

Scoil Mhuire Mobile Phone Policy



The following policy aims to maintain a safe, nurturing environment where the personal dignity and rights of all the members of the school community are preserved.

The school's policy on mobile phones is therefore devised with the intention of ensuring that teaching and learning can take place without interruption and also with the intention of protecting students and staff from potential harassment or bullying.

In order to assist the school in implementing this policy, parents/guardians are asked not to contact students by mobile phone at any time during the school day. Contact with the school may be made through the office (021) 4501844 and students are directed to use the office phone in emergencies.

A student, who wishes to go home for any reason during the school day, must arrange to do so through the school office and not independently by mobile phone. This ensures that correct procedures for leaving school before the ending of classes for that day are observed.

Responsibility cannot be taken by the school authorities for students who arrange independently to go home without following proper procedure. Any such arrangement is a breach of the Code of Behaviour for Students and will incur sanctions.

- All Junior Cycle Students must switch off their phone when they arrive to school and store the phone in their locker for the duration of the school day.
- All Senior Cycle Students must switch off their phone when they arrive to school and store the phone in their school bags. Senior Cycle Students

are permitted to use their phones only during break times or during such occasions in class where the teacher instructs them to.

- During House Examinations, Junior Cycle Students must have their phones switched off and in their lockers. Senior Cycle Students must have their phone switched off and turned upside down on their desk for the teacher to see.
- During State Examinations, mobile phones are strictly prohibited.
- Students participating in school related activities (e.g. Extra- Curricular Activities, School Trips and Tours etc.) must abide by the rules decided by the teacher in charge of the relevant activity.
- No photographs can be taken or recordings made while on school premises and during school related activities unless permission is given by those in charge as using mobile phones/digital devices in such a way without permission can seriously infringe on people's rights.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones/digital devices. The safety and security of mobile phones/digital devices is wholly a matter for students and their parents/guardians.

Sanctions for Misuse of Mobile Phones/Digital Devices:

First Offence:

- Any student found using their phone during the school day or if their mobile phone "sounds" in their locker, the mobile phone will be confiscated immediately and may be collected from the school office at the end of the school day **only** by a parent/guardian.

- If a parent/guardian is unable to collect the phone on the same day, the phone will be kept in the office until such time that the parent/guardian can collect it.
- A record will be kept in the office of the name of student and date when the confiscation occurred.

Second Offence:

- In the unlikely event that a student is caught using their mobile phone during the school day for a second time, the phone will be confiscated immediately and kept in the office for five days. The phone must be collected by the parent/guardian after five days.
- Breaches of the Mobile Phone Policy may also be dealt with under the Code of Behaviour for Students.

Bullying:

Incidents where students use mobile phones/digital devices to bully other students or send offensive messages or calls will be investigated under the **Anti-Bullying Policy for Students**. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone/digital device to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí in such incidents.

This policy is subject to periodic review.

This policy was ratified by the Manager on the 12th January 2018.