

COLERAINE GRAMMAR SCHOOL



POLICY ON THE USE OF MOBILE PHONES

(subject to teacher/school guidance re. blended learning requirements/C-19)

The School recognises the value of mobile phones and accepts that they are a reassuring and useful aid to personal safety and communication. However, the school seeks to avoid misuse of phones which can have very serious consequences and the following rules are necessary to protect the core activities of teaching and learning, the rights of individuals and the wellbeing of pupils under the Child Protection Act.

1. The School will permit pupils to carry mobile phones to school, but **phones must be switched off and kept out of sight at all times during the school day** (from arrival at school until you leave the school building at the end of the school day).
2. If a mobile phone is seen or heard a warning may be given to the pupil and the phone should be switched off immediately. If there is evidence that it has been used it must be switched off and handed to a member of staff on request.
3. Any phone handed over will be kept at reception. A phone call will be made by the School to the parent/carer to inform them that their son/daughter has infringed the school's mobile phone policy and that the phone will only be returned to a parent/carer at the school reception. In fairness to everyone there will be no exceptions to this. Inconvenience to parents/carers is regretted but it must be recognised that **the responsibility for this lies with the pupil**. If s/he fails to comply with the School's considered policy s/he must understand that the consequences will involve inconvenience for other people as well. The School will not retain a phone for an unreasonable amount of time.
4. Any information received about the use of text messages, social media messaging or the camera/video function of any phone at any time in a manner liable to cause upset to any member of our community will result in sanctions being applied as set out in the Promoting Positive Behaviour School Discipline Policy. Such information may also be passed to the PSNI.
5. The School will only accept responsibility for the loss of phones when the correct security procedures have been strictly followed.
6. Sanctions for repeated offences will be applied as set out in the Promoting Positive Behaviour School Discipline Policy.
7. As a privilege, Sixth Form pupils may listen to music, using in-ear earphones, during private study. The mobile phone rule applies at all other times.