



## **SCHOOL POLICY REGARDING MOBILE PHONES**

There is an ever-increasing need for clear regulations in relation to the use of mobile phones by our young people, both at home and at school. The advances in the technology of mobile phones bring with them added dangers relating to the misuse of this technology. Text messaging can become a simply executed but potentially very serious form of bullying. Use of phones for photography creates other potential dangers, leading to a breach of privacy or, at worst, a possible medium for abuse.

The Board of Management of the school recognises that there may be occasions when Parents may wish to have mobile phone contact with their children after school hours. It therefore acknowledges that a total ban on the possession of a mobile phone at school is not practical. However, there should be no necessity for that phone to be switched on at school and under no circumstances should the camera facility of the phone be used, unless specifically granted permission by a teacher.

The Board of Management has laid down the following regulations and will treat seriously any breaches:

1. Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones switched on or to use them in any way on the school premises (i.e. inside the school gate) during the school day, unless specifically granted permission by a teacher.
2. If any pupil needs to have a mobile phone in school with her, it must remain in her schoolbag. It must not be in a pocket and under no circumstances can it be taken to the yard.
3. If a pupil is found with a mobile phone, other than in her schoolbag, it will be confiscated. When confiscated, it may only be retrieved from the Principal by the child's parent or guardian.
4. Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones on tours unless specifically granted permission by the teacher to use the camera or recording facility on the phone. These photos/recordings are to be used responsibly and parents should monitor their distribution at home.

*Please sign and return the attached slip to your daughter's Class Teacher.*

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