

Mobile Phone Policy

Mobile phones have become a powerful source of communication and learning. While restrictions to their use must apply in a variety of circumstances – meetings, classrooms, etc.; nonetheless, in Ratoath College we recognise that mobile phones can enhance learning, and can be used to powerful positive effect. Teachers may encourage the appropriate use of mobile phones in pursuit of learning, in classrooms and other learning settings within the school.

Parents/Guardians and pupils are asked to note the following:

- Where students bring a mobile phone to school, the phone must be switched off during the school day unless otherwise directed by teachers.
- The mobile phone is the sole responsibility of the student and the school does **not** accept responsibility if the phone is lost or stolen. Students bring phones to school at their own risk.
- In state exams the State Examinations Committee does not allow mobile phones to be used as clocks or calculators. This is also school policy.
- If a phone rings or is produced in a classroom or between classes the phone will be confiscated and returned only to the student's parent/guardian. If this occurs again the phone and SIM card will be confiscated for two weeks. If this occurs a third time the phone and SIM card will be confiscated for the remainder of the term.
- No photographs may be taken or recordings, (video or audio) made with mobile phones unless under the direction of a teacher. Using phones in such a way can seriously infringe on people's rights. Appropriate sanctions will be imposed.
- Incidents where students use mobile phone to bully other students will be treated as serious breaches of the School's Code of Behaviour. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí in such incidents.

In order to assist the school in implementing this policy, **parents/guardians are asked not to arrange to contact students by mobile at any time during the school day.** A student who wishes to go home during the school day must arrange to do so through reception and not independently by mobile phone. This ensures that the correct procedures for leaving school are observed. **Responsibility cannot be taken by the school authority for students who arrange independently to go home without following proper procedure. Any such arrangement is in breach of the code of behaviour.** Contact with the school may be made through the office at 01-8254102 and students are directed to use the office telephone if needed.

I agree to the above conditions

Signed _____ Student

Signed _____ Parent/ Guardian

Mobile phone confiscated: Date and Signature:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

This policy is been revised in May 2015. The updated version will be available on our website.