



MOUNT ANVILLE MONTESSORI JUNIOR SCHOOL

January 2013

Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy

Introduction

This policy has been drawn up by the staff and circulated to the board of management and Parents council for observation and feedback. This policy was amended in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in hand held electronic 'gadgets' amongst the school population over recent years

Rationale

Mobile phones have become an important and invaluable part of our lifestyle. The school understands there are times when possession of a mobile can provide a sense of safety and security while travelling to and from school, as well as enabling urgent calls or contact for parents/guardians.

iPods, mobile phones, Game Boys, PSP's, MP3's etc. can be intrusive and distracting in a school environment. Strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorised technology in a school situation

Aims:

- The school aims to provide a happy safe and stimulating learning environment for all students. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that mobile phones, iPods, Nintendo's etc. do not disrupt this learning environment.
- To clarify the responsibilities with regard to mobile phones.
- To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children's learning

Implementation

- In general, students should not bring valuable items to school as they can be easily lost or stolen.
- If the pupil needs to contact their parent, a phone call will always be made on their behalf
- It has always been the schools practice to pass on important messages to the girls throughout the day. Messages can be left by phoning the school number, 01 2885313.
- It is strongly recommended that pupils leave their phone at home.
- Mobile phones may only be brought to school by 5th and 6th class children who comply with the procedures below. If any other pupils have a mobile phone on the school premises, the child's parents will be notified and should collect the phone from the welcome office at the end of the day.
- The procedures for pupils of 5th and 6th class who wish to have a mobile phone on the school premises
 - Pupils must bring a letter to the class teacher signed by their parent allowing them to have a mobile phone in school.
 - Pupils who are permitted to carry a mobile phone must switch it off on entering the school grounds in the morning
 - Pupils who ignore this policy and are found with their phones switched on will be dealt with according to the Discipline Policy
 - The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones
 - Pupils are advised to mark their phones clearly with their name
 - Pupils may not use camera phones to take pictures at any time while on the school premises
 - Where a child misuses her phone on the school premises, the phone will be removed for the rest of that day, the parent will be contacted and the parent must collect the phone thereafter.

Roles and responsibility

Staff:

- Staff mobile phones are to be switched off/silent profile during class, meetings and playground duty.
- Staff personal calls and texting should be reserved for break time

- Parents who wish to contact a teacher should do so through the school office. Mobile numbers should not be given out unless a teacher wishes to do so for specific reasons e.g. medical condition

Parents:

- Parents will be asked to turn off their phones when volunteering in the school building or playground or attending mass, concerts meetings etc. so that there is no disruption to school.
- If parents wish to allow their child to bring a mobile to school a letter confirming your consent is necessary, to ensure the pupils abide by the school rules.
- The phone may not be switched on while on the school premises.
- We remind parents that mobile phones can be misused with the sending of inappropriate text messages, pictures and prank calls. This in itself is a form of bullying behaviour. Parental support with regard to the proper use of mobile phones is essential.

Ratified by the B.O.M on Monday, 21st January 2013.

Chairperson: Dónal Brennan