



ST MARY'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Rationale:

Mobile phones are owned by a significant number of students and the increase sophistication of mobile phone technology presents a number of issues for schools:

- The high monetary value of many phones.
- The integration of cameras into phones leading to potential child protection and data protection issues.
- Inappropriate use of social networking sites
- The potential for mobile technology to be used to bully other students.
- The potential to use the phone eg for texting whilst on silent mode.

We do not consider it realistic or desirable to prohibit phones being brought to school, nor is it logistically possible for schools to collect phones in each morning and return them in the afternoon. It is our policy to allow pupils to have a mobile phone with them in school under the conditions outlined in the policy below.

Policy

1. **Phones must not be used for any purpose (eg phoning, texting, tweeting, surfing the internet, taking photos, checking the time, taking videos) on the school site.**
2. **Phones must always be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view.**
3. **If a pupil breaches these rules the phone will be confiscated and given to the Finance office for safe keeping. The student will be issued a Senior Detention until 5.00pm on Friday afternoon for infringement of the school rules. The phone will be returned to the student after the Friday detention.**
4. **Further breaches of this policy will invoke a meeting with the pupil's parents.**
5. **Phones must not be taken into examinations.**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's other policies in particular the Behaviour Policy. Sixth form students may be given extra privileges in relation to mobile phones, at the discretion of the head of sixth form.

Emergencies

If a pupil needs to contact his/her parents/guardians they should be allowed to use a school phone. If parents need to contact children urgently they should phone the school office and a message will be relayed promptly.

Responsibility for mobile phones:

School accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones. It is the responsibility of parents and students to ensure mobile phones are properly insured.