



St. Colmcille's Senior National School

Mobile Phone Policy

Introduction: This policy aims to provide clear guidelines on the acceptable use of mobile phones in St Colmcille's S.N.S, ensuring a safe and productive learning environment.

Purpose

- To support a learning environment free from unnecessary distraction.
- To promote student wellbeing and social interaction.
- To minimise risk of cyberbullying, inappropriate content, etc.
- To comply with DE Circular 0044/2025, which requires primary schools to ban use/access to personal mobile phones during school hours. [gov.ie](https://www.gov.ie)

This policy applies to:

- All pupils enrolled in **St Colmcille's S.N.S.** during school days.
- All school hours, including class times, assembly, breaktimes, and lunch, from arrival until dismissal.
- Off-site school-related activities during school hours (e.g. tours, matches), unless otherwise specified.

Definition

- **Mobile phone:** any device capable of making calls, text messaging, Internet access, or other communications (smartphones).
- **Electronic devices:** this may include tablets, smartwatches, portable media players or consoles, etc.

Policy Statement (Ban of Phones)

- Mobile phones are not required for learning, pupils should only bring a device to school unless there is a specific need such as-
- Medical or other compassionate reasons, e.g. a child uses a medical-app or monitoring device that requires phone access.
- In exceptional circumstances where a parent/guardian feels it is necessary for their child to bring a phone to school; the phone must be handed up to their teacher at the start of the school day and collected at the end of the day. To put this in place a note from parents must be presented to the principal.
- The school takes **no responsibility** for loss, damage, or theft of any phone brought into school.

Access in Emergencies / Communication

- Pupils should not use phones to contact parents during the school day. Parents may contact children via the school office.
- If a pupil needs to contact home in an emergency, this can be done through the office/class teacher.

Sanctions / Consequences

- Any violation of the policy (e.g. phone seen, used) will result in confiscation by the teacher.
- Confiscated item will be held by the Principal (or teacher) and returned to the parent/guardian at the end of the school day.
- For repeat offences, further actions may be taken in line with the school's Code of Behaviour.

Staff Expectations

- Staff should support and enforce the policy consistently and fairly.
- Staff should not use personal phones in class in view of pupils, except where required for educational purposes, or communication between staff and with permission from the school leadership.

Parental/Guardian Role

- Parents/guardians are asked to support the policy by not contacting pupils via mobile during school hours (other than through the office in urgent cases).
- Parents should ensure children are aware of the policy and its importance.

Policy Implementation & Review

- The policy will be communicated to all pupils, parents/guardians, and staff.
- The school will periodically review the policy to assess effectiveness and make adjustments if necessary.

Signed: Marie Linn Date: 6/11/25

(Chairperson Board of Management)

Signed: Mary Corcoran Date: 6/11/25

(Principal of school)