

## **DVS Policy on Mobile Phones & Internet Enabled Mobile Devices**

The devices referred to in this policy include all mobile phones, and internet enabled devices such as iPods, internet enabled watches and tablets except those used for learning and approved by the school. The misuse of this equipment has a disruptive effect on the learning process and there are also anti-social issues. There are inherent dangers associated with the misuse of internet enabled phones and camera phones. The school community must be protected from any invasion of privacy or harassment associated with the misuse of mobile phones.

It is accepted, however, that mobile phones do have positive aspects and are now widely available among the student population.

This policy encourages the responsible use of mobile phones and other internet enabled devices.

### **Policy**

Tablets such as iPads should not be brought to school unless they are used for learning and are approved by the school.

Students are permitted to bring mobile phones / & personal media players such as iPods to school under the following conditions:

- Phones/personal media players must be **switched off and left in the student's locker** while on school premises. If a student does not have a locker the device must be switched off and out of sight (unseen and unheard)
- Taking or sending images or video at any time during the school day (Including outside of school at lunch break) is prohibited. Exceptions may be made and notified to students for school tours/field trips/concerts etc.
- Management reserves the right to view images or text on a phone with the owner present in cases where allegations of bullying are being investigated.
- The school authorities accept no responsibility for the safety or security of a mobile phone/personal media player. Any loss or damage will not be the responsibility of the school.
- Students will be allowed to ring home from the Reception Office if necessary
- Where a student needs to make or receive an urgent call or text on the mobile phone, he/she can do so by getting permission from a teacher, SNA or administrative staff of the school.

### **Sanctions for breach of this policy**

- If a student is found to have a phone / personal media player out in class or is found to be using the device in school without permission at break time, it is to be confiscated by the teacher and stored in the Reception Office. If it is a first offence and the student was not actually using the device, it will be returned at the end of the school day. Otherwise and for subsequent offences, it will not be returned until the end of the school week, unless collected, in person, by the student's parent/guardian.
- The class teacher will give a signature in the student's journal following the confiscation.
- Persistent breach of this policy may result in further sanctions to be imposed by the principal/deputy principal or year head.

- Incidents where students use a mobile phone to bully or harass others will be dealt with under the school's Anti-Bullying policy. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person.

Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Approval of Board of Management**

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Cllr Francis Gilmartin, Chairperson

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Martin Fallon, Principal

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Shaun Purcell, CE

Implementation of Policy

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

Date for Review of Policy: \_\_\_\_\_