



Mobile Phones and Smart Devices Policy

Introductory Statement

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

Rationale

- Smart devices such as mobile phones and smart watches are intrusive and distracting in a school environment.
- Strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorised devices in a school situation.
- The use of internet-enabled devices or devices with cameras poses a child safeguarding risk. Child protection is of paramount importance to the school.

Relationship to School Ethos

The use of mobile phones and other smart devices 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 Carbury School.

Internal School Procedures

The following are the procedures for mobile phone/smart device usage in the school:

- The pupils of Carbury National School are not permitted to have any smart devices in school including, but not limited to, mobile phones, cameras, smart watches, games consoles, kindles, etc. on the school premises at any time for any reason.
- These devices are also not allowed on school tours, school trips or any school-related activities.
- If this rule is breached the equipment will be confiscated and retained in the Principal's Office. The child's parent/guardian will then be contacted to arrange a time for the collection of the device.
- If the children need to contact home they will be given permission to go to the school secretary or to a staff member if on a school trip.
- If a parent needs to contact a child during the day they may telephone the school secretary and a message will be relayed to the child. The same applies to school tours and trips.

- This policy forms part of our Code of Good Behaviour, our Health and Safety Statement, our Acceptable Use Policy, and our Anti-Bullying Policy.
- In exceptional circumstances, a parent/guardian may make a special request to the principal for his/her child to bring a mobile phone to school. In this scenario, the mobile phone is dropped into the school office on arrival in school and collected at the end of the day. The phone must be powered off and in a clear plastic bag with the child's name on it.

Roles and Responsibilities:

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

Evaluation:

This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis and amendments added as new technology comes on stream.

Monitoring and Review Procedures

This policy was reviewed in May 2019 and again in December 2022. The details of this policy will be communicated to parents. A copy of this policy will also be published on the school website www.carburyschool.com.

Signed: Linda McMahon _____ Date: 1st December 2022
Principal

Derek Whitcarr
Chairperson of the Board of Management