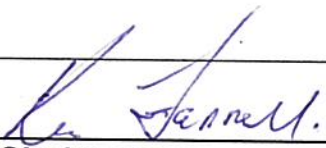
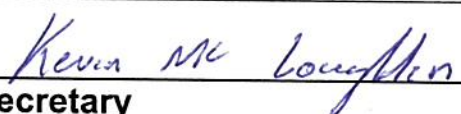


MOBILE PHONE POLICY



Skerries Community College

 Chairperson Board of Management	 Secretary Board of Management
Ratified by Board of Management on Date: <u>09th Dec 2025.</u>	
Please Note: Policy will replace current version only when pouches have been made available to the school.	
Review Date: <u>Dec 2028-</u>	

Skerries Community College

Mobile Phone Policy



1. Introduction

This policy has been developed in line with the Department of Education's national guidelines (Circular 0045/25) on mobile phone use in schools. The purpose is to promote student wellbeing, reduce distractions, and foster positive social interactions during the school day. Skerries Community College Campus is now designated a mobile phone free campus, access to devices will be restricted through the use of pouches for the entirety of the school day including both breaks.

This Mobile Phone Policy forms part of the school's wider framework for student wellbeing, safety, and effective learning. It should be read and implemented in conjunction with the following policies:

- Code of Positive Behaviour – ensuring that breaches of this policy are addressed through the school's established disciplinary procedures.
- Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for ICT – affirming that school-provided devices are the preferred and usual means of engaging with digital learning.
- Child Protection Policy – supporting safeguarding obligations by reducing risks associated with mobile phone misuse, including unauthorised recording or inappropriate content sharing.
- Bí Cineálta (Anti-Bullying Policy) – reinforcing the prevention of bullying behaviours, particularly those that may occur through digital communication.

2. Rationale

The school recognises that mobile phones are an important part of modern life. However, unrestricted access during the school day can:

- Distract students from learning and reduce concentration in class.
- Limit face-to-face social interaction, particularly during breaks.
- Expose students to risks such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content, and social media pressures.
- Undermine efforts to create a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environment.
- By restricting access to mobile phones during the school day and storing them in secure pouches, the school aims to:
- Enhance student focus and engagement in lessons.

- Encourage healthy socialisation during breaks.
- Safeguard students' wellbeing and mental health.
- Support parents and staff in promoting responsible digital use.

3. Scope

- Applies to all students enrolled in the school.
- Covers the entire school day, including class time, breaks, and lunchtime-while on school campus.
- Applies to mobile phones and similar devices capable of communication, recording, or internet access (e.g., smartwatches).

4. Policy Statement

- Mobile phones are not to be accessed or used during the school day.
- On arrival, students must place their phone in a school-issued secure pouch.
- Pouches remain sealed until the end of the school day.
- Phones may only be accessed once students leave the school premises.

5. Procedures

- Morning Arrival: Students place phones in pouches before first class (08:42)
- Every student will be assigned a pouch. The pouch remains the property of Skerries Community College and must be returned at the end 6th year or other if applicable.
- Loss of / or intentional damage to the pouch will be subject to €20 fee for replacement.
- Storage: Pouches remain with the student but must stay sealed or may be stored in a designated secure area if required.
- End of Day: Pouches may be opened once students leave school grounds.
- Emergencies: Parents/guardians should contact the school office.
- Where students leave the school premises for the **entirety** of lunchtime, phones may be temporarily unlocked to facilitate safe collection arrangements and parental communication.
- Before returning to the school grounds, all students must ensure that their phone is securely locked back into its pouch.

- No student is to re-enter the school during lunchtime unless mobile phone is secured in accordance with this policy.
- Unlocking devices will be located at exit points and highlighted strategic areas within the school.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- Students: Comply fully with the policy.
- Teachers & Staff: Monitor adherence and report breaches.
- Parents/Guardians: Support the school in enforcing the policy and use official channels for urgent communication.
- School Leadership: Provide clear communication, training, and ensure consistent enforcement.

7. Teaching and Learning

- The preferred and usual way in which technology features in teaching and learning is through school-provided devices (e.g., laptops, tablets, interactive whiteboards).
- In exceptional circumstances, a teacher may authorise the temporary unlocking of a student's phone pouch for a specific learning activity, in consultation with the senior leadership team.
- Once the activity concludes, all phones must be immediately returned to their secure pouch.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure their phone is re-secured in the pouch.
- Any misuse of the phone during these activities will be treated as a breach of policy.

8. Exceptions

The school acknowledges that some students may require access to mobile phones for medical reasons, particularly for continuous glucose monitoring or other health-related applications.

- Students with a documented medical need (e.g., diabetes management) may be permitted to carry and access their phone during the school day. Should modified pouches be available students will be supplied with this for use.
- Access will be limited to the medical function only and must be agreed in advance with the school-Year Head to be informed.

- Parents/guardians must provide medical documentation to support the request.
- Teachers and staff will be informed discreetly to ensure the student can access their phone, when necessary, without penalty. To facilitate staff awareness a note on VSware may be attached to student profile.
- Any misuse of the phone outside of the medical purpose will be treated as a breach of policy with sanctions issued.

9. Extracurricular Activities and School Trips

- Mobile Phones are not permitted on buses where students are travelling on a school tour. They must remain secured in pouches.
- Upon arrival teachers may unlock the pouches. Phones to be returned to phone pouch for return journey.
- Extracurricular sports trips, phones to remain in pouches for entirety of excursion.
- Teachers have discretion to unlock pouches to facilitate contact with parents should delays be encountered on the return journey and school day is ending.
- Overnight school trips will be subject to phone restriction which will be communicated to students in pre-tour meeting/ information notice.

10. Breaches of Policy

- First breach: Phone is confiscated and will be stored until such time that parents can collect from school office. Parents may collect from 15:37 to 16:30 Mon-Thurs and from 13:00 to 13:30 Fridays.
- Students will be afforded the opportunity to call parents prior to leaving school.
- Second breach: Phone confiscated until parents can collect from main office, in addition student to receive formal detention.
- Repeated breaches: Escalating sanctions- Confiscation until collected from main office by parents, detention and parental meeting with Year Head.
- Persistent non-compliance: Formal disciplinary action in line with the school's Code of Behaviour-with formal suspension a consideration.
- Students who are found to have a phone not closed into a pouch or attempting to depart from this policy, this will be considered a serious breach of school code of positive behaviour and will be managed accordingly.

Note: Where collection of phone is not possible during permitted times-device will be safely stored in the school overnight until collected by parent/guardian the following day.