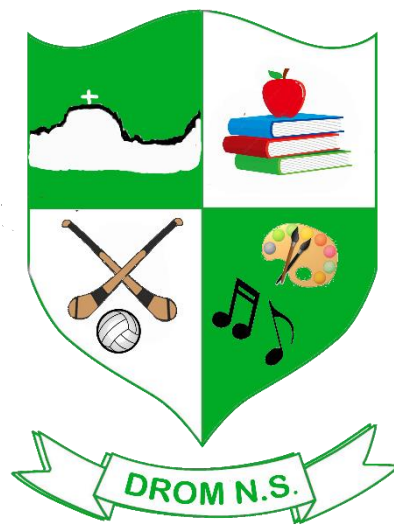


DROM NATIONAL SCHOOL

SCHOOL POLICY PLANNING



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

MOBILE PHONE AND SMART WATCH POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy has been developed by Drom National School in consultation with staff, pupils, parents/guardians and the Board of Management. It is informed by Circular 0044/2025 issued by the Department of Education and Youth, which requires all recognised primary schools to ban the use of and access to personal mobile phones by pupils during the school day. This updated policy now explicitly includes smart watches and other personal electronic communication devices.

2. RATIONALE

The Department of Education and Youth recognises that while digital technology plays an important role in teaching, learning and assessment, personal use of mobile phones and smart watches during the school day can be detrimental to learning, wellbeing and social interaction. The following issues inform this policy:

- Reducing distraction and disruption to teaching and learning.
- Reducing the risk of cyberbullying and inappropriate content during school hours.
- Supporting pupils' wellbeing and concentration.
- Increasing traditional face-to-face social interactions during break times.
- Supporting alignment with the school's Acceptable Use Policy, Code of Behaviour, Child Protection Policy, Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy, Data Protection Policy, and Wellbeing Policy.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

In line with Circular 0044/2025, Drom NS bans the use of and access to personal mobile phones, smart watches and any personal electronic communication devices by pupils during the entire school day, including at break times, lunchtimes, and during all school activities, whether on or off school grounds.

- Pupils are not permitted to use or access personal mobile phones or smart watches during the school day.
- Pupils should not bring mobile phones or smart watches to school unless an exemption has been approved (see Section 5).
- Any unauthorised device found in a pupil's possession will be confiscated and returned to parents/guardians.
- The school accepts no responsibility for loss, damage, or theft of devices brought to school.

4. MECHANISMS TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY

Where an exemption is granted, the device must be handed to the class teacher or school office on arrival and will be stored securely until the end of the school day. Examples of mechanisms used include:

- Collection of devices at the school office.
- Secure storage in classroom cubbies or filing cabinets.
- Return of the device at dismissal time.

5. EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, such as medical, wellbeing or special educational needs. Requests must be made in writing by parents/guardians and considered by the school principal. Examples include:

- Diabetes or other medical monitoring (e.g., insulin delivery, seizure monitoring).
- Mental health conditions where communication with parents/guardians is essential.
- Special educational needs, such as use of assistive technology for visual/hearing/speech and language impairments.
- English as an Additional Language (EAL) support applications.

Exemptions will only apply for the specific purpose outlined and not for general device use.

6. MOBILE PHONE USE BY STAFF

- Staff should not use personal mobile phones for private matters during teaching hours except in emergencies.
- All school-related business should be conducted on school devices.
- Staff may use phones during break times.
- In emergency situations (e.g. school outings), staff may use personal devices to contact parents/guardians or emergency services.

7. SCHOOL TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

In line with Circular 0044/2025, pupils are not permitted to bring personal mobile phones, smart watches and any personal electronic communication on school trips or extra-curricular activities organised by the school. Where required, staff will have access to communication devices to ensure pupil safety.

8. LINKS TO OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).
- Code of Behaviour.
- Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Child Protection Policy.
- Data Protection Policy.
- Wellbeing Policy.

9. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Drom NS on 12th November 2025. It will be published on the school website and communicated to parents/guardians. The policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if required, in line with Department of Education and Youth guidelines.

Signed: *Fr. Martin Murphy* (Chairperson, BOM)

Date: 12th November 2025

Signed: *Ms. Amadean Moore-Walsh* (Principal)

Date: 12th November 2025