

LISNAGARVEY HIGH SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Rationale

Mobile phones are now a feature of modern society and most of our pupils own one. Increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology presents numerous issues for schools:

- The high monetary value of many phones.
- The integration of cameras into phones leading to potential child protection and data protection issues.
- The potential to use the phone e.g. for texting whilst on silent mode can undermine classroom discipline.
- Their use can render pupils subject to potential bullying.

It is not realistic to prohibit phones being brought to school, nor is it logistically possible for schools to collect phones in each morning and return them in the afternoon. It is our policy to allow pupils to have a mobile phone with them in school, although under new Child Protection Guidelines the following conditions apply.

Policy

1. Mobile phones may only be used before school starts at 8.50am and after school at 3.30pm/Wednesday 8.50am to 2.55pm/Friday 8.50am to 1.45pm.
2. The use of camera phones is not permitted on school property. Mobile phones with integrated cameras could lead to child and data protection issues with regards to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.
3. Phones must always be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view.
4. Failure to comply with these rules could result in the phone being confiscated and held in the General Office until it can be collected by a parent/guardian.
5. If a child refuses to hand over their phone, this must be reported immediately to their Year Head, the Head of Junior/Senior School or the Vice Principal and the pupil will be disciplined under normal procedures for refusal to comply with a reasonable request
6. Phones must not be taken into examinations.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's other policies, particularly the Disciplinary Policy for Students.

Emergencies

If a pupil needs to contact his/her parents/guardians, they should refer the matter to their Year Head who in turn will contact the pupil's home via the General Office. Pupils are **not** permitted to contact home directly using their mobile phones.

Parents wishing to contact a pupil in an emergency must **always** contact the General Office and **not** the pupil directly. Their message will be relayed promptly.

Responsibility for Mobile Phones

School accepts no responsibility **whatsoever** for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones. It is the responsibility of parents and pupils to ensure mobile phones are properly insured.

Pupils shall not use any digital device or camera facilities (including dictaphones) to take or distribute pictures, videos or recordings of pupils or staff without their permission (distribution can be as small as emailing/texting to one other person or as large as posting image or video online).