

Scoil Padre Pio

Mobile Phone and Electronic Equipment Policy

Where a pupil brings a mobile phone or other electronic equipment to school, it must be kept out of sight during the school day and may not be used, for any purpose, on school premises, school grounds or during off-site school activities. The only exception to this is in an emergency or with the approval of a teacher. Mobile phones are not allowed to be used in swimming pools or at sports events.

Pupils who ignore this policy will be required to hand over their mobile phone or other electronic equipment to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from the school office.

If a teacher has any suspicion that a mobile phone or other electronic equipment has unsuitable material stored on it, the pupil who is in possession of the phone or equipment will be required to hand it over to a teacher and the child's parent/s will be asked to collect it from the school. Where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the phone will be handed over to the gardai for further investigation. Parents will be informed in such circumstances.

Scoil Padre Pio will incorporate this policy in the school's discipline policy and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of school discipline.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen, confiscated or damaged mobile phones or other electronic equipment. The safety and security of all such equipment is wholly a matter for pupils/parents.

The school accepts no responsibility for pupils' mobile phones or other electronic equipment which are lost or stolen while travelling to or from school. Pupils should mark their mobile phones and other electronic equipment clearly with their names.

Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to a member of staff. It is strongly advised that pupils use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g. by other pupils, or if stolen). Pupils are likewise strongly advised to keep their password/pin numbers confidential.

Pupils using mobile phones to bully other pupils or send offensive messages/calls will face disciplinary actions as per the School Code of Behaviour.

Classroom staff are not allowed to use mobile phones during teaching/supervisory activities.

It should be noted that 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 deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the gardai.

Ratified by the Board of Management on _____
Date