

Mobile phones in class.

 Dear Parent/Guardian,

 Over the past number of years and especially since the Covid pandemic, schools around the country increasingly have had issues with mobile phones disturbing classroom teaching and learning. The research in the area confirms that when students use their phones in class for non-educational reasons there is a marked decline in learning as students are distracted from learning by using their mobile phones unnecessarily.

As a school we accept that most students wish to have a mobile phone, but we also must regulate the situation to ensure that they do not interfere with the process of teaching and learning. The situation has been deteriorating in recent years with an increasing prevalence of mobile phones in the classrooms and as a school we have an obligation to address this.

Accordingly. we will be strongly enforcing our mobile phone policy for this year and imposing sanctions to support our policy.

* Mobile phones and/or ear buds **are not to be visible or to be used during class time** unless the teacher of that class has given specific permission for the mobile phone to be used as a class resource. If a student is given permission to leave class to go to the toilet etc by the teacher, the mobile phone should be left in the classroom with the teacher.
* If the mobile phone is brought to class, the teacher may require that the phone is placed in a classroom phone cabinet to reduce distraction/disruption to learning.
* Mobile phones may be used in school general areas during the following times **only:**

 Before 8.45 a.m.

 During small break 11.00- 11.15 a.m.

 During lunch time 1.15-2.00 p.m.

 **At all other times the phone/device may be confiscated if it is visible or being used.**

* Any breach of the above will lead to the phone being confiscated **for up to 5 school days** and will only be returned to a parent/guardian. Failure to hand over a mobile phone/musical device when requested to do so may result in suspension.
* We would also remind parents/guardians that they should contact the school office (059 9151473) if they wish to relay a message or bring their student out from school for an appointment etc. and that the school cannot take responsibility for any student who leaves school without signing out with proper permission at the main office.

Paul Thornton

Principal.