



Mobile Phone Policy

Reviewed: September 2022

Ratified by the Governors: October 2022

Next review date: September 2025

Mission Statement

Loughries Integrated Primary School fosters a nurturing environment which encourages, supports, develops and challenges each child to reach their full potential. We endeavour to equip our pupils with the skills and qualities needed to work together for a shared future.

Aims for our school

We believe that each child will succeed through:

- A warm, caring and stimulating environment
- A culture of support, rapport, challenge and encouragement
- A rich, varied, up-to-date range of learning resources
- A broad, balanced and challenging curriculum
- Innovative teaching and investigative approaches to learning
- An enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits
- Effective learning partnerships between school, home and the community We demonstrate our commitment through:
- Continually evaluating and improving all that we do
- Effectively monitoring standards of provision
- Collaborating towards common goals

Aims for our children

We aim for our children to:

- Have high self-esteem, based on self-respect, respect for others and their environment
- Acquire attitudes of acceptance, tolerance, equality, honesty and trust
- Take responsibility for their own behaviour and actions
- Achieve their best across all areas of the curriculum
- Develop a range of communication, practical, technological and life skills
- Work independently, creatively and collaboratively
- Become confident, well-motivated and inquisitive lifelong learners
- Enjoy their time at Loughries Integrated Primary School and create happy memories.

Integrated Ethos

As an integrated primary school we provide a learning environment where children from Catholic and Protestant backgrounds, as well as those of other faiths and none, can learn with, from and about each other. Our school is committed to the principles of Integrated Education through Equality, Faith & Values, Parental Involvement and Social Responsibility as outlined by the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education.

Our Motto:

Learn, Integrate, Participate, Succeed.

Introduction

The aim of this Policy is to give clear guidance on the use of mobile phones at Loughries Integrated Primary School.

Camera mobile phones are now the norm and a built in digital camera enables users to take high resolution pictures. These can be sent instantly to other mobile phone users or email addresses. They can also be posted on the Internet or in chat rooms.

There is a potential for camera mobile phones to be misused in schools. They can become an instrument of bullying or harassment directed against pupils or/and teachers.

Staff

- Phones to be only used in staff's free time, and never in front of students unless in case of emergency.
- Phones must be kept on silent at all times.
- Staff will not contact a parent/guardian from their own personal mobile; this should only be done via the school telephone. Exceptions for this rule may only apply when pupils are on a school trip in which case teachers may need to contact a parent/guardian outside of school premises.
- Staff will never send nor accept inappropriate messages or images from other staff, pupils or parents/guardians.
- Staff must give the school telephone number to their next of kin, in case it is necessary for the staff member to be contacted, in an emergency, during session hours.
- Images of children will not be posted online on social media/website without explicit consent.

Parents

- Parents either in school or at a public event such as Sports Day or Summer Fair may take photographs of their own children only and this may only be used for their own personal use.
- Parents accompanying children on school trips should not use their mobile phones to take pictures of children. They will be issued with a school i-pad.

Pupil

- While we fully acknowledge a parent's right to allow their child to bring a mobile phone to school, Loughries Integrated Primary School discourages pupils from bringing mobile phones to school.
- Only in exceptional circumstances and with the prior permission of the Principal will exceptions be made. Where permission is granted the parent must complete, a permission slip (Appendix 1) and the phone must be switched off at all times during the school day and kept in a secure pocket of the child's school bag and not removed during the school day.
- The school does not accept responsibility for lost or damaged pupil phones.
- Pupil phones must not be used whilst on school property during the school day 8:45am – 3.00pm.

- Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil and it will be stored in the school Office until collected by a parent/guardian.
- The Principal may revoke a pupil's permission to bring a mobile phone to school.
- Pupils who bring a phone to school without prior approval will have their phone stored in the school Office until collected by a parent/guardian.
- Under no circumstances may a pupil be in possession of a mobile phone on an educational visit/residential.
- Students who bring a mobile phone on an educational visit/residential will have the phone immediately confiscated and may be sent home.

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Mobile Phone Parental Consent Form

I/We give permission for our child (name)
in class to bring their mobile phone into school.

I/We have read the policy and understand its implications.

Signed: Date:

September 2022

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I/We have received and read the Mobile Phone Policy and understand its implications.

Signed: Date:

Signed: Date: