

POLICY ON MOBLIE PHONES

Rationale for the Policy

The misuse of Mobile Phones has a disruptive effect on classroom teaching and learning. There are also inherent dangers associated with the misuse of Camera/Picture Phones. Staff and pupils must be protected from any invasion of privacy or harassment associated with the misuse of Mobile Phones.

Nevertheless, the Board recognises that Mobile Phones do have a positive aspect and can be helpful as a communication tool in emergencies. The Board also acknowledges the integration of Mobile Phones into the culture of adolescents.

Policy

With the exception of first years pupils will be permitted to bring Mobile Phones (including Camera Phones) to school under the following conditions.

- Pupils may use phones at the following times:
 - a) Prior to the start of school (up to 8:50am)
 - b) At break times
- Phones must be switched off at all other times. Phones may not be used to call home to be collected from school during school day; all such calls must be made through the school office unless authorised by School Management.
- Phones are the responsibility of the individual and the Board will accept no responsibility for lost or stolen phones.

Sanctions

Mobile phones belonging to pupils which cause disruption to a class by ringing/silent ringing or which are being used to transmit or receive text messages will be confiscated (and must include the sim card and memory card) by the teacher, submitted to the main office and held for seven days and will be returned upon written guarantee to the board of management from the parent / guardian that the phone will not be misused again: for a second disruption offence the phone will be confiscated for one month and returned when the parent / guardian confirms in writing to the board of management that the phone will not be brought back to school. Refusal to hand over a phone will be regarded as further disruption and the parent / guardian will be contacted to come and take the pupil home. The misuse of a phone – taking or sending inappropriate images, unauthorised recording of staff or pupils, transfer of images of staff or pupils is illegal. The board will respond appropriately in such cases and will have the full range of sanctions open to them. In such cases the phone will not be returned until the incident has been dealt with to the boards satisfaction. The pupil will lose the privilege of having a mobile phone in school.

Use of Mobile Phones by Staff

The teaching staff are advised that Mobile Phones are not to be used in class unless expressly for school purposes or for emergency use.