

Policy on use of mobile phones.

Introductory statement

This policy was formulated by the staff of St Michael's N.S. at a planning day on June 2nd 2006.

Relationship to the characteristic spirit of the school

St Michael's N.S. aspires to provide a safe, caring environment which enables and encourages children to develop educationally and grow emotionally. This work can best be done when there is a high level of openness and co-operation between staff, parents and pupils.

Rationale

- It is recognised that mobile phones can be intrusive and distracting in all situations and particularly in school.
- In addition to the possible disruption, the debate still goes on as to the possible harmful effects of the frequent use of mobile phones , with children being particularly vulnerable in this regard.
- The increase in bullying via mobile phones is also a consideration affecting the emotional wellbeing of the children in school.

We therefore propose the following recommendations regarding mobile phone use.

Mobile phone use by pupils

The use of mobile phones (including camera phones) by the children whilst in school is forbidden. However children are permitted to leave phones brought to school switched off and in the office, on the understanding that they do so at their own risk.

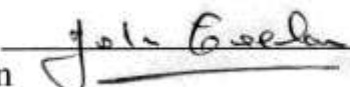
Mobile phone use by staff and visitors to the school

The use of mobile phones by staff for essential calls should be kept to a minimum.

Ratification and Communication

Was communicated to all parents at the end of April 2006.

This policy was ratified on 18th May 2006.

Signed : 
Fr Geelan