

# St. Patrick's Boys' National School

Cork Road,

Skibbereen,

Co. Cork.

Tel/Fax : 028-21948

E-Mail : [info@stpatricksskibb.ie](mailto:info@stpatricksskibb.ie)

Principal : Mr. Alan Foley



## Mobile Phone Policy

### Rationale

In June 2025, the Department of Education and Youth published Circular 0044/2025 and sent it to all primary schools. The circular is titled "Banning the use and access to personal mobile phones by pupils during the school day".

### School Procedures

Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones, smart devices (such as smart watches) or electronic devices to school, to school-related events in school or to-off site school-related activities.

Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone. Parents who need to contact their child during school hours may do so by calling the school landline 028-21948 or 028-23319.

Children who need to make arrangements to meet parents/guardians after school can also use the school phone before leaving the school.

In exceptional circumstances, parents may apply to the school to seek permission for their child to bring a mobile phone to school.

For a one off exceptional circumstance, the parent should make prior contact with the Principal seeking permission. If agreed, procedures will be put in place for that day.

For long term exceptional circumstances, parents must apply in writing to the Chairperson of the Board of Management stating specifically when and why the child requires an electronic device to be brought into and used in school. If agreed, procedures will be agreed with the parent, teacher and Principal and put in place.

### Sanctions

A child who ignores this policy and brings a mobile phone or an electronic device to school, whether he/she uses it or not, will be required to hand over such a device to a member of staff. The mobile phone will be given to the Principal and can only be collected by a parent.

If the mobile phone policy is breached more than once by a pupil, the school will refer to its Code of Behaviour and will impose sanctions, up to and including suspension. Parents will be required to attend a meeting with the Principal in such instances.

Any instance of a pupil using a mobile phone to record or take pictures of pupils or staff will be taken extremely seriously. Disciplinary action will be taken in line with the Code of Behaviour and the incident will be referred to the Garda Síochána.

Signed:

A blue ink signature, likely of the Chairperson of the Board of Management.

Chairperson BOM

Date: July 11<sup>th</sup> 2025

Signed:

A blue ink signature, likely of the Principal, Alan Foley.

Principal

Date: July 11<sup>th</sup> 2025