Mobile Phone Policy

2007

Why we have a policy.

Many parents provide their students with mobile phones and while we understand the advantages of young people having mobile phones we would prefer if students did not bring mobile phones to school. If on any particular day it is essential for a student to bring their mobile phone to school, our school policy requires the phone to remain switched off and kept in a secure location by the student. We have this policy for a number of reasons.

Focus on learning …
Students are expected and encouraged to focus on the content and activities of the lesson. Sending and/or receiving calls distracts the student from the learning and can interrupt the learning of other students in the class.

Implementing anti-bullying procedures …
It is possible to send text messages that are meant to bully or harass other students. Such messages can be sent to students in the classroom or playground during the day and cause stress and anxiety for the student being bullied. Turning phones off while at school removes the opportunity for visual bullying to occur.

Safety…
Sometimes during the school day students can become involved in conflicts with other students. Students are encouraged to resolve the conflict in a non-confrontational way with help from peer mediators and teachers rather than phone people outside the school for assistance. Such outside assistance may place the safety of other students and staff at risk.

Restricting offensive material in the school …
Occasionally students download onto their phones screen savers that other members of the school community may find offensive. By leaving phones turned off, the nature of the screen saver becomes an issue for the student and their parents rather than the school.

Emergency contact…
If parents need to contact students in an emergency then parents should phone the school office on 63821166 and a message will be sent to the student immediately. Likewise if a student needs to contact a parent in an emergency they will be able to access the school phones to do this.

If a student is using a mobile phone at school …
If students are seen with their phones during the school day they will, in the first instance, be asked to switch the phone off and put the phone away. If on a second occasion, the student continues to be in breach of this policy, they will be asked to give their phone to the teacher. The teacher will organize the storage of the phone at the front office and the student can collect it at the end of the day. Further breaches of the policy result in disciplinary action and parent involvement.

Parents we need your help to make this policy work for our school community.