

# *Shanbogh National School*

*Shanbogh Upper, Rosbercon, New Ross, Co. Wexford. Y34 V129*

*Roll Number: 17471K*

*Telephone: (051) 880308*

*Charities Registered Number: 20204515*

*Email: [shanboghns@gmail.com](mailto:shanboghns@gmail.com)*

*Website: [shanboghns.ie](http://shanboghns.ie)*

## **Mobile Phone and Personal Electronic Device Policy**

### **Introduction and Rationale**

The possession and use of mobile phones and other personal devices by school students is now extensive, even in the primary school sector. The use of mobile phones and personal devices such as iPods, iPads, PSPs, MP3s, Smartwatches etc. presents a number of problems that can prove intrusive and distracting in a school environment. They can be used to cause discipline problems or as a means of bullying others. The capacity of many devices to take photographs, make video or sound recordings could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images. In order to manage the issue of mobile phones, and other personal devices, this policy has been developed. Any device which has the capacity to make or receive calls / communicate audio or visual content, record audio or video content, send or receive messages or take pictures is considered a personal device under this policy.

### **Relationship to Our School Ethos**

The use of personal mobile/smart phones and other electronic devices contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment, a provision that is central to the mission statement and ethos of Shanbogh N.S.

### **Aim of Policy**

This policy prohibits the use by students of personal mobile phones and other personal devices, while on school premises or involved in school activities such as tours, trips or extra-curricular activities. This is in order to create a safer environment and to lessen intrusions on, and distractions to, children's learning.

### **School Procedures**

- The use of personal mobile phones and other personal devices by children who attend the school is not allowed while the children are in the care of the school staff, while at school, on trips from the school or involved in extra-curricular activities. The children should, therefore, not bring mobile phones and other personal devices to school or when engaging in school-related activities. Teachers will have a contact number in the event that it is necessary to make contact with a parent/guardian.

- Mobile phones and other personal devices that are found in the school should be handed to the principal.
- Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the Class Teacher or School Secretary using the school landline phone (051) 880308.
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school landline remains the first point of contact and can ensure that your child is reached quickly and a message passed onto them. In the event that the landline is unavailable an email may be sent to shanboghns@gmail.com.
- Staff are permitted to use their phones for school-related business only or for emergencies. Staff should not use their phones for personal reasons during teacher-pupil contact time.

Exemptions for students will only apply for medical, wellbeing or specific practical reasons, or for reasons related to pupils' special educational needs. The exemptions will allow pupils to access their phones for the specific reason outlined in the exemption, and not for general use. In such circumstances an application for exemption must be made to the Board of Management outlining specific reasons for the request. A decision will be made at the next scheduled board meeting and communicated to the parents.

### **Sanctions**

The possession and use of all mobile phones / personal electronic devices is not permitted during the school day – this includes arrival, class time, breaks and dismissal. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in disciplinary action and may be dealt with under the school's Code of Behaviour and Bí Cinéalta policies.

Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be in possession or using a mobile phone or other personal device for any purpose, it will be confiscated from the pupil and returned only to the parent/guardian/carer.

The school will not be liable for replacing mobile phones or other devices that are lost, stolen or damaged.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone/personal device 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 Board of Management may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí.

A copy of the Mobile phone and Devices Policy is made available to school personnel and to the Parents' Council. The policy is readily accessible to parents on request. A copy of the Policy is also published on the school website

This Policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 29<sup>th</sup>, January 2026 and will be reviewed by the school management authority periodically.

Signed: Eileen O'Leary

Chairperson, BOM

Date: 29/01/2026