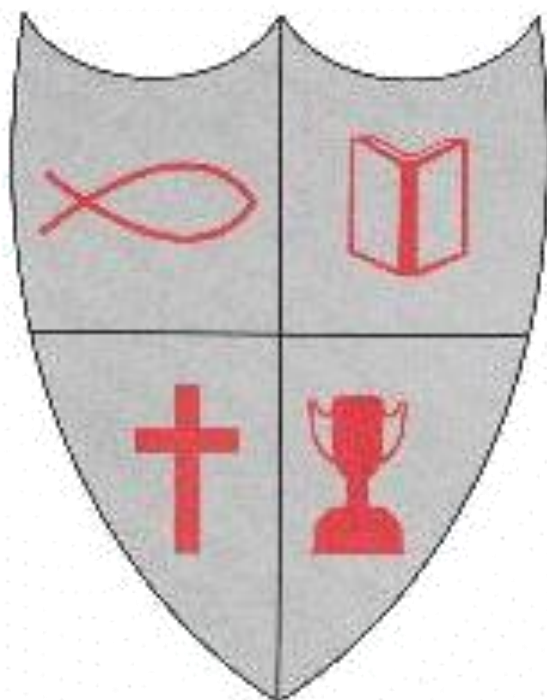


Aughnacloy Primary School



Mobile Phone Policy

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UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Article 1 (definition of the child)

Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention

Article 2 (without discrimination)

"The Convention applies to everyone, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from."

Article 16 (right to privacy)

"Every child has the right to privacy..."

The use of mobile phones at Aughnacloy Primary School follows the guidance and direction given by Education Support for N. Ireland which takes recommendations from EA.

Aughnacloy Primary School discourages pupils from bringing mobile phones to school, unless a written agreement has been made between parents and school, for exceptional circumstances.

Mobile Phone Policy (Pupils)

- If a pupil has been given prearranged permission to bring a mobile phone to school, the phones must remain switched off and handed to the class teacher while pupils are in class.
- Exceptions to this would be in an emergency situation and with the express approval of the principal or where a written request has been received from the parent/carer.
- Should parents need to contact pupils, or vice versa, this should be done following the usual school procedures: via the school office. (Tel no. 028 85557316) When on a school trip/residential, parents may contact pupils on the school mobile number provided in the information leaflet outlining the itinerary for the trip or via Class Dojo.
- Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone, the phone will be taken from the pupil, handed to a teacher who will record the name of the child and attach to the phone. The mobile phone will be stored by that teacher. The pupil may collect the phone at the end of the school day.
- If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of either other pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken according to the school's Discipline Policy.
- If images of other pupils or teachers have been taken, the phone will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil in the presence of a teacher.
- Parents are advised that Aughnacloy Primary School accepts no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought into the school or school grounds.

Mobile Phone Policy (Staff)

- During teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings, mobile phones will be switched off or put on 'silent' or 'discreet' mode. Phones may be checked at break and lunchtime when in the staffroom and out of sight of pupils. It is the responsibility of staff to store their mobile phone in a safe and secure place.
- Except in urgent or exceptional situations, mobile phone use is not permitted during teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings.
- Staff will not use mobile phones to take photos of children. School devices will be used for this purpose.
- Staff will not share their mobile phone number with pupils; it is advised they do not share it with parents

This policy supports the school's Health and Safety, Anti-bullying, Child Protection and Internet Acceptable Use policies. It has been endorsed by the Board of Governors and will be monitored, reviewed and amended as required.

March 2022