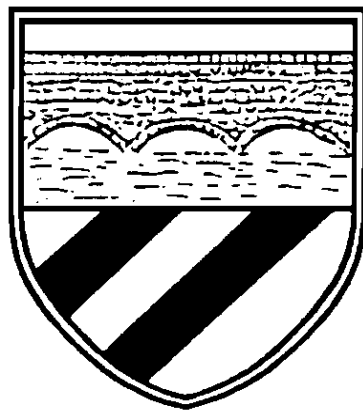




DRUMAHOE PRIMARY SCHOOL



POLICY ON THE USE OF MOBILE PHONES & "CYBERBULLYING"



POLICY ON THE USE OF MOBILE PHONES BY PUPILS IN DRUMAHOE P.S.

Drumahoe Primary School **prohibits** pupils from bringing mobile phones to school and on school trips/visits on the following grounds:

- the potential to be a health risk to young people
- the part they can play in “cyberbullying”
- child protection issues re. photographs/videos etc.
- the potential to undermine aspects of the “Programmes of Study” implemented in school such as self-reliance, responsibility, problem-solving and developing judgement
- that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen
- the school can always be contacted through the Front Office (028 71 302284 – 2 lines) at all times during the school day and on any trips (Emergency Mobile Nos. available - 07874011648)

Where a school pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone or in possession of a phone, it will be confiscated from the pupil and returned only to the parent, guardian or carer.

This policy is incorporated in the school’s Discipline policy and the school will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of school rules.

The school will also include a statement of this policy in the School Information Handbook.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY – “Cyberbullying”

Please find attached below an appendix to our Anti-Bullying Policy regarding tackling ‘Cyberbullying’. We hope you will find it useful to know the school’s policy on this matter.

APPENDIX :

TACKLING CYBERBULLYING

Mobile, internet and wireless technologies have increased the pace of communication and brought benefits to users worldwide; but their popularity provides increasing opportunities for misuse through ‘cyberbullying’. School staff, young people and parents have to be constantly vigilant and work together to prevent this form of bullying and tackle it whenever it occurs.

What is cyberbullying?

Research commissioned by the Anti-Bullying Alliance from Goldsmiths College, University of London, identifies the following categories of cyberbullying:



- Text message bullying
- Picture/video clip bullying
- Phone call bullying
- Email bullying
- Bullying through instant messaging
- Bullying via websites

Who is most vulnerable?

Because of the anonymity that new communications technologies offer, anyone with a mobile phone or internet connection can be a target for cyberbullying. What's more, bullies can reach much larger numbers within a peer group than they can with conventional bullying, for example, vindictive comments posted on a website can be seen by a large number, as can video clips sent by mobile phone.

School Policy

We have a Code of Practice which promotes safe internet etiquette; this is agreed and signed by all parents/carers.

Pupils at Drumahoe Primary School are not allowed to bring into school or take a mobile phone with them on a school trip.

As part of the I.C.T. curriculum, pupils will be taught about safe internet etiquette and the risks of new communication technologies, the consequences of their misuse and how to use them safely.

All e-communications used on the school site or as part of school activities off-site are monitored.

We advise our pupils never to give out personal contact details online or post photographs of themselves on sites.

We advise our pupils that they should not respond to abusive emails, text messages or phone calls and should always tell an adult.

Security systems are in place to prevent images and information about pupils and staff being accessed improperly from outside the school.

We will work with other outside agencies, when appropriate, to manage cyberbullying.

We will take action via the school's Anti-Bullying Policy if a pupil is being cyberbullied or is bullying someone else.