Policy on Mobile Phones in School

Scoil Aodán Naofa, Carnew

Dear Parents,

The Board of Management, Scoil Aodán Naofa, Carnew have had to review it's current policy on mobile phones in school due to the following issues arising:

-Mobile phones ringing in the middle of lessons

- Mobile phones being used in the school yard to,

- take pictures of other children and post them on social media sites
- play music stored on them.

In light of this, the Board of Management is proposing to no longer allow children to bring mobile phones to school with only one exception, namely, that should a child, due to after school supervisory arrangements e.g. on a "play date" with a friend or in the care of an adult not normally associated with the child, need a phone for after school communication with their parent(s). In this one exceptional instance the child must

1. bring a letter of request for the phone from a parent,
2. agree to the phone being kept during school hours in the principal's office, where it can be collected at 2.40pm.

The reasons for this change of policy are as follows:

- phones are a distraction from learning and teaching
- children's images, we are reliably informed, have been taken and posted on social media sites.
- phones are unnecessary in school. No child is refused the use of the school phone to phone home for any reasonable request.

This policy is due to be ratified at our next Board meeting. We would welcome any written submissions, comments, queries or concerns for our consideration prior to this meeting. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

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Kevin O'Donnell
Principal