



Ard Rí Community National School

Ard Rí C.N.S, Balreask Old, Navan, Co. Meath.

Principal: Darragh Roe

Roll No 20352T



06.03.2020

Dear Parents,

We have always known that some children in senior classes have their mobile phones in school. There has been an unwritten rule that the children keep their phones switched off in their bags while they are on school property. Some children travel to school independently and parents enjoy the comfort that their children can contact them on route home etc. We appreciate the peace of mind this affords parents.

There have however been incidents involving children recording videos and taking photographs while at school. There have been reported incidents of children sharing this footage on social media. This is wholly unacceptable.

Some smart watches have camera function and smart watches with gaming apps are distracting children from their work.

The School Management Team are currently working on an Electronic Device Policy. Once we have a completed draft, we will consult the children for their feedback. I think it is important they feel they have ownership of the policy and understand the rationale. We will consult parents for their opinions in the usual way. The policy will then be ratified by the Board of Management. This process will take time.

In the interim, due to the potential seriousness of the issue and the need to protect our children we have made the following decision with immediate effect;

- Children are not allowed to have mobile phones in school.
- Children are not allowed to have smart watches or any other devices with camera, recording or gaming functions in school.

Any phones or other recording devices discovered on school premises will be confiscated. Parents will be informed and must collect the device.

If you need to get a message to your child you can do this by calling the school phone on 087 1341007.

Thank you,

Darragh Roe



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