



ST. ATTRACTA'S SENIOR NATIONAL SCHOOL
MEADOWBROOK, DUBLIN 16

SCOIL SHINSIREACH NAOMH ATHRACHT
CLUAIN GHLAISE, ÁTH CLIATH 16

UIMHIR ROLLA: 19716B

School Patron: ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBLIN

**Mobile Phone and Electronic Device
Policy**

**Polasaí ar Fhóin Póca agus Feistí
Leictreonacha**

2023

Ar aghaidh le chéile

Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht, Cluain Ghlaise, Áth Cliath 16

St. Attracta's Senior National School, Meadowbrook, Dublin 16.

Mission Statement

St. Attracta's Senior National School is a Catholic co-educational primary school which provides a happy caring and secure learning environment in which the individual student is encouraged to achieve his/her full potential. St. Attracta's Senior National School promotes excellence in teaching and learning. The school community that we create is welcoming, safe, respectful and inclusive of all its members. All aspects of the child, academic, spiritual, moral and cultural are cherished.

Introduction & Rationale

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances, which have seen a significant increase in mobile phones, smart watches and hand held electronic devices amongst the school population over recent years.

The use of mobile phones, smart watches and other electronic devices contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment and is not conducive to learning, a provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of St. Attracta's Senior National School.

For the purpose of this policy, a smart watch is defined as an electronic device, generally connected to other devices or networks via different wireless protocols such as Bluetooth, NFC, Wi-Fi, LiFi, 3G, etc. These devices have the potential to make and receive calls, send and receive messages, capture images and record video content.

Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. Therefore, the school strongly discourages the bringing of mobile phones and smart watches to school by students. In addition, they are a potential and real source of bullying and abuse through texting and the dissemination of unacceptable and inappropriate images and recordings.

As a general rule, the pupils should not bring mobile phones and smart watches to school. We do realise however, that in certain circumstances, parents/guardians may require their child to bring a mobile phone and/or smart watch to school.

Where a pupil brings a mobile phone and/or smart watch to school, the device must be:

- Clearly labelled with pupil's name
- Switched off at the school gate, before entering school grounds.
- Stored in the pupil's schoolbag. Pupils are not permitted to carry a mobile phone or smart watch on their person.
- Switched off until the pupil is outside the school gate after the school day.

The use of mobile phones and smart watches by pupils during the school day is completely forbidden. In the case of an emergency, parents may contact their daughter or son (or vice versa) through the main school phone line (01-2951627). Pupils are also not permitted to use mobile phones or smart watches during extra-curricular activities, or off site school activities

such as school tours and excursions. In these instances, a staff member will have a mobile phone for emergencies.

Inappropriate Conduct:

If a teacher has any suspicion that a mobile phone or smart watch has unsuitable material stored on it, the pupil will be required to hand over the device to a teacher and parents/guardians will be asked to collect it from the school. Where there is suspicion that the material on the device may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the device will be handed over to the Gardaí for further investigation. Parents/guardians will be informed in such circumstances.

Pupils using mobile phones or smart watches to bully other pupils or send offensive messages/calls/recordings will face disciplinary actions as per the School Code of Behaviour. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use such devices to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the school in this regard is deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí.

Sanctions:

Pupils who ignore this policy and use a mobile phone or smart watch on school premises, or are seen with such devices in clear sight will be required to hand over the device to a member of staff and parents/guardians will be immediately informed. The device will remain in the office and may only be retrieved from the Principal by the pupil's parents/guardians. The use of a mobile phone or smart watch includes making/receiving phone calls, sending/receiving text messages and taking photographs, audio or video footage on either device.

The school will incorporate this policy in the school's discipline policy and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of school discipline.

Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Safety:

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones or smart watches. The safety and security of these devices is wholly a matter for pupils/parents. The school also accepts no responsibility for mobile phones or smart watches lost or stolen while travelling to and from school.

It is strongly advised that pupils use passwords/PIN numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their devices (e.g. by other pupils, or if stolen). Pupils must keep their password/PIN numbers confidential.

Please note that, in accordance with school policy, staff do not give their personal phone number to parents/guardians who request it. If it is necessary to contact a staff member, please call the school number 01-2951627.

Staff:

Staff working directly with children must keep their phones on 'silent' during teaching time/yard duty.

Phone calls may not be made or taken and text messages may not be sent or read during teaching time/yard duty unless in exceptional circumstances.

If a staff member needs to make/take an important call, they may organise supervision for their pupils and leave the room to do so.

In certain situations, staff may use their phone during lessons to access lesson content/resources.

Teachers are encouraged to be discerning in their use of mobile phones as an educational tool during class lessons.

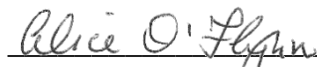
Conclusion

All staff, parents and pupils share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy. All members of the teaching staff along with the Board of Management were involved in the preparation of this policy and views of parents/guardians and pupils were sought.

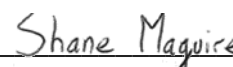
This Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy has been made available to school personnel, published on the school website and provided to the Parents' Association. All parents/guardians (with their children) are asked to study the policy and are expected to agree with its terms prior to enrolment in the school.

This policy will be reviewed regularly and as deemed necessary, in the light of experience. The views and opinions of the partners in education are welcome at all times.

This policy was adopted and ratified by St. Attracta's Senior School Board of Management in November 2018 and was reviewed by the Board of Management in September 2023.



Alice O' Flynn, Chairperson



Shane Maguire, Príomhoide

Date: 25/09/2023

Date: 25/09/2023

MOBILE PHONE/SMART WATCH POLICY ACCEPTANCE FORM

Please review the attached school Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy, sign and then return this form to the Principal. This policy document is also available on the school website: www.sasns.ie

(Please note: Any pupil found to have a mobile phone or smart watch in school without a signed agreement to this Mobile Phone/Smart Watch Acceptance Form from both Parent/Guardian and Pupil, will be required to hand over said device to a member of staff.)

Pupil's Name: _____

Class & Teacher: _____

Pupil:

I agree to abide by the school's Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy. An adult has explained all of the details to me.

Pupil's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

As the parent or legal guardian of the above pupil, I have read and accept the terms of the school's Mobile Phone and Electronic Policy.

I accept the Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy

I give my daughter/son permission to bring a mobile phone to school

I give my daughter/son permission to bring a smart watch to school

I do not give my daughter/son permission to bring a mobile phone to school

I do not give my daughter/son permission to bring a smart watch to school

(please tick as appropriate)

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____