

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Policy Title	Mobile Phone Policy
Date of Publication	September 2024
Principal	M Melanaphy
Signature of Board of Governors	P Rooney

Mobile Phone Policy

Objective:

The purpose of this policy is to foster a positive school environment by eliminating the distraction and potential negative effects of mobile phones during school hours. This no-tolerance mobile phone policy not only enhances academic focus but also supports student mental health by encouraging face-to-face interactions, reducing the potential for online harassment, and promoting mindfulness and well-being.

1. Overview

This policy applies to all students, staff, and visitors during school hours, including during class time, break and lunch times, and school-related activities on school property. The policy is designed to prohibit the use of mobile phones entirely while students are in the building, except in specific, pre-approved situations (e.g., medical reasons).

2. General Rules for Mobile Phone Use

- **Prohibited During School Hours:**
Students are not permitted to use, display, or have their phone switched on during school hours (from the time they arrive until the time they leave school grounds). This includes all times within the school day: classes, breaks, lunch, and extracurricular activities held on site.
- **Before and After School Hours:**
Students may use mobile phones only before they enter school and after they leave the school premises. Once on school property, phones must be turned off and stored in bags.

3. Mobile Phones in Specific Situations

- **Medical or Special Circumstances:**
If a student requires a mobile phone for medical or other essential reasons (e.g., monitoring health conditions or for specific educational accommodations), prior approval from the school principal is required. Documentation from a parent or guardian, and in some cases, a medical professional, must be provided.

4. Consequences for Violating the Policy

Failure to comply with this no-tolerance mobile phone policy will result in strict disciplinary actions as outlined below:

- **First Violation:**
The phone will be immediately confiscated and held in the school office, student will be recorded and phone returned at the end of the day.
- **Second Violation:**
The phone will be confiscated and kept in the school office, parents will be notified, and the phone can only be retrieved by a parent or guardian at the end of the school day.
- **Third and Subsequent Violations:**
Phone must be handed into the office for a minimum of 5 days and a meeting with

the student, parent or guardian will be required before the phone is returned to the student.

Exceptional circumstances

- The phone may be confiscated for the remainder of the term or a longer period, as determined by the principal. Further disciplinary measures, such as detention, suspension, or banning the student from bringing a phone to school entirely, may be applied depending on the severity of the violation.

Cyber Bullying

- School has a zero tolerance to cyber bullying, particularly when it involves the use of mobile phones. This policy aims to ensure a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all students, both in school and online. Any incidents of cyberbullying will result in immediate disciplinary actions, including contacting local community police officer, Wayne Robinson.
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5. Responsibility and Liability

- **Student Responsibility:**
Students are solely responsible for ensuring their mobile phones are turned off and stored properly while on school premises. If a student brings a mobile phone to school in violation of the policy, the school is not responsible for any loss, theft, or damage to the phone while it is confiscated or stored.
 - **Parental Support:**
Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to support the school's no-tolerance policy by ensuring that their children do not bring mobile phones to school or, if necessary, make sure they remain turned off and stored properly during the school day.
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6. Zero Exceptions During the School Day

This no-tolerance policy allows for **no exceptions** for using mobile phones during school hours, except in the following cases:

- **Medical Emergencies:**
As mentioned, a medical exception requires prior approval from the school's administration.
 - **Special Circumstances Pre-Approved by the Administration:**
Any special needs or educational accommodations must be documented and approved by school authorities prior to any exception to this policy being made.
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7. Policy Enforcement

- **Staff Responsibility:**
All school staff members are responsible for enforcing this policy. If a student is

found using or carrying a phone during school hours, staff are required to confiscate the device immediately and submit it to the school office.

- **Administration Oversight:**

The school administration will oversee the consistent enforcement of the policy and ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly and consistently.

8. Review of Policy

This no-tolerance mobile phone policy will be reviewed at the end of each academic year to assess its effectiveness. Parents, staff, and students will have the opportunity to provide feedback during the review process. However, any major revisions will require approval from school leadership and the school board.

Conclusion

The no-tolerance mobile phone policy is designed to foster a more focused, respectful, and engaged learning environment. By eliminating the distraction of mobile phones, we aim to promote better academic outcomes, improved social interaction, and a safer school community.

We expect all students and parents to fully comply with this policy to ensure the success of our educational goals.

Approved by:

M Melanaphy
September 24

This strict policy makes it clear that mobile phones will not be tolerated during the school day, with strict consequences for violations, ensuring an environment free of distractions.