

## Bennettsbridge Mixed NS.

### Personal Mobile Phone, Smart Devices and Electronic Games Policy

#### Introductory Statement:

This policy has been drawn up in order to keep the children safe and therefore we ask all parents to support us in implementing this policy.

It has been devised in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in mobile phones, smart devices and hand held electronic 'gadgets' amongst the school population over recent years.

#### Rationale:

- All mobile phones, smart devices and hand-held devices are intrusive and distracting in a school environment
- Strategies must 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
- The capacity of many devices to take photographs, make video or sound recordings could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.

#### 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 - a provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of Bennettsbridge Mixed NS.

#### Aims:

- To ensure a "technology free" school environment
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning

#### Guidelines and Procedures

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone, smart devices and electronic games usage in Bennettsbridge N.S.

- Pupils are **not allowed** to bring mobile phones, smart devices or electronic games into school. **A smart device refers to a device that can take and make calls, send and receive**

messages, take pictures and record videos. Basic fit-bits( without these advanced features) used solely for exercise purposes are permissible.

- Children are not allowed to use mobile phones, electronic games during school hours
- 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
- Children who are in possession of any of the above devices will have them confiscated immediately and they will be kept in the office and only returned to a parent. This is considered a very serious breach of school policy and will be treated as such
- Parents / Visitors are asked to be mindful of their use of mobile phones when in the school building or on the school premises

### INAPPROPRIATE USE

If, for any reason, there is a situation where mobile phones, smart watches or and electronic game have been used during the school day to bully other pupils, send offensive messages/calls to other pupils or for any inappropriate use that child will face disciplinary actions as per the school policy.

### Roles and Responsibilities:

All staffs share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy.

### Evaluation:

This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis and amended as required.

### Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on: 16/10/2018

Signed:

Pearl Egan,  
Acting Chairperson,  
Board of Management,  
Bennettsbridge Mixed NS.