SINGLETON PUBLIC SCHOOL
THE USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT SCHOOL POLICY

There are a number of students of primary school age who own a mobile phone or electronic device however; there is no reason why a student should feel the need to use a mobile phone or electronic device within school grounds or on any excursion or school event.

Students do have access to the office phone through the staff, free of charge in the case of an emergency. If a student is regularly using the office phone to contact home the parents will be approached to pay for phone calls being made. Parents also have access to their children and can leave important messages with office staff. These will be given to the student or their class teacher to pass on.

The use of devices in school is of concern as they can be used inappropriately. This may include:

- disruption to the learning environment
- threatening or is likely to threaten the safety or well being of any person or
- is in breach of any law including privacy
- limiting opportunities for students to interact socially with their peers.

Some parents/carers consider that for reasons of safety their child requires a mobile phone when travelling to and from school. Some parents provide their children with electronic devices for travel to and from school. This means that the student will have their mobile phone or electronic device at school. They must be kept out of sight and not used throughout the school day including in the playground and at bus lines.

If a student uses one of these devices at school, on an excursion or at a school event, the principal has the right to take action. Depending on the circumstances this action may include:

- confiscating the device from an individual student; and/or
- applying student disciplinary action.

Students bring these devices to school at their own risk. The school will not accept any responsibility for lost or stolen devices. However, once confiscated the responsibility for the device rests with the school. Confiscated devices will be kept secured in the school safe. Staff cannot accept responsibility by keeping a device for a student in unlocked desks or on tables. It is then the responsibility of the parent/carer to collect the device from the office at the end of the school day.

Ratified by the School Council June 2010

Definition of electronic device: any hand held, battery operated electronic games, cameras, videos, MP3 player.