



**St. Colman's N.S.**

**Cummer, Corofin**

**Tel: (093) 41649      office@cummerns.ie**

### **Mobile Phone /Smart Watch/Digital Device Policy**

In St Colman's National School; we strive to provide an environment where children can develop socially and emotionally. We encourage friendships and socialisation in all aspects of school life. For this reason we discourage mobile phones/smart watches and digital devices in school, to promote socialisation.

The only exception to this is on medical grounds, where a child is required to be in possession of a device to administer or monitor the administration of medication e.g. Diabetes.

Children should not bring mobile phones / smart watches/devices to school unless it is absolutely necessary to make contact with parents after school hours.

If parents must make contact with their children during school hours, they may do so on the school's landline, 09341649

Where parents deem it essential that their child requires a mobile phone / device for use after school, they must apply in writing to the Board of Management at the start of the academic year.

The following rules will then apply:

The phone / device must be kept in the child's school bag and switched off ( not silent) while on the school grounds.

The phone /smart watch/device must not be taken to the yard or any out of classroom activity e.g. PE, nature walks, tours etc.

Use of the phone /smart watch/device i.e. making calls, texting, taking photographs/videos or accessing the internet/email during school hours is totally prohibited.

The first time a breach of the above rules occurs, the child will be reminded of the rules and the child's parents will be informed.

On the second, and all subsequent instances the phone / smart watch/device will be placed in the office and parents must collect it from the Principal/Deputy Principal. Any photographs taken or content recorded must be deleted in the presence of the Principal/Deputy Principal.

Sanctions will be in line with the code of behaviour.

The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged phones /devices.

This policy was created in consultation with staff, children and parents and was ratified by the Board of Management on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 and will be reviewed periodically.