

Scoil Cholmáin, Corkbeg, Whitegate, Co. Cork

Roll Number – 119921

Tel: (021) 4661622

Email: office@whitegatens.ie

Website: www.whitegatens.ie

Mobile Devices Acceptable Usage Policy

Rationale

This policy has been formulated in consultation with the Board of Management, the Staff and Parents Association of Scoil Cholmáin, Whitegate N.S. It aims to provide clarity on the acceptable use of mobile phones in school and at school related activities.

The Board of Management of Scoil Cholmáin, Whitegate N.S agree to the following in relation to use of mobile phones in the school and at school related activities:

- Children are not permitted to have mobile phones in school for the following reasons:
 - They can be a source of distraction and disruption.
 - They may be used in cyber bullying, inciting jealousy or creating an unfriendly atmosphere.
 - They may be used for downloading inappropriate content
 - They may result in a reduction of normal communication and social interaction.
- Any child who uses his/her mobile phone during the school day or whose phone is rung or used to send or receive text messages will have the phone confiscated during school hours. The school's Code of Behaviour will apply. It is the responsibility of the child to request the phone from his/her teacher at 2:40.
- In the case that a child needs a mobile phone to contact a parent after school, the child is permitted to bring a mobile device into school. It is to be given to the class teacher at the start of the school day and can be collected at 2.40pm when leaving school.
- The homework journal, notes or phone calls to and from the school office can be used to deliver messages to and from parents/guardians.
- Mobile Phone use by students is not permitted on excursions, school related activities or after school classes.

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- The Board of Management of Scoil Cholmáin, Whitegate N.S is not responsible for any text or phone call received or made by a child on his/her mobile phone during the school day or at school related activities.
- The Board of Management is not responsible for a child's mobile phone which is lost or stolen at school or at school related activities.
- The staff of Scoil Cholmáin, Whitegate N.S are requested to have their mobile phones on silent and may access them during break times. Phones can not be used during teaching time.
- The staff of Scoil Cholmáin, Whitegate N.S are not permitted to use personal social media on school grounds.
- School business is not to be communicated to staff members through any messaging platform (Whatsapp, Facebook Messenger, Viber)
- All use of mobile phones by staff in school related activities must be in accordance with Child Protection, Data Protection, Anti-Bullying, Internet and ICT Acceptable Use and other related School Policies.
- It is the policy of Scoil Cholmáin that in so far as it is possible, digital cameras instead of personal mobile phones should be used to take photographs of children whilst taking part in school-based activities.
- Photographs of groups of children instead of individual children are advised.
- Names and pictures of individual children should not appear together on the school website or local papers.
- Consent may be sought from parents with regard to pictures of students for school promotion/website purposes.
- A school mobile phone may be used for school related purposes by the school Principal or by other staff members under the direction of the Principal.
- Devices such as smart watches with cameras and/or includes features which allow calls/texts to be sent or received are not permitted by students on school grounds.

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- Mobile Phones are not to be used as translators on school grounds.

Related Policies

The following policies are particularly related to this policy:

- Child Protection Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Health, Safety and Welfare Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Special Needs Policy
- SNA Policy
- ICT Acceptable Usage Policy
- Anti Bullying Policy

Ratification

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: _____

It will be reviewed in the Second Term of _____ or before this if legislation affects this policy's content.