of cyberbullying and access to inappropriate content during school hours
- To support in-person engagement with peers by increasing traditional social interactions between pupils at break times
- To provide a space for children to disconnect from their online world which will assist in supporting them to become less dependent on their mobile phones

## Internal School Procedures:

- Children and parents who urgently need to contact each other during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline.
- The school's subscription to the Aladdin Management Information System also provides a vital link between our school staff and the community. Messages sent via the Aladdin Connect app are received in 'real time' on the school accounts thus any message of an urgent nature will be received immediately by an adult who can then act accordingly.
- Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones/other technological devices (such as Smart Watches) to school or to the school grounds. **The only exception to this is in an emergency or with prior approval of the principal and in these situations the**



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**phone or device will be locked away by the class teacher for the duration of the school day and will be returned when the children are going home**

- Should a child have a mobile phone/other technological device (such as a Smart Watch) in school or in the school grounds, she/he is to be sent to the Principal who will contact the child's parents and the mobile phone/ other technological device will be confiscated.
- Taking a photo, making a recording or sending a bullying text/email while in school or on school grounds is considered to be a serious misdemeanour. The consequence for any of the aforementioned is immediate suspension.
- Staff are to use the school landline phone for calls to and from parents, other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child or activity.
- Staff personal phones should always be on silent/vibratory alert.
- When necessary the Principal and Deputy Principal will make/receive school related calls during the school day.
- Staff personal calls or phone usage is permitted at break & lunch-time only except in the case of emergency.
- Staff must never use their phones to take photographs of a child/children.

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

All staff shares 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 October 2025

**Signature of Chairperson:** *Zamora* *Cooper* **Date:** *3/11/25*