

## Electronic Devices Policy

Students are not allowed to have mobile phones or any other non-school devices (MP3, iPod, smart watch etc) on the school grounds. The school grounds are any area within the school gates. If a student wishes to bring a phone to school, the phone should be switched off before entering the school grounds and placed in their lockers. The phone should not be turned on again until the student leaves the school grounds.

The policy for electronic devices is to:

- promote student well-being
- improve the all-Irish atmosphere in the school
- enhance student focus and learning
- to protect staff and students

The following benefits are reported from other schools with a similar policy:

- students develop their conversational and interpersonal skills
- respects the privacy rights of students and staff. No photos or videos are taken without permission
- bullying and intimidation are prevented through denied access to video/social media during school hours
- students are on time for class as they are not talking or sending messages with the mobile phone
- students in class focus on work rather than texting each other
- inappropriate material is not accessible to students

The school reserves the right to confiscate any electronic device. If, at any time, a teacher sees or hears a mobile phone or any internet-enabled device that would be an obstacle to teaching and learning or anything that is threatening to the school community (including headphones) anywhere on the school grounds, at any time, the device (including the SIM) will be confiscated immediately, will be turned off and will be held in the school office until collected by a parent/guardian.

In the event that a teacher attempts to confiscate a device and the student refuses to surrender it, this will be considered a serious breach of the school code and the student will incur a one day home suspension. Following the suspension, the student will be permitted back to school following a meeting with the Principal/Deputy Principal and Parent/Guardian. Repeated occurrences will be reported to the Board of Management. Students wishing to communicate with parents/guardians can do so from the school office with permission from the Year Head. Communication with parents during the school day should not take place by mobile phone. If this happens the device will be confiscated – a student must go through the school office to contact a parent/guardian or anyone else.

Once a student enrolls in the school the student is obliged to adhere to the above policy. The school does not accept any responsibility for lost/broken mobile phones/electronic devices.

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Bord Bainistíochta Choláiste Ráithín

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