

STEWARTSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL'S



DRAFT MOBILE PHONE & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT POLICY

May 2022

The possession and use of mobile phones and other electronic equipment by children in schools is now very widespread, even in primary schools. Stewartstown Primary School is no exception. This policy has been produced to inform you of the school's policy on this and to provide you as a parent or carer with some guidance. We hope you find this information and guidance useful. The co-operation of parents and carers is very much appreciated and helps ensure that school rules and policies are followed by their children.

The use of mobile phones and electronic equipment (particularly with the invention of increasingly sophisticated equipment and integrated cameras) presents a number of problems, including:

- Mobile phones and electronic equipment can be valuable items and might be vulnerable to damage, loss or theft.
- Mobile phones and electronic equipment can pose problems in school with regard to discipline and potential bullying and cyber bullying.
- Even when apparently silent, the use of mobile phones for texting purposes could be distracting in terms of classroom discipline.
- Use of the newer phones and games consoles with built-in cameras could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate photographs or distribution of images.

It is therefore school policy to prohibit the unauthorised use by pupils of mobile phones or other electronic/ communication devices while on our school premises, grounds or on trips or activities.

Stewartstown Primary School discourages, and advises all parents to discourage, pupils from bringing mobile phones and other electronic equipment to school on the grounds that they are valuable and may be damaged, lost or stolen. School staff can accept no responsibility for equipment which is lost, damaged or stolen in school whilst in the possession of any pupil.

1. Where a pupil does bring a mobile phone or other electronic device to school, the device must remain switched off during the school day and may not be used, for any purpose, on school premises, grounds or activities (such as after school events or sports activities). Any mobile phone brought to school must be given to the class teacher in the morning where it will be kept locked securely in the office. The school will take responsibility for a phone or other electronic equipment if handed to the class teacher/ principal for safe keeping. It is the child's responsibility to ask for it at the end of the day. The school will use the land line in the event of an emergency or accident.
2. If a pupil is found by a member of staff to have a mobile phone or other electronic equipment on their possession during school, the device will be confiscated from the pupil and returned to the pupil at the end of the school day.
3. If a pupil is found to be using a mobile phone or other electronic equipment for any purpose, the device will be confiscated from the pupil and returned only to the parent, guardian or carer at the end of the school day.
4. If photographs/ moving images have been taken on the camera device or phone these will be deleted immediately.
5. Inappropriate use of mobile phones or other electronic equipment will be regarded as a breach of discipline and will invoke the School's Disciplinary/Behaviour Procedures

6. Pupils and parents are reminded that in cases of an emergency, the school landline telephone number (028 877 38479) remains the appropriate point of contact.

If you have any comments or suggestions about the content of this policy, we would be happy to discuss them with you.

An appointment should be made through the school office.