

## MOBILE PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

### **Introductory Statement:**

This policy was drawn up in response to circular 38/2018 and the result of subsequent consultation with the parent body. This consultation endorsed the implementation of a no mobile phone policy for pupils in Presentation Girls' School Maynooth. Hand held electronic devices in this context can include but is not limited to mobile phones, ipods, mp3 players, tablets, cameras or any other recording device. The school retains the discretion under this policy to utilise electronic devices when required for educational purposes.

### **Rationale:**

The abusive use of mobile phones and electronic devices may cause offence leading to bullying and intimidation of others and can lead to inappropriate on-line behaviour

### **Important Note for Parents**

Pupils may receive urgent messages from parents/guardians via the school phone during the school day. Use of mobile phones and electronic devices by parents is strongly discouraged at school events e.g. nativity plays, open day. Adult use of mobile phones and electronic devices at school/school events is for private use only.

**Any photographs/recordings taken must not be uploaded /shared on social media.**

### **School Procedure:**

- Pupils should **not bring or have in their possession** a mobile phone or other such device during the school day or when involved in out of school activities such as tours/trips or extra-curricular activities.

**Under no circumstances can a pupil have an electronic device in the classroom or in the school grounds or at any school activity at any time including extra-curricular activities organised by the school.**

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**Any infringement of this will result in the application of the school Code of Behaviour procedures.**

## **Sanctions for inappropriate conduct using mobile phone and other devices**

1. A pupil who has a phone or other such device in school will have the device confiscated by a member of school staff immediately. In such cases the phone will be sent to the Principal and retained until collected by parent /guardian. The school has the right to ensure, in so far as is possible, that the electronic device contains no images or information which would compromise any member of the school community. All such images or information must be removed before the device is returned to the parent/guardian.
2. Breaches of this policy will be dealt with under the Code of Behaviour as a serious/gross misbehaviour which may result in suspension.
3. Instances where pupils use electronic devices or social media to impersonate, defame or slander a member of the school staff will be investigated under the Code of Behaviour. Such instances will be treated as Gross Misbehaviour.

## **Responsibility:**

### Board of Management:

The Board of Management seek the support of parents in the proper education of children in the use of electronic devices. The Board of Management further requests the co-operation of parents in promoting the responsible use of such devices.

### Staff/School Community:

It is the responsibility teachers and school community to implement this policy to ensure the maintenance of a safe secure teaching and learning environment in Presentation Girls' School, Maynooth.

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### Parents:

It is the responsibility of parents to adhere to and support the implementation of this policy to ensure the maintenance of a safe school environment

### Pupils:

It is the responsibility of pupils to adhere to this policy and to be responsible in the use of electronic devices in any situation.

The school engage a professional educator in internet safety to provide a workshop for the pupils of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class. A parent talk can also be provided by the same facilitator on request.

### Evaluation:

This policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis and amendments made in light of future experience and technological advances.

### Implementation:

The policy was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management on 25.06.2018

Signed: Doreann M. Duggan

Chairperson