

Sgoil Lionacleit

Mobile devices



Policy
&
Supporting Documents



Sgoil Lionacleit – Mobile devices

Aims and Objectives

At Sgoil Lionacleit we firmly believe in promoting positive behaviour. This includes appropriate use of mobile devices in a classroom and school setting. Pupils are encouraged to use devices responsibly and to enhance their learning experience where appropriate.

Mobile devices

There are many instances where appropriate use of a mobile phone can be a benefit to young people, including but not limited to:

Contact with home – young people who travel to school may need to be made aware of changes to pick up times etc. especially if they are attending after school clubs.

Learning Aid - Students who have a smartphone can use various applications designed for students to assist in learning. Many of these smartphones have programs that are similar to what is found on a laptop or desktop computer. Being able to look up facts quickly on the internet is possible on many phones.

Memory Aids - Studies show that mobile phones can be beneficial to students when reviewing and studying for exams or tests. Most mobile phones have a camera these days, so children can use these to take pictures of notes and record learning experiences in class. Pictures can also be useful to:

- Photograph an assignment
- Photograph a whiteboard discussion
- Help students remember a step-by-step process

Reviewing photos later can help students better understand the procedure in metalwork, woodwork or other hands-on courses.

Calendar - Nearly every mobile phone has a built-in calendar function and this can be very useful for young people who have a hard time remembering test dates, assignment due dates and other such details where time is of the essence. By putting these in a mobile phone calendar and assigning an alarm, they have reminders built in.

Voice Notes - The voice recording feature of mobile phones can be beneficial to students who would like a quick way to keep track of what they need to do. After all, students may not always have immediate access to a notepad, there are numerous voice memo apps that can be useful for both teachers and students in a classroom.

Modern Living - Mobile phones have unquestionably become fixtures in everyday life for most adults. In fact, Pearson Education found that 82% of secondary students use mobile devices regularly. Mobile phones will not only be a part of their everyday lives now and in the future, but will also be important in many careers. Knowing how to use mobile devices effectively is an important skill to have in modern society. Incorporating mobile technology in the classroom is key to preparing your students for the future.

Classroom Research Tool - Smartphones are equipped with calculators, a plethora of apps, the internet, and researching tools. Showing students how to use their mobile phones to seek out information and educate themselves is a great lesson to promote. Research suggests that students are using social networks to find answers to questions that they don't understand or know. If students and teachers collaborate and collectively seek out concepts that are confusing, using mobile phones to do so can be an incredibly powerful tool that expands teacher's lesson plans for the better.

Fosters Trust Between Students and Teachers - Teachers that allow students to use their mobile phones in class must be able to trust that their students are participating appropriately.

Managing devices responsibly:

To help young people manage their use of mobile devices responsibly we will implement the following structure.

1. A green card will be displayed in class when young people can use mobile devices – the usage will be directed by the teacher.
2. A red card will be displayed in class when mobile devices should be on silent and out of sight.

Standards and Expectations

If a young person accesses a mobile device when the red card is displayed it will be classed as inappropriate usage and the following will apply. Inappropriate use at break/lunchtime will move straight to step 3:

1. Verbal warning and asked to put the device in their bag where they will not be distracted by it.
2. If the young person accesses the device after being verbally warned the teacher will put in a referral to head of year.
3. Upon receiving a referral, the head of year will speak to the young person and their parent/guardian to remind them of the policy.
4. Two referrals will result in the young person being issued a mobile device ban for the term.

Conclusion

This policy is one which reflects our aspiration to be fair and even-handed in our approach to mobile devices. Young people will have access to them regularly when they leave school and it is our job to help them manage the use responsibly.