

Mobile Phone Policy

Introductory Statement

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances which have seen a significant increase in the use of hand held electronics devices such as mobile phones, tablets, iPads, MP3s/iPods etc amongst Primary School pupils over recent years.

Rationale

It is recognised that mobile phones can be intrusive and distracting in all situations and particularly in schools. Mobile phone use is primarily a concern on the grounds of health and safety. Issues include cyberbullying, unprotected use of social media, access to unsuitable content and potential contact with strangers online. Furthermore, children and staff have a right to privacy and protection under the GDPR and Child Protection Policies.

Relationship to School Ethos

The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices contravenes the provision of a safe and secure environment and is not conducive to learning, a provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of Nicker N.S.

Pupils

Nicker N.S. does not allow the pupils to have mobile phones or other electronics devices in their possession in school.

Children who need to contact home during the school may do so by asking the principal class teacher. This call will be facilitated on the school landline or mobile phone.

Use of mobile phones/electronic devices is not permitted during or after school activities such as sports training, school tours and trips etc.

The use of school owned electronic devices (iPad/tablets) is strictly under the supervision of staff and in line with our IT and Acceptable Use policy. All apps will be agreed upon by staff.

Sanctions:

If a phone/device is perceived to be in use by the pupil during the school day e.g. taking a picture/recording, this will be considered a serious offence and dealt with in line with the school's Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies, as deemed appropriate.

Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic device to school will have it confiscated and will need to have a parent/guardian collect it.

Parents/guardians will be notified to check the phone/device for inappropriate content and to have the content deleted. Further sanctions may occur in line with our Anti-Bullying policy.

Staff

The use of Mobile phones by staff for essential calls is kept to a minimum. Mobile phones may be used as a way to contact staff internally with regard to urgent notifications within the school.

Staff may require the use of their own mobile phones to contact parents/guardians in exceptional circumstances, however contact will generally be made by e mail, school landline or school mobile.

School Outings

Children are not allowed mobile phones/electronic devices on school outings.

Roles and Responsibilities

All the staff share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy.

Ratification

The policy was ratified by the BOM on April 24th 2024

Signature: Karen Franklin (Principal)

Chairperson of Board of Management Niamh Maloney

Date: 2024