



## Our Lady of Mercy Convent School

Rosemount Terrace, Booterstown, Co. Dublin

☎ 01 2884223    ✉ ourladyofmercyoffice@gmail.com    🌐 <http://www.ourladyofmercy.ie>

### Mobile Phone Policy

#### Introductory Statement

This policy was drawn up in response to technological advances which have seen a significant increase in handheld electronic ‘gadgets’ on school grounds and amongst the school population over recent years.

This policy is supportive of:

*Parents Association of OLOM “Smart Phone Free Voluntary Code of Practice*

#### Rationale

- iPad, smart/mobile phones, Game technology, PSPs, MP3s and other internet enabled devices etc. are intrusive and distracting in a school environment
- Strategies need to be in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorized technology in a school situation
- Some electronic devices may be harmful due to frequent use
- Mobile phones may be used to conduct bullying campaigns

#### Relationship to School Ethos

The use of mobile phones, ~~and other~~ electronic games and other internet enabled devices, contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment conducive to learning, a provision which is central to the ethos of our school.

**Aim:** To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children’s learning

#### Internal School Procedures

*The following guidelines for mobile phone and electronic games:*

We strongly discourage the ownership of smart phones by pupils in the school. Where a pupil brings a mobile phone to school, the phone must be kept out of sight and in the student’s school bag.

It **must** be **switched off** during the school day and **must not** be used, for any purpose, on school premises, grounds or during off-site school activities (such as school tours or sports activities).

Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.



## Our Lady of Mercy Convent School

Rosemount Terrace, Booterstown, Co. Dublin

☎ 01 2884223    ✉ ourladyofmercyoffice@gmail.com    🌐 <http://www.ourladyofmercy.ie>

The only exception to this is in an emergency or with the prior approval of the Principal or a member of the school team.

Pupils are not allowed bring smart phones, electronic games, iWatches or any device that is internet enabled, into school.

### **Breaches of this policy**

Pupils who ignore this policy and use a mobile phone on school premises without permission will be required to hand over their phone to a member of the school team and parents will be asked to collect it from the school office. The same holds true for electronic games, ipads etc as they are not allowed on school premises. We expect full support from parents in this matter.

If a teacher has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, pupils will be required to hand over the phone to a teacher and parents will be informed and the phone will be confiscated. ~~asked to collect it from the school.~~ Parents will be requested to collect phone from school office.

Where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone MAY be handed over to the Gardaí for further investigation. Parents will be informed in such circumstances.

Pupils using mobile phones to bully other pupils or send offensive messages/calls will face disciplinary actions as per the school Code of Behaviour.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí.

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.

### **Lost, stolen or damaged phones/electronic games**

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for pupils/parents.

The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.



## Our Lady of Mercy Convent School

Rosemount Terrace, Booterstown, Co. Dublin

☎ 01 2884223    ✉ ourladyofmercyoffice@gmail.com    🌐 <http://www.ourladyofmercy.ie>

Mobile phones found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to a member of the school team.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones or electronic games as they are not allowed on the premises.

### Roles and Responsibilities

All the school team share in the co-ordination and implementation of this policy.

### Evaluation

This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis and amendments added as new technology comes on stream.

### Implementation

Ratified by Board of Management and communicated to the school community.

Signed: Máire M<sup>y</sup>Hugh 26/09/23

(Chairperson, Board of Management)

John O'Boyle - Principal      26/9/23

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed date of review:    Sept    2027

