

Holy Family Primary School Magherafelt

27 January 2009

USE OF MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL

Dear Parents

In light of the fact that there seems to be a rising number of pupils using mobile phones in school, often for the wrong reasons, I wish to outline clearly the school's position and the action that will be taken accordingly.

Absolutely no pupil should have a mobile phone switched on during the school day, including break and dinner time. The school phone is available during the school day if essential calls need to be made. If you feel your child needs to have a phone with them for contact outside of school that is a matter for you, however you must impress on them the fact that it must not be switched on during the school day. If it gets lost it is not our responsibility.

If a child has a mobile on during the school day or is seen using their mobile phone during the school day, this phone will be removed from the child and placed in the school safe. The phone can then only be collected by a parent and signed for. The phone will not be released to the child or older sibling and will not be sent home following a phone call from parents requesting the mobile phone.

This is a very important issue so you need to talk to your children about it. Too many children have mobiles in school which they seem to use as toys. However it has come to my attention that some children are sending less than favourable images to others in school and some are attempting to send less than favourable video clips to other children in school during the school day. I would urge everyone to check their child's phone from time to time. Children who engage in this kind of activity are breaching Child Protection regulations.

I would ask for everyone's co-operation in this matter, if a mobile phone is confiscated, you the parent **must** collect it from the office. Please reinforce these regulations with your children. **What I would really like you to do is ensure that mobile phones do not come to school at all.**

Thanking you in anticipation of your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

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