



Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Date reviewed in school: June 2014

Date Ratified: 23rd October 2014

Signed (Chairperson BOG): S Mowbray

Introduction

Donemana Primary School strongly discourages pupils from bringing mobile phones and / or any other electronic devices to school or when participating in a school activity / trip. However Donemana Primary School also recognises that pupils regularly use mobile phones and other electronic devices and that many parents wish their children to carry mobile phones to enhance their safety before and after school and on journeys to and from school. Donemana Primary School aims to develop a culture of responsible use of mobile phones and other electronic devices by pupils.

Donemana Primary School further recognises that there are many benefits and learning opportunities to be gained from the use of technology such as mobile phones and electronic devices. However, the increasing technical sophistication of these telephones and electronic devices raises the following issues and challenges which the school management must address:

- Mobile telephones represent a serious nuisance and form of disruption when they are left switched on in teaching areas or any other public forum within the school grounds
- Research has shown that some pupils experience bullying through the use of text and picture messaging via mobile telephones and other electronic devices
- Picture messaging is being used to send inappropriate images via mobile telephones and electronic devices with internet capability
- Mobile phones and electronic devices with built-in or attached digital cameras are being used to take pictures without the subject knowing and many of these photographs are appearing on various websites. Such pictures can be digitally stored and manipulated as required.

Guidance for Pupils

- Pupils are advised that mobile telephones and other electronic devices should not be brought to school without prior permission from the Principal

and that the school is not liable for the theft, loss or damage of telephones or other similar property belonging to pupils.

- Parents should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone or electronic device to school.
- The use of mobile telephones for any purpose within the school environment is prohibited during each school day.
- Pupils are responsible for ensuring that their mobile telephones and electronic devices are switched off.
- Pupils are prohibited from using, in the school grounds, any mobile telephone or electronic device which is capable of taking, storing or sending still digital images and/or video clips unless under direct guidance and supervision of a staff member and as part of a learning activity.
- The recording, storing and/or transmission of digital images within the school grounds is prohibited unless under direct guidance and supervision of a staff member and as part of a learning activity.
- Pupils and parents are reminded that in cases of an emergency, the school office remains the appropriate point of contact.
- Pupils engaged on out of school visits may, on occasion and only when permitted to by the Principal, carry their mobile telephones but must not use the phones to record images while in the care of the school.
- Failure to observe the above rules will result in the immediate confiscation of the mobile telephone by the teacher observing or detecting the breach of this rule.

When a student has his / her telephone confiscated the teacher will store it in a safe and secure location and log the relevant details:

⇒The time and place when the phone was being used

⇒The purpose for which the phone was being used

The Principal will be informed of the incident his/her next break from class

Pupils must arrange for their parents/guardians to collect a confiscated telephone from during normal working hours.

Where a parent/guardian is unable to call at the school to collect the telephone then other arrangements must be made, as the telephone will NOT

be returned to the Pupil. A parent/guardian may send a note to the Principal to nominate another appropriate adult to collect the telephone.

Sanctions

Inappropriate use of mobile phones or other electronic devices will be regarded as a breach of discipline and will invoke the School's Positive Behaviour Policy.

Signed Principal

G Hay



www.donemanaps.com

02871398633

Principal: Mrs G Hay

Parent/Guardian Permission

I have read and understand the attached information about the appropriate use of mobile phones at school and I understand that this form will be kept on file at the school and that the details may be used to assist in identifying a phone should the need arise (e.g. theft of the phone or if the phone is being used inappropriately).

I give my child permission to carry a mobile phone to school and understand that my child will be responsible for ensuring that the mobile phone is used appropriately and in accordance with school policy, as outlined in this document. I understand that the school will not be responsible for the phone if it is lost or damaged.

Parent Name (print) _____

Parent signature _____

Date _____

Mobile phone number _____

Student Name (print) _____

Student signature _____

Date _____

Teacher Name _____

Teacher signature _____