



MOBILE PHONE POLICY (Reviewed December 2021).

We strongly discourage students from bringing expensive, personal items to school.

- a. Where a student brings a mobile phone to school, the phone must be switched off and kept out of sight during school hours and while inside the building. It may not be used for any within the school building. Phones may be used outside the school buildings, but only at the big break times, (currently 12.25-1.05 for Juniors and 1.05 to 1.45 for Seniors).
- b. Please do not txt/phone your son outside of the above times. If you need to contact your son, please do so through the main reception office. I would also ask parents to discourage their son from texting/phoning you during class times. If a student needs to contact parents during school time, he may do so by presenting at the reception office.

If your son needs to leave school early he needs to present at the office to sign out regardless of whether the sign out note was issued by a parent via the app. The same procedure needs to be followed if your son is arriving late to school following an appointment or for any other reason.

- c. The following sanctions will apply to students found in contravention of the policy:
 - **1st offence** – Teacher confiscates phone and hands it in to the DP office for remainder of the day.
 - **2nd offence** - Teacher confiscates phone and hands it to the DP Office for the remainder of that school day. The student must hand in his phone before 08.50a.m. the following day for the duration of that school day.
 - **3rd offence** - Teacher confiscated the phone and hands it in to the DP office for the remainder of the day. The student must hand in his phone before 8.50a.m. for the following three consecutive school days.
 - **4th Offence** - Parents will be invited into a meeting with senior management to discuss the issue of mobile phone misuse
 - Students will be asked to power off the mobile device before handing it to the teacher.

Please note, failure to hand over a phone to a teacher may lead to more serious sanctions being imposed.

- d. No photographs can be taken or recordings, video or audio, made with mobile phones. Using phones in such a way can seriously infringe on people's rights and appropriate sanctions may be imposed. The school may refer any such incidents to the Board of Management
- e. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardai in such incidents, relying as they may on such external expertise.
- f. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for students / parents.
- g. It is strongly advised that students mark their mobile phones with their names and use passwords to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones.
- h. It is essential that the school receives the full co-operation of parents/guardians in terms of the sanctions imposed. ***We would ask parents/guardians not to make special requests to have confiscated phones or sim cards returned during any part of a period of confiscation. Students are aware of what is required in terms of usage to ensure that such a situation does not arise. Such requests completely undermine the College Policy on mobile phone usage.***

While the College accepts that it is a student's right to have a mobile phone, it is essential that the rights and dignity of all the members of the school community are preserved. It is vital that phones are switched off completely on the school premises, so that teaching and learning can be carried on and proper order can be maintained.