



Our Lady's Grove Primary School

Mobile/Smart Phones and Personal Smart Devices Policy

Introductory Statement:

Our Lady's Grove Primary School is a Catholic community rooted in the educational philosophy of St. Claudine Thévenet.

In Our Lady's Grove we strive to create a happy, safe, loving, caring, and nurturing environment conducive to the attainment of the educational, creative, moral, and spiritual potential of each child, enabling them to participate as responsible citizens at home, in school and within the school community at present, and ultimately within our society.

Rationale:

This policy was prepared in consultation with the staff, parents, Board of Management, and the Student Council to clarify the rules regarding the children's use of mobile/smart phones and/or personal smart devices during school hours, at school-related events and off-site school-related activities such as school tours, swimming etc.

These devices could present the potential to trigger inappropriate behaviour by the children. The capacity of such devices to take photographs, make video or sound recordings could lead to child protection and data protection issues regarding inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.

School Procedures:

The use of personal mobile/smart phones and other personal smart devices contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment and as such they are not permitted.

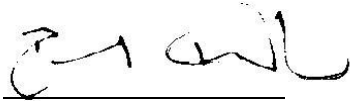
- Children are not permitted to bring smart phones and/or personal smart devices to school, to school-related events or activities.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone. Parents/guardians who need to contact their child during school hours may do so by calling the school landline 01-2988694.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- This policy will be discussed with children from 3rd – 6th Class by the Class Teacher, the Principal and Parents/Guardians.
- A device that is confiscated will be switched off and given to the Principal for safe-keeping.
- This policy is part of the school's Code of Behaviour. A breach of this policy will be treated

in the same way as any breach of the school's Code of Behaviour.

- Children using smart phones and/or smart watches to bully other children or send offensive messages/calls outside school which impacts a child/children in school will face disciplinary actions as per the school's Code of Behaviour.
- It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use smart phones and smart watches 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.
- All members of our school community share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy as well as supporting the rationale of this policy.

Signed: 
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Anne Kernan
Principal/Secretary to the BoM

Date: 5th September 2023