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Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Phort Láirge agus Loch Garman
Waterford and Wexford
Education and Training Board



Coláiste Bhaile an Droichid **Bridgetown College**

Baile an Droichid **Bridgetown**

Co Loch Garman **Co.Wexford**

Y35R628

Tel: 053-9135257

Mobile/Smart Phone Wellbeing Policy

School: Bridgetown College

Roll No.: 71610E

Date of Policy: 2026-27

Date Ratified: 03 June 2026

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Introductory Statement

Bridgetown College is a multi-denominational, co-educational school under the patronage of Waterford and Wexford ETB with an enrolment of 631 students. This policy aims to outline the basic principles upon which the school's homework policy is based, how it will be implemented, monitored and evaluated. The policy was developed through a collaboration with the Principal, the Board of Management, students, staff and parents/guardians.

Relationship with the Ethos of Bridgetown College

Bridgetown College aims to provide a holistic educational experience meeting the diverse needs of the community in a positive learning environment. We encourage all students to realise their full potential and develop a sense of self-worth by promoting mutual respect, co-operation and tolerance.

Within that context, this policy reflects the core values and ethos of the College and Waterford and Wexford ETB - Excellence in Education, Community, Care, Respect and Equality and seeks to promote the development of each individual and aims to generate moral and social responsibility.

Rationale

Bridgetown College is committed to providing a safe, respectful, caring and inclusive learning environment for all members of our school community. This policy outlines the procedures regarding the possession and use of mobile phones/smartphones and similar electronic devices on school premises and during school-related activities.

We recognise that mobile phones are now an integral part of young people's lives and can be valuable tools when used appropriately. However, we are also aware that phones can be a distraction from teaching and learning, can hinder communication and social interaction, and may contribute to increased levels of anxiety and stress among students.

In order to support student wellbeing, learning, concentration and positive social engagement, Bridgetown operates as a mobile/smartphone free school during the school day.

All students are required to place their mobile phone/smartphone in a designated locking pouch upon arrival to school. The pouch remains locked for the duration of the school day and may only be opened by an authorised staff member or when the student is leaving the school premises.

Daily Procedures

Once a student arrives on the school premises they must:

Turn off their phone.

Place their phone inside their locking pouch.

Lock the pouch using the designated locking station inside the gate of the school.

Store the pouch securely in their school bag or locker for the duration of the school day.

Students arriving late must lock their pouch through the following procedures; Period 1 lates to DP Office, Period 2 to Pastoral Care Office at Reception and all other times through the Main Office at reception. Students leaving early must have a note with sign out details. A Parent/Guardian must sign them out at reception and the office staff will then unlock the pouch.

Students are not permitted under any circumstances to access or use their phones during the school day unless authorised by a member of staff.

Mobile phones/smartphones must remain switched off and secured inside the locked pouch at all times.

Students are not permitted to carry phones in pockets, school/gear bag or any location outside the locked pouch.

Students may not access their phones between classes, during break times, lunchtime, study periods, supervised study, or while attending extracurricular activities taking place during the school day unless specifically authorised by a member of staff.

At the end of the school day, students may unlock their pouch using the designated unlocking stations once they have left the school premises.

Students must bring their pouch to school each day and present it to a member of staff if requested.

Lunchtime Procedures

Students who are permitted to leave the school grounds at lunchtime may access their phones on exiting the school premises.

- Before re-entering the school grounds after lunch:
- Phones must be turned off again.
- Phones must be placed back into the locking pouch.
- The pouch must be locked before entering the school premises.

Failure to do so will be treated as a breach of the policy.

Contact With Home

If a parent/guardian needs to contact a student during the school day, communication must be made through the school office.

Similarly, students who need to contact home during the school day must do so through the school office.

School trips and extra-curricular activities

The use of mobile phones on school trips and during extra-curricular activities is at the discretion of the staff members supervising the activity. Generally speaking, students should keep phones in their pouches and the teacher may choose to unlock for certain activities that are deemed appropriate.

On overnight trips, phones may be required to remain locked in pouches during designated times, including overnight.

Medical or Special Circumstances

We acknowledge that some students may require access to a mobile device for specific medical or exceptional circumstances.

Arrangements for such students will be considered on an individual basis in consultation with parents/guardians and relevant school personnel.

Responsibility for devices

The school authorities accept no responsibility for the safety, security, loss or damage of mobile phones or other electronic devices brought onto school premises.

Students are responsible for ensuring their phone is securely locked in their pouch and stored appropriately throughout the school day.

Sanctions for breach of policy

The following sanctions will apply where a student breaches this policy:

Use of a Mobile Phone During the School Day

If a student is seen using or in possession of a phone during the school day, the phone will be confiscated and brought to the school's Main Office.

Student may collect the phone from the school's office at the end of the school day.

The student will be suspended for the following day.

Repeated Breaches

Repeated breaches of the policy may result in additional sanctions, including an extended suspension or other disciplinary measures in line with the school's Behaviour Support Policy.

Tampering with Pouches

Tampering with, damaging or attempting to force open the pouch in any way is considered a serious breach of school policy and will result in disciplinary action.

Lost or Damaged Pouch

Any pouch that is lost or damaged to the extent that it is unusable must be replaced at a cost of €25.

Until a replacement pouch is purchased, the student's phone must be handed into the school office each day or have a correspondence from parent/guardian to confirm the phone is left at home.

Forgotten Pouch

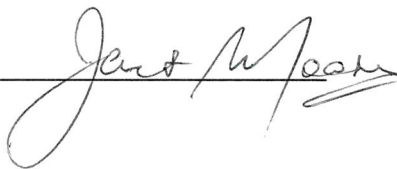
If a student forgets their pouch, they will be required to hand their phone into the school's Main Office or Deputy Principal for safekeeping during the school day.

Repeatedly forgetting a pouch may be treated as a lost pouch and replacement procedures may apply.

Review and Ratification

This policy will be reviewed regularly by school management and the Board of Management.

Ratified by Board of Management:

 Chairperson

Date:

