

St. Eunan's N.S

Mobile Devices

Policy



1. Purpose & Rationale

- In line with **Circular 0044/2025**, this policy aims to **ban the use of and access to personal mobile phones by pupils during the school day**, including breaks and lunch times.
- The key goals are to:
 - reduce distractions in class
 - minimise opportunities for cyberbullying or accessing inappropriate content during school
 - encourage more face-to-face social interaction among pupils
 - enhance the learning environment and pupil wellbeing

2. Scope & Duration

- This policy applies to **all pupils** enrolled at St. Eunan's N.S during school hours (from arrival to dismissal), including break times and lunch times.
- **The ban does not apply** on the journey to and from school, or after-school activities have concluded, unless the school has a specific reason to regulate phone use in such contexts.
- The policy is also applicable to any school activities conducted during the school hours, even if off campus, unless otherwise agreed in advance.

3. Definitions

- **Personal mobile phone:** any privately owned mobile or smart device capable of communication, messaging, or internet access (e.g., smartphones, smartwatches, tablets with SIM, etc.).

- **Exception / Exemption:** a case in which, under agreed conditions, a pupil is permitted to carry or use a mobile phone for specific, limited purposes (e.g. health, safety, special educational needs).

4. Policy Statement

1. Pupils must **turn off** their personal mobile phones from the time they arrive on school premises until they depart at the end of the school day.
2. Pupils are **not permitted to access or use** their phones during class, transition times, yard breaks, lunchtime, or indoors except under teacher direction or in a designated exempt case.
3. Phones brought to school must be **stored safely and securely** during the day (see section 5 below for mechanisms).
4. Any use of mobile phones during the school hours without prior exemption will be regarded as a breach of school rules and dealt with according to the school's Code of Behaviour (see section 7).

5. Mechanisms / Implementation

To implement the ban in a practical and consistent way, the school will adopt:

- Pupils **hand phones/devices** into the classroom teacher on arrival; teachers will store them securely, and return them at home time.
- The system adopted will balance security, convenience, and fairness, and must be communicated clearly to pupils, parents, and staff in advance.

6. Exemptions / Special Cases

Exemptions are to be considered **only in justified, transparent, and fair circumstances**, and only to the extent needed. Examples may include but are not limited to:

- Health / medical needs (e.g. diabetes glucometer app, seizure-monitoring, blood pressure, etc.) [Government of Ireland Assets](#)
- Reasonable accommodations for pupils with special educational needs (e.g. assistive apps)
- Mental health or wellbeing reasons (e.g. immediate parent contact)
- EAL (English as an Additional Language) students needing app use for language support
- Other circumstances as agreed in writing in advance

Any exemption must be approved by the Principal, documented, and communicated to the relevant staff. The pupil should only access the phone for the **specific permitted purpose** and not for general use.

7. Non-compliance & Consequences

- The Code of Behaviour will be amended to include incidents of unauthorised phone use.
- Steps for managing breaches will include:
 - reminder / warning
 - confiscation of the phone/device until parents collect them
 - parent/guardian meeting if repeated
 - further disciplinary steps (in line with our Code of Behaviour).
- No school staff should access or listen to the content of pupils' phones except in exceptional circumstances (e.g. safeguarding) and in line with data protection / child protection policies.

8. Related Policies & Alignment

This mobile phone policy should be read alongside and aligned with existing school policies, such as:

- Acceptable Usage Policy (for digital devices and internet)
- Code of Behaviour
- Bí Cineálta
- Data Protection / GDPR
- Child Safeguarding
- Wellbeing / SPHE

9. Communication & Consultation

- Prior to implementation, the school will consult with the **school community** (pupils, parents/guardians, staff) using sessions, surveys, parent meetings, student council, etc.
- The policy will be published on the school website, in the school policy folder (stored in school office) and communicated clearly via email to parents and staff.
- Regular discussions will be held for staff and pupils to ensure consistent application and understanding.
- The policy should be reviewed regularly to assess its effectiveness and make adjustments as needed.

10. Review & Monitoring

- The school leadership team will monitor compliance and effectiveness (via observations, feedback, incident records).
- The policy will be formally reviewed and updated to reflect changes in technology, legislation, or school feedback.

Date of Ratification: 25/11/2025

Signed: F. Adnan Gajjar
(Chairperson of the Board of Management)

Date: 25/11/2025