

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF OUR LADY OF MERCY, BOOTERSTOWN ("OLOM PA")**  
**SMART PHONE FREE VOLUNTARY CODE**  
**October 2023**



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The results of the 'opt in' for OLOM PA's Smart Phone Free Voluntary Code are back and we are delighted to let you know that we received a huge amount of positive feedback. We take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to you all for taking the time to consider the Code and for opting in to support it. Sincere thanks to Mr O'Boyle and the School for their endorsement of this PA led initiative.

**THE CODE**

Out of a total of **208** families in the School, the OLOM PA received **199 positive 'opt in' responses** to the Code. This means that **96%** of you have shown your support of the Code and agreed **not** to provide smart phones to your daughter/daughters while she/they are pupils of OLOM, up to and including 6<sup>th</sup> class. For the avoidance of doubt, this extends to not having a smart phone or internet enabled device :-

- During school hours,
- On the school grounds before or after school,
- When attending after school activities either on the school grounds or off site (i.e. sports training or matches),
- On school trips, and
- At school related playdates and parties.

Where a pupil of the School needs a phone to contact a parent/guardian/minder, we ask that the child uses a Nokia phone or equivalent which is not internet enabled. Families in this situation also need to adhere to the School's Mobile Phone policy, which the Code supports and complements.

The Code is now 'live' but this is only the start! The OLOM PA will continue to engage with parents and the School in order to provide ongoing education on topics such as cyber safety, parental controls and social media, with talks for both parents and students being offered. In order to support this ongoing education at home, we would ask that you discuss the Code and the reasons for its introduction with your daughter(s).

Once again, we sincerely thank you for your support and encouragement of the OLOM PA Smartphone Free Voluntary Code. It is a very important initiative for our daughters and one which we have introduced to protect their wellbeing and ultimately safeguard them against the very negative impact that smartphones can have.

Your Parents Association,  
Our Lady of Mercy, Booterstown