



## Monaghan Collegiate School Mobile Phone Policy

Mobile phones have become an intrinsic part of young people's daily lives, bringing with them great benefits and serious risks. They can be an important source of information and a tool of learning when used correctly, or a source of inappropriate material and a tool for bullying when used incorrectly. In Monaghan Collegiate School we recognise and celebrate the advancement of technology while being mindful of creating a positive and respectful atmosphere of Teaching and Learning.

### 1. Use of Mobile Phones in Monaghan Collegiate School

- a. Teachers may allow the appropriate use of mobile phones in pursuit of learning, in classrooms and other learning settings within the school.
- b. Sixth form may listen to music on their phones during independent study in the study hall, either during the school day or at evening study. This concession is conditional on the responsible use of their phones and may be removed if inappropriate use is suspected.
- c. Members of staff **are not permitted to** confiscate mobile phones belonging to students.

### 2. Restriction on Use of Mobile Phones

- a. During school time (8.50am – 4.00pm) a student's phone must remain in their pocket or bag, switched off. Students may only use their phones when permitted by a member of staff in accordance with points listed in 1a and 1b. **This includes break time and lunchtime.**
- b. Sanctions for failure to adhere to the mobile phone policy should be in line with the code of conduct.
- c. Any necessary contact between parent and student must be made through the school office.
- d. **Students who are feeling ill must go through the school office if they wish to make contact with their parents.** Parents should not phone or text their children during school time. All essential contact may be made through the school office.
- e. No photographs or recording either video or audio can be made on the phone on the school premises without the school's permission. Using a phone in such a way can seriously infringe on other people's privacy and rights. Such a violation will result in an investigation by senior staff where the staff have the right to inspect the recent contents of the phone. Refusal to cooperate with such an investigation will be deemed serious.
- f. Incidents where students use a mobile phone to bully others by sending offensive messages or calls will be investigated under the Anti-Bullying policy by the school. **It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person.**

The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damage to mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for students/parents.