



*Scoil Aonghusa Senior N.S.*  
*Ballyrothery, Tallaght, Dublin 24.*  
(01) 451 8984



# Mobile Phone Policy

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in mobile phone amongst the school population over recent years.

## **Rationale**

- Mobile phones 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.
- Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns.

## **Relationship to School Ethos**

The use of mobile phones 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 Scoil Aonghusa Senior.

## **Aims**

- To ensure a “mobile phone free” school environment.
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning.

## **School Procedures**

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

- Children are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school. If a child takes a mobile phone to school, it must be switched off and handed up to the teacher as soon as the child enters the classroom. In exceptional circumstances, such as when out of school activities and after school games are scheduled and/or school tours, children may be allowed carry a phone as parents may need to be contacted.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.
- The teacher returns the mobile phone to the child at home time.

- Children who carry a mobile phone must switch it off on entering the school grounds in the morning.
- Children are forbidden to switch their phone back on until they leave the school grounds after school.
- Children who ignore this policy and are found with their phones switched on, will be asked to hand their phone up to the teacher. The teacher will put the mobile phone in an envelope, write the child's name on the envelope and hand it up to the school principal.
- Parents will be contacted to collect the mobile phone and the child will not be allowed to bring a mobile phone into school again (**Appendix 1**).
- If a teacher or staff member has a suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, the child will be asked to hand over the phone to the teacher or the school principal. The child's parents will be contacted and will have to collect the phone from the school.
- Where there is evidence that the material on the phone may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the phone will be handed over to the Gardaí for further investigation and the parents will be informed.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.
- It is strongly advised that pupils have passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made from their phones. These pins and passwords must be kept confidential.
- Children who use mobile phones to bully other children or to send offensive messages or to make offensive calls will face disciplinary actions as per the school's Code of Behaviour.
- The same applies to children who take unauthorised photos or recordings of other children or staff members.
- It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the school in this regard is ineffective, as with all incidents, the school may consider it necessary to involve the Gardaí.

## Roles and Responsibilities

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

## **Ratification**

This policy was ratified by the school Board of Management on:

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

<b>POLICY REVIEW</b>	
This policy is monitored on an on-going basis and amendments added as new technology comes on stream.	

## Appendix 1-Mobile Phone Ban



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### Mobile Phone Ban

**Meeting Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ understand that I broke the school rules in  
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relation to Scoil Aonghusa Senior's Mobile Phone Policy. As a result I will no longer bring my mobile phone (or any other recording device) into Scoil Aonghusa Senior.

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

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal

I \_\_\_\_\_ will ensure that my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ will not bring his/her mobile phone (or any other recording device) into Scoil Aonghusa Senior.

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

Parent/Guardian

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal