

Scoil Phádraig, Ballyhale, Co. Kilkenny.

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MOBILE PHONES POLICY

It is the policy of Scoil Phádraig not to allow the use of mobile phones by pupils. Any necessary calls will be made by the teachers or by the pupils with the approval of the teachers on the school telephone. In instances where pupils are not going directly home after school and require mobile phones for later communication, the phones are to be left with the class teacher at the start of the day and collected when school finishes.

Pupils who ignore this policy and have/use a mobile on school premises without permission will be required to hand over their phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from the teacher involved.

If a teacher has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, pupils will be required to hand over the phone to a teacher and parents 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 Gardaí for further investigation. Parents will be informed in such circumstances.

The school 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 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 while travelling to and from school.

Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to a member of staff.

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 Gardaí.