

CARAGH SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Mobile phones, switched on or off, are not permitted in school, except in circumstances outlined below.

Pupils who ignore this policy and use a mobile on school premises without permission will be required to hand over their phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from the school office.

If a teacher has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, pupils will be required to hand over the phone to a teacher and parents will be asked to collect it from the school. Where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the gardai for further investigation. Parents will be informed in such circumstances.

The school will incorporate this policy in the school's discipline policy and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of school discipline.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for pupils/parents.

The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.

Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to a member of staff.

Pupils using mobile phones to bully other pupils or send offensive messages/calls will face disciplinary actions as per the School Code of Behaviour.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the School in this regard is deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the gardaí.

Cases where mobile phones are permitted in Caragh school:

- 1...With written permission of parent in cases relating to certified medical issues.
- 2...With written permission of parents in cases of psychological issues like separation anxiety.

Ratified by Board of Management on _____
Date

Signed _____
Chairperson, Board of Management