

BEST PRACTICE

- Check and activate parental controls on games, consoles, laptops, iPads etc.
- Save password for all App downloads, so that Apps can be reviewed and approved prior to use.
- Discuss the risks of online activity; help children to activate privacy settings and show them how to block and report unwanted contact.
- Remain actively involved. Take an interest in the games children play (as you would in real life) and keep the lines of communication open.



WHAT OUR STAFF SAID

Some children are struggling with attention & concentration.

Gross and fine motor skills are to some extent underdeveloped.

Children fitness levels are in decline - more opting out of physical activity in favour of screen time.

Anxiety among children is on the increase and their resilience levels are below average.

Scoil na Mínteoga



AGREE TO AGREE

INTERNET & TECHNOLOGY USE AGREEMENT

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Year 1	Delay age in buying a phone	Online Safety Education for children & parents
Year 2	Education on online Bullying / Exclusion	Parental Controls - Online limits & boundaries
Year 3	Screentime - guidance on age appropriate screen time	Review 3 Year Plan



RESOURCES

Please check out the Digital Wellbeing Section of our website for links and up-to-date resources for parents. www.meentoguesns.ie

BACKGROUND TO THE AGREEMENT

Mobile devices and the internet are part of our lives today and setting up an agreement will help to ensure that everyone within our school community are safe when navigating the online world.

In an effort to help the school community as a whole Meentogues National School along with many other local schools has developed an Internet and Technology Use Agreement. The Agreement has been formed by students, parents and staff under the guidance of forensic psychologist Dr. Maureen Griffin. It is based on the results of parent, pupil and staff questionnaires which highlighted challenges and concerns.

This Agreement gives information on recommended best practice and gives useful resources and guidance for parents. We hope you find it useful.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES RESPONSES

Our parents informed us on the following:

- 92.3% of parents feel primary school aged children should not own their own smartphone.
- 80% of parents main concern is the risk of exposure to inappropriate content online.
- 76.9% of parents were in favour of signing up to the Agree to Agree Project.

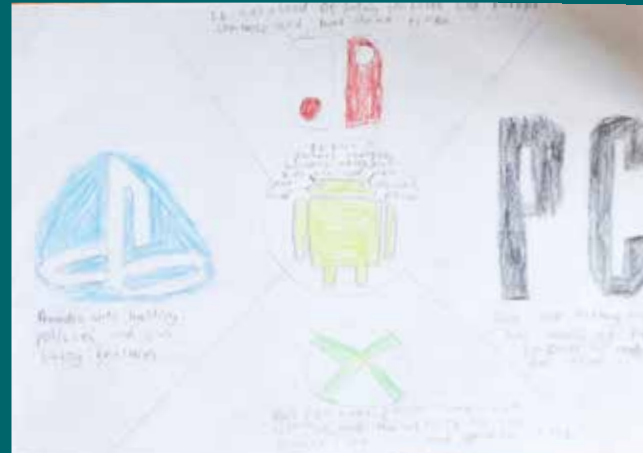


WHAT OUR PUPILS SAID

Screen limit - my parents to put a limit on my screen time.

Receiving mean messages or viewing not very nice ads.

I don't like personal questions being asked while online.



YEAR 1 PRIORITIES

We agree to the following actions:

Delay Age:

1. Pupils attending Meentogues N.S. will not have sole ownership of a smartphone.
2. It is recommended that primary school aged children do not own their own personal phone until secondary school.

Online Safety Education:

1. That families are mindful/aware of all internet enabled devices and their controls.
2. That details will be provided on Internet Safety such as websites, webinars and any other relevant information.



Disclaimer: the information supplied in this document is intended as a guide, it does not replace the importance of parental involvement and supervision of their child's online activities. Meentogues N.S. bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links.