**Mobile Phone & 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:**

* IPads, mobile phones, smart watches, Game Boys, 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 Redwood National School.

**Aims:**

* To ensure a “technology free” school environment outside of school equipment
* To lessen intrusions on and distractions to children’s learning

**Internal School Procedures:**

The following are the guidelines for mobile phones, smart watches (watches which have the ability to take photos or record audio) and personal electronic device usage in the school;

* Children are not allowed the use of mobile phones, smart watches or personal electronic devices during school hours or on school excursions / trips.
* Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones, smart watches or personal electronic devices into school or on school outings.
* Children who need to contact home during school hours may do so through the Principal or 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, smart watch or personal electronic device to school will have it confiscated and it will not be returned until the school day is over to the child’s parent / guardian.
* Staff have access to the school landline if urgent calls need to be made to parents.
* Classroom supervision is organised if a class teacher has to contact other professionals or outside agencies in relation to a particular child.
* Staff personal calls are confined to break times.

**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 2012 and is updated each year.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Kathleen Gleeson

(Chairperson of Board of Management)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Michelle Hogan (Principal)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Ratification and Communication**

This policy was communicated to the Board of Management.

Ratified by:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Kathleen Gleeson

Chairperson

 Board of Management

Principal:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Michelle Hogan

 Principal