**Mobile Phone Policy, September 2020:**

**School Name:** Edmund Rice Secondary School, Carrick-on-Suir.

**School Address:** Mount St. Nicholas, Carrick-on- Suir, Co. Tipperary.

**School Details:** ERSS Carrick-on-Suir is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the trusteeship and the patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. The School is grant aided by the Department of Education & Skills and is a single sex (boys) school.

**School Management:** The Board of Management of ERSS Carrick-on-Suir is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

**Mission Statement:**

Inspired by its founder, ERSS Carrick-on-Suir’s mission is to “*To provide a caring Christian community which celebrates effort and talent in an environment of hope and happiness"* , with a vision to *“Learn together, succeed together in a respectful environment.”*

**Ethos**:

As an Edmund Rice School ERSS Carrick-on-Suir seeks to promote the five key elements of an Edmund Rice School as espoused by the ERST Charter:

● Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values

● Promoting partnership in the school community

● Excelling in teaching and learning

● Creating a caring school community

● Inspiring transformational leadership

Please Note:

Personal data collected about prospective students/students and their parents/guardians will be retained and used strictly in accordance with the provisions of GDPR legislation as introduced 25th. May 2018. Further details on data protection are set out in the school’s Data Protection Policy.

Mobile Phones & Learning

Mobile phones have become a powerful source of communication and learning. While restrictions to their use must apply in a variety of circumstances – meetings, classrooms, etc.; nonetheless, in ERSS Carrick-on-Suir we recognise that mobile phones can enhance learning, and can be used to powerful positive effect.

Use of Mobile Phones in ERSS Carrick-on-Suir

Teachers may encourage the appropriate use of mobile phones in pursuit of learning, in classrooms and other learning settings within the school. Teachers who intend for their students to use mobile phones will tell the students at least a day in advance to take their phone to the class.

Restriction on Use of Mobile Phones (See note 1)

* Where students bring a mobile phone to school, the phone must be switched off during class times, unless otherwise directed by teachers. The phone may not be used during class breaks and morning breaks and lunch breaks. Phones may be used before the initial bell, at lunch time or after the last bell. Parents should not contact their son/daughter directly. (Contact during class time should only be made via the school office).
* If a phone simply goes off in class the class teacher will advise the student on what to do. If asked to hand the phone over the student is obliged to do so without argument.
* If a student is using a phone without permission, for any reason, the phone will be confiscated. Should this happen parents will be informed, the phone will be handed over to a member of the management team, for collection by a parent. Due to COVID implications as little handling as possible of the phone will be done.
* As a matter of procedure school authorities will prefer not retain a student’s phone overnight. If the student continues to infringe the rules in relation to mobile phone usage their parents may be asked to hand the offending item to the Principal each day until they can guarantee they are able to manage the phone.
* No photographs or recording either video or audio can be made on the phone on the school premises without the schools permission. Using phone in such a way can seriously infringe on people’s privacy and rights. (Refer to acceptable usage policy)
* Incidents where students use a mobile phone to bully others by sending offensive messages or calls will be investigated under the Anti-Bullying policy by the school. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to us a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person.

The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damages mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for students/parents. The same applies when the student is away at extra-curricular actives.

It is best to come to school without a mobile phone unless you have been told by your teacher/s that you will need the phone for educational reasons.

Generally, students will not be allowed use phones in school. Accordingly they are best advised to leave them at home. In the event students will need their phones after school, they should store the phone in their locker. If using their locker the must follow COVID 19 protocols.

Note 1: The school’s ICT Acceptable Usage policy states that mobile phones are not allowed on the school premises. Due to student and parental wishes the school has not enforced this element of the policy in the recent past. COVID 19 has meant we have to revisit this situation. The mobile phone policy was brought before the BOM for discussion at the most recent meeting and it was decided to survey the parents (week beginning 28/09/20)

**Approval:**

This policy has been distributed to staff, parents and students for their approval.

Amendments have been made after consultation with these stakeholders.

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management of ERSS Carrick-on-Suir;

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

This policy will be due for review on:

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