

Santa Sabina Dominican College

Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

Online information, social media, mobile phones and other technological devices are now a feature of modern society and such technology is integral to the lives of our students, with both positive and negative impacts. The aim of this Policy is to clarify the school's position regarding the use of mobile phones/smart watches on school premises.

Our intentions are: to ensure that teaching and learning takes place without interruption; to encourage greater face-to-face student interaction and communication and to protect students and staff from potential online harassment or bullying.

Restriction on the use of mobile phones in Santa Sabina.

The use of mobile phones for all students is banned in the school building.

- No student should be in possession of a phone during the school day
- All students must securely lock their mobile phones in their locker for the duration of the school day. Phones must be switched off before being placed in lockers. Contact from parents during school time should only be made via the school office.
- No student should have in their possession a mobile phone belonging to another person.
- No photographs or recordings either video or audio, may be made on a phone or mobile device on the school premises without the school's permission. Students may not take photographs or recordings of other students or staff. Using phones in such a manner can seriously infringe a person's right to privacy.
- Students cannot photograph examinable material for the State Examinations in keeping with SEC rules.
- Students are not allowed to charge mobile phones and other devices including power banks in the school.
- Incidents where students use a mobile phone to bully others by sending offensive messages or calls during the school day will be investigated under our Kindness (Bí Cineálta) Policy and will be subject to sanctions under our Code of Behaviour. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person.
- The school does not accept any responsibility at any time, for lost, stolen or damaged phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for students.
- Headphones may only be used with the teachers' permission and students are prohibited from walking around the school wearing headphones.
- Smart watches/devices may only be brought to the classroom at the teacher's discretion as they may impact negatively on the learning environment. These devices, if unauthorised will be confiscated. iPads negate the need for additional smart devices while in school.

Sanctions

- If a student is using a phone without permission the phone will be confiscated. (For students who require a QR Code for the school bus, a backup should be printed or stored on their iPad.)
- Parents will be informed that the phone has been confiscated for a period of 24 hours
- A confiscated phone/smart watch must be collected by a parent at a time arranged with the school (6th years may collect their own confiscated phone following a 24 hour period) Phones confiscated on a Friday will be returned the following Monday
- A record will be kept of any phone confiscated.
- Where a phone has been confiscated, it will be expected that for a period of 5 days when the phone is returned, the student will leave the phone in the office each morning and collect it at the end of the school day
- Subsequent Infringements of the mobile phone policy in a term will result in a five day phone confiscation and a longer period of surrendering the phone on a daily basis to the office following the confiscation period.
- Students making direct contact with parents using a phone/smart device will receive a report slip. Unwell students should report to the office where parents will be contacted
- Unauthorised use of headphones will result in confiscation as above.

Parental Responsibility

- It is expected that parents will support this policy in all its aspects. Therefore, it is not expected that parents will make excuses for their daughter in the event of any breach of this Policy
- Parents must not text students during the school day. Contact must be made through the school office
- It is advisable that parents monitor phone usage at home to ensure that students are not responding to messages throughout the night or accessing unsuitable material.

School Responsibility

- It is expected that teachers will be vigilant regarding the unauthorised use of mobile phones and act on any breaches of this Policy
- Students caught with a phone will be asked to report to the office where the phone will be confiscated for a period of two working days and parents informed
- Teachers will email the office to state the name of the student who will be attending with the phone
- Parents will arrange with the office to collect the phone according to this Policy.

Please note: the school has introduced an alert system in toilet areas which will detect a mobile phone signal. As a result any student with a mobile phone in toilet areas, for any reason, will be subject to sanction.

Communication of the Policy

This Policy will be posted on the school website and forms part of our Code of Behaviour.
This Policy will be reviewed and amended as required.

Ratified: May 2026