



## Bush Post Primary Mobile Phone Policy

Bush Post Primary School recognises that the use of mobile phone/devices has increased dramatically in the last number of years but we also want to ensure that our school is a safe, positive and supportive environment for all. Mobile phone devices can be a major distraction to students in the classroom or on the corridor and can cause huge disruption to learning and to the positive atmosphere within a school.

### Aims of the policy

- To promote the responsible use of mobile phones
  - To optimise teaching and learning situations for students
- To reduce possible distractions to students and teachers
- To provide an environment free from threat or invasion of privacy to members of our school community
- To discourage cyber bullying among students in the school

In recognition of this, we would ask all parents/guardians, students and staff to read the following policy very carefully.

- Students do not need to bring a mobile phone to school as all contact with home should only happen through the main school office 042 9376246 (8.30am —4.30pm Monday-Thursday and 8.30 — 3.30 Friday)
- The mobile phone is the sole responsibility of the student and the school does not accept any responsibility if the phone is lost or stolen. Students bring phones to school at their own risk.
- Where students bring a mobile phone to school, it must be on silent or switched off during every class period i.e. not visible and not audible.

- Bush Post Primary is a Microsoft BYOD school and therefore phones are not permitted to access MS Teams or other MS applications during the school day.
- Headphones or ear buds are not permitted in the school at any time during the school day. ➤ With the permission and under the instruction of a teacher, students may be allowed to use their mobile phone in class for educational purposes.
- The mobile phone must not disrupt the teaching and learning in the classroom in any way and if so the following sanctions will apply:
  - i) On the first occasion, the teacher will verbally warn the student as to the breach of the policy and note the warning.
  - ii) On the second occasion, the student will be asked to place the phone on the teacher's desk for the remainder of the class. The teacher will log the breach will be logged using Compass.
  - iii) If persistent breaches occur, the student may be subject to escalated sanctions as per our Behaviour for Learning Code.
- The use of mobile phones for the taking of pictures or the filming of staff and students without prior permission, is not allowed and all breaches will receive a one-day suspension.
- Incidents where students use mobile phones to bully other students or record students will be treated as serious breaches of the School's Behaviour for Learning Code. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardai in such incidents.
- The sending of inappropriate images on a mobile phone or any device is an offence and may also be reported to the Gardai.
- Bush Post primary Anti-bullying Policy may also be implemented in cases of negative use of mobile phones.



## Monitoring of the policy

Recurring breaches of this policy may result in referral to the Board of Management.

## Policy reviews

This policy will be reviewed by the school management and all key stakeholders periodically or when necessary due to changes in mobile device capabilities or school circumstances.

## Board of Management Policy Consultation

Please present this form to your BOM when considering the policy at BOM level for ratification

|         |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|
| School: | Bush Post Primary School |
| Policy: | Mobile Phone Policy      |

### Staff Consultation:

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Date of Final Consultation: | SEPTEMBER 10 <sup>TH</sup> 2024 |
| Proposed By:                | PATRICIA WALSH                  |
| Seconded By:                | KIM LYNCH.                      |

### Student Consultation:

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Date of Final Consultation: | SEPTEMBER 10 <sup>TH</sup> 2024 |
| Proposed By:                | ALISHA MCGARRITY                |
| Seconded By:                | GRACE MILLS                     |



Parent Consultation:

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Date of Final Consultation: |               |
| Proposed By:                | DAVID GILLEN  |
| Seconded By:                | MELISSA MCCOY |

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Signed: David Gillen  
(Chairperson of Board of Management)

Date: 10.9.2024

Signed: Melissa McCoy  
(Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management)

Date: 10/9/2024

**Date of next review: September 2025**