# Holy Spirit Girls’ National School

# Mobile Phone and Electronic Games Policy

**Introductory Statement:**

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

# Rationale:

* IPods, mobile phones, PSP’s, MP3’s etc. are intrusive and distracting in a school environment
* Strategies must be put in place to reduce the intrusiveness of unauthorised 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 contravenes the provision of a safe and secure school environment and is not conducive to learning - a provision which is central to the mission statement and ethos of Holy Spirit GNS.

# Aims:

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

# Internal School Procedures:

The following are the guidelines for mobile phone/electronic games usage in the school;

* Children are not allowed to use mobile phones/electronic games during school hours and at any time when on the school campus. This includes at reception and dismissal times and in all areas of the school campus.
* Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or electronic games into school. In exceptional circumstances, such as when out of school activities and after school games are scheduled, school tours etc. Parents must write a note to the class teacher explaining why the child needs her phone and then their child will be allowed carry a phone, turned off in their schoolbag.
* Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the school secretary using the school landline phone.
* All electronic gadgets are banned, even during after school activities
* Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or electronic game to school will have it confiscated. It will not be returned until their parents contact the class teacher or school principal in person.
* Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents.
* Classroom supervision is usually organised if a class teacher has to contact other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child.
* Staff personal calls are normally confined to break times.
* Staff are permitted mobile phone usage only in cases of emergency or to contact the school principal for urgent Covid-19 reasons.

# Roles and Responsibilities:

All staff 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:

This policy has been in place since September 2013.

# Reviewed on the 16/06/2021

**Ratified by the Board of Management on:**

# Chairperson signature: