

Mobile Phone Policy and Bluetooth enabled device – Revised Nov 2019

In the interest of pupil and staff privacy and safety, The Board of Management of St. Patrick's NS does not allow pupils to have mobile phones at school (in the building, on the school grounds or during off-site activities such as tours/ sports events/ visits to the church etc.).

The school phone is available to pupils, with their teacher's permission, to phone a parent during the school day. Parents can also contact the school (01 8249930) should they wish to speak with or relay a message to their child.

Should a parent feel that his/her child has a valid reason to have a phone at school, this parent must apply to the Board of Management requesting that special arrangements be put in place for the child.

Pupils, who are found using a mobile phone or other Bluetooth enabled device on school premises or during school related activities, will be required to surrender the device. Such pupils will be withdrawn from class and will be supervised until such time as a parent/parents is/are available to meet with school management, regarding the breach of policy. The device will be returned to the parent(s), only after parents have met with school management.

Should it come to our attention that children are misusing phones, by uploading inappropriate images and/or sharing negative commentary about parents, peers or teachers, either during or outside school hours; it is within the school's remit to seek advice from Túsla (The Child Protection Agency) and/or

the Gardaí. Such children will face sanctions in line with the school's Code of Discipline, up to and including suspension.

This policy includes any interactive device which has a camera, messaging function or games.