

CABRA CENTRAL NATIONAL SCHOOL
MOBILE PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

This policy outlines the appropriate use of mobile phones, and other electronic smart devices in our school

Rationale

The possession and use of mobile phones and smart devices, e.g. smartwatches by school pupils is now extensive, even in the primary school sector. Our teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. Mobile phones, smartwatches and personal devices can create discipline problems or be used as a means of bullying others. The capacity of many devices to take photographs, make video or sound recordings could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images. In order to manage the issue of mobile phones, and other personal devices, this policy has been developed.

Aims

- To inform all members of our school community about the appropriate use of mobile phones at our school.
- To outline the procedures and processes of this policy.

The School's Board of Management accepts that it is not realistic to have a policy which prohibits pupils from taking phones to school. We are aware that a number of parents would be concerned, for health and safety reasons, if their child could not carry a phone at all (and might be unable to contact their parents in respect of any situation that might arise outside of school or on the way to and from school).

However, it is the Board's policy to prohibit the use by pupils of mobile phones, smartwatches and electronic devices while on the school premises, grounds or off site activities e.g. school swimming, school trips. For this reason, the school strongly discourages the bringing of these devices to school by students unless deemed absolutely necessary by parents/guardians.

School Procedures

- The use of personal mobile/smart phones and other personal devices by children who attend the school is not allowed while the children are in the care of the school staff, while at school, in the school yard, on trips from the school.
- Mobile/Smart phones and other personal devices that are found in the school will be handed into the school office by the intervening staff member.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so only through the school office with the permission of their class teacher.
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains the first point of contact. You can contact the school via telephone on 0429667194 or email: cabracentral20@gmail.com
- Please do not contact your child directly while they are in school on a mobile device.

In the event that a parent thinks that their child having a phone/smartwatch in school is essential, the following will apply:

- Parents must send the Principal a letter requesting that their child be permitted to bring their mobile phone/device to school and outline the reason for doing so. The letter should be addressed to the Principal. This letter will be kept on file. This is an annual process of application.
- The phone/device must be powered off before arrival into school. It must be handed to the class teacher immediately who will lock it into the class filing cabinet. The phone/ device will be returned by the class teacher at the end of the day at the school gates.
- The School will not be liable for replacing mobile phones or other devices that are lost, stolen or damaged. All devices are brought to school at the owner's risk. i.e. the parent of the child.

Sanctions

- Any child found to have a phone /personal device in school without parental letter on file will have the phone/device confiscated. The return of the phone/ device will require a parent/ guardian to call in to the school and collect the item from the Principal. Similarly, the use of all personal,

electronic devices is not permitted during the school day – this includes arrival, class time, breaks and dismissal.

- Where a pupil is found to be using a mobile phone or other personal device for any purpose, it will be confiscated from the pupil and returned only to their parent/guardian in person.
- If a pupil uses a mobile phone or personal device to take photographs, video footage or recording of other pupils or staff members, or shares inappropriate messages disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the School's Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta Policy.

School Trips and Outings

Students are not permitted to bring mobile phones and other personal devices with them on school trips and tours. Teachers will contact parents via Textaparent if it is necessary to make contact with a parent/guardian.

A copy of the Mobile Phone and Devices Policy is made available to school personnel and to the Parents' Association. The policy is readily accessible to parents on request.

A copy of this Policy is also published on the school website.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on

10th June 2025

Signed:

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Signed:

Principal