

ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Mobile/Smartphone Wellbeing Policy

St. Paul's Community College is a state school run by the Education Training Board of Ireland (ETBI). Our school is run under the ethos of the ETB and the core values underpinning its characteristic spirit. St Paul's is a state, co-educational, multid denominational school underpinned by the core values of the Ethos of excellence in Education, Care, Equality, Community and Respect.

This document states the policy of St. Paul's Community College concerning the possession and operation of mobile phones and other similar devices on the school premises or on school trips.

To ensure a caring community and a healthy and safe environment for all members of our school. We are a mobile/smartphone free school during the school day.

We recognise that mobile phones are an integral part of young people's way of life. However, we are also fully aware that phones can be a distraction, can hinder communication, increase social isolation and can increase levels of anxiety and stress for our students.

All students are required to place any mobile phone device in a Phone Locker Pouch, which is locked once they are on school grounds and can only be accessed if enabled by a staff member or when leaving the school grounds.

DAILY PROCESS

Once a student arrives on the school premises, they are not allowed to use their phone.

Once a student arrives to school they must:

1. Turn off their phone.
2. Place their phone inside their Pouch and lock the pouch.
3. Store their Pouch in their bag or locker for the school day.

Students will have the ability to access their phone once off the school premises by unlocking their pouch at a locking station. Students must bring their Pouch to school with them each day and present to a member of the school staff if asked to do so. While senior students will have access to their phones once off the school premises at lunchtime, it is their responsibility to ensure the phones are locked back in the pouch before re-entering the school premises.

*Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones in the school office.

Contact from and to home must be done through the school office.

On school trips use of mobile phones is at the discretion of staff members leading the trip. On overnight trips phones will be locked in pouches each night and released in the morning.

The use of phones for taking photographic or video footage is forbidden, unless under the guidance of a staff member. The posting or circulation of any such unauthorised recordings is forbidden.

The school authorities accept no responsibility for the safety or security of a mobile phone. Student's phone should be locked into their pouch and stored in their bag or locker. The loss or damage of a phone is the responsibility of its owner.

Students are strictly prohibited from installing any VPN (virtual private network) applications or browser extensions or games emulators on school devices. Security risk for the network.

There will also be measures put in place for students with specific medical requirements on an individual basis, in consultation with their parents/guardians.

Staff members may not use their phones for personal use during class time

Sanctions

- If a student is seen with a phone or is using a phone during the school day, the student will be issued with a suspension for the following day.
- The sanction for not having the phone/smartphone in the pouch during the school day is a one-day suspension.
- Repeated breaches of the school policy regarding mobile phones will lead to a longer suspension.
- Tampering with the pouch in ANY way is considered a violation of the school policy and will result in a sanction.

DAMAGED or LOST POUCH

Any loss or damage of the Pouch, which renders it unusable, will result in the student purchasing a new Pouch at a cost of €20. The student's phone will be kept in the office each day until the new pouch is purchased. Students also have the option of leaving the phone at home.

FORGOTTEN POUCH

- If a student forgets their Pouch, the student will be asked to leave their phone in the care of the Deputy Principal for the day.
- If a student consistently forgets their Pouch, it will be considered lost. Please refer to the Lost Pouch section above

This policy is available on our school website and will be reviewed annually.

Ratified by BOM _____