

Policy on the Use of Mobile Phones and Mobile Devices by pupils, staff and parents in St. Patrick's Primary School

Whilst we at St. Patrick's recognise the tremendous benefits that modern mobile communications bring, we are also conscious of the fact that the inappropriate use, especially of phones and mobile devices with integrated cameras, could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images. In cases of genuine emergency, contact between school and home can be quickly established in line with our existing procedures.

With this in mind we have drawn up the following guidelines:

PUPILS

1. St Patrick's pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones, devices or smart watches to school.
2. If a pupil brings a mobile phone or device to school, it will be held in the school and returned only to the parent, guardian or carer.

STAFF

Staff, both teaching and non-teaching, should not make or receive personal telephone calls or text messages during working time. Teaching staff and support staff may use their phones this year (2020-21) to contact the office or other members of staff instead of the phones in the shared areas. This is in line with St. Patrick's Risk Assessment to avoid the spread of Covid-19.

Staff should also take their phones to the playground with them in case of emergency. Green cards cannot be used this year as a way of communicating an emergency.

PARENTS

Parents must be aware that the use of mobile phones or devices is not permitted anywhere in the school building to comply with Child Protection and Safeguarding practice.
