

Possession and use of mobile phones

Preamble:

Mobile phones are a part of modern society and the school accepts that many students will possess mobile phones. they are a useful tool, especially where the issue of safety is concerned. However, teachers and students have a right to teach and to learn in a classroom environment free from interruption by mobile phones and other telecommunication devices.

Mobile phones in schools present a number of challenges. These include:

- Mobile phones interrupting lessons and disrupting the learning of others
- Theft of mobile phones
- Mobile phones possibly being used to contact outsiders who may enter the school illegally
- Mobile phones disrupting examinations and assessment tasks
- Mobile phones being used inappropriately at excursions and other school-related events

Policy:

While we prefer students not have mobile phones at school, we realise that students may have mobile phones; therefore, the school has adopted the following policy:

1. Students are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school. The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are brought to school and undertakes no responsibility to investigate their misplacement, loss or theft.
2. Mobile phones may only be used during their breaks, before and after school in the school grounds. This position will be reviewed from time to time.
3. Students must not be late to class because of mobile telephone calls.
4. Mobile phones must be switched off and out of sight at all other times including in class and at assemblies. Silent or discreet settings are not acceptable. The phone must be off. Where a phone rings or is seen by a teacher in class or during an assembly, the phone will be confiscated by the teacher and secured in the school safe. Students will be required to go to their parents, explaining what has occurred. The phone will be returned when the student's parents have contacted the school either in person or by telephone and have discussed the school's policy and the student's breach of it with the relevant Deputy Principal.
5. Where parents need to contact their children during the school day, the school's telephone switch is the appropriate method.
6. The school recognises a body of scientific and medical opinion that suggests mobile telephone use may be dangerous. We acknowledge that this provides another reason for students to be discouraged from using mobile phones.
7. Staff will undertake not to have mobile phones switched on in class.