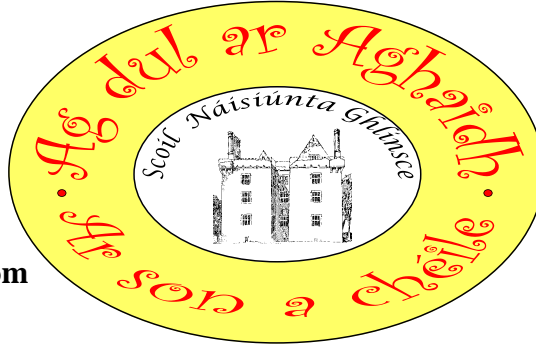


Scoil Náisiúnta Ghlinisce



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The Use of Mobile Phones by Pupils

As a general rule, school policy discourages the use of mobile phones by pupils and generally prohibits their use within the school on the clear understanding that where messages need to be relayed by/to pupils that there is a landline available and this is always available to the pupils with the permission of a member of staff.

School policy also recognises that there may be genuine reasons or specific circumstances why parents would wish their child to be allowed bring a mobile phone into school. If parents deem it necessary for their child to bring a mobile phone to school – then a written request must be made to the school by the Parent(s)/Guardian. On special occasions such as school tours, or other outings, the teacher in charge may decide to allow pupils take their mobile phones with them.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for pupils/parents. The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones stolen.

Where a pupil brings a mobile phone to school, the phone must be kept switched off during school hours 9:20 a.m. to 3:00p.m. as the pupils and parents will have access to the school landline phone during that time. (If there is a specific reason why the pupil may need access to their phone during the school day this reason must be communicated to the school principal. If the mobile phone needs to be powered on it must be in ‘silent’ mode.

If a pupil has been “approved” to take a mobile phone to school then that phone must be turned off at all times while in school or on the school grounds and held within the pupil’s school bag. It will be normal practice for pupils in possession of an ‘approved’ phone to keep it concealed in their school bag during the school day. (If the pupil wishes they may ask their teacher to hold their phone during the day for safe-keeping)

Use of an “approved” mobile phone to send/receive text messages, other than to family members or guardians is strictly prohibited.

A pupil may switch on a phone after school, while in the school grounds, for the purpose of communication. However, they must not use it at this time, or at any other time, for playing games or displaying/taking images. Again, it should be kept concealed while not being used for communication.

Any breach of the above guidelines will result in the confiscation of the phone for a period of one week, after which time, the parent/guardian will be asked to collect the phone from the school.

If a member of staff has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, pupils will be required to hand over the phone to the staff member and parents will be asked to collect it from the school.

Pupils using mobile phones to send offensive messages/calls will face disciplinary actions as per the School Code of Behaviour. Sanctions will include the immediate confiscation of the phone and the removal of the privilege to take a mobile phone to school.

Under no circumstances, are pupils allowed to use the camera of a mobile phone during school hours or while travelling on the school bus.

Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to a member of staff and will be disposed of if no owner is found within five school days.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person and any activity of this nature will be dealt with appropriately.

School Policy of Glinsk School

Reviewed: June 2015

Signed _____ (Staff) _____ (BOM)