



# KILRUSH COMMUNITY SCHOOL



## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Mobile phones, MP3 players and other electronic devices are forbidden during the school day, including break times and lunchtime throughout the building.

- It is important for students to develop their socialisation and communication skills with peers and over-use of mobile phones impedes this.
- It is illegal to display or circulate images of another person without their permission. Irresponsible use of camera phones can lead to people's rights being violated. The potential for misuse of these phones in dressing room areas and classrooms exists and, with access to social network sites so readily available, it could have bullying implications.
- Mobile phones are expensive and the school does not accept responsibility for loss of, theft, or damage to, mobile phones etc. while on school property (this includes confiscated items).

If students insist on bringing a mobile phone to school:

- The mobile phone must be locked in his/her locker and not carried on his/her person or in school bags.
- Mobile phones must remain switched off during school-based activities. These include games, religious services, concerts and all other school-based activities.
- As per legislation, audio or visual recordings are not allowed.
- The Department of Education & Science does not recognise mobile phones are appropriate for use as calculators or clocks and as such mobile phones should not be produced by students using this as a pretext.
- It is the duty of all staff to implement this policy.

There are occasions when students are allowed mobile phones on school activities e.g. when on school trips or tours and other events when students are away from school. This allows students to contact teachers or parents as necessary. Students participating in school-related activities must abide by the relevant rules. Inappropriate use of phones during school-related activities is strictly forbidden.

### Sanctions

1. Phones being carried by students will be confiscated and held until the end of the day. (The phone, including SIM card) will be confiscated.
2. Phones being **used** by students will be confiscated and held for one week.
3. Refusal by students to co-operate in handing over the mobile phone, including the SIM card, to the teacher will result in the mobile phone and SIM card being confiscated and held for two weeks. A student's refusal to follow a teacher's direction regarding this matter will be viewed as a disciplinary matter and will be dealt with under the School Code of Behaviour.
4. A student's refusal to co-operate with this policy, will be considered as a serious disciplinary issue.
5. The teacher will store the mobile phone, including the SIM card, in a designated location in the Principal/Deputy Principal's office. They will place them in an envelope and record the name of the student, the name of the teacher confiscating the phone and the date of confiscation.
6. The mobile phone may be collected, by students, from the Principal/Deputy Principal's office at the end of the day. Where a phone is confiscated for a week or two it is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to collect it.

### Emergency Calls

All calls from students to parents/guardians e.g. in event of illness or accident, must be made from the school office, with prior permission sought.

Parents/guardians who need to contact students during the day may do so through the school office at **065 9051359**.

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## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

### *Essentials*

Mobile Phones are forbidden during the school day.

If students insist on bringing mobiles to school they must be locked in the locker, ie. not carried on their person or in school bags.

While useful, mobiles have the potential to be misused in dressing room areas and in classrooms. Access to Bebo and other internet sites is now also possible, which could have bullying implications for today's students.

It is important for students to develop their socialisation and communication skills with peers and overuse of mobile phones impedes this.

### SANCTIONS :

1. Phones being carried by students will be confiscated and held until the end of the day.
2. Phones being used by students will be confiscated and held for one week.
3. If a student refuses to co-operate, the phone will be confiscated and held for two weeks.
4. A student's refusal to co-operate with this policy will be considered as a serious disciplinary issue.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Sr. K. Conway,  
Chairperson – B.o.M.**