

**St. Patrick's Secondary School
Castleisland
Co. Kerry**



Mobile Phone Policy

St. Patrick's Secondary School Castleisland - Mobile Phone Use Policy

The purpose of this Mobile Phone Use Policy is to provide guidelines for the appropriate use of mobile phones by students at St. Patrick's Secondary School, in accordance with the Department of Education and Youth guidelines. This policy aims to promote a high-trust environment where learning and educational excellence can flourish.

Scope

This policy applies to all students of St. Patrick's Secondary School, during all school business, events, trips and outings.

Policy Statement

Mobile phones can be valuable tools for communication and learning, but their misuse can disrupt the educational environment. Therefore, the school implements a "Not Seen, Not Heard" policy to minimize distractions and maintain focus on learning.

Guidelines for Use

General Use:

- Mobile phones must be turned off during school hours.
- Phones should remain in students' bags or lockers and must not be visible in classrooms, hallways, or during school activities unless specifically permitted by a teacher for educational purposes.
- Students are strongly encouraged not to use their mobile phones while out of school during lunch time. (This cannot be policed/enforced by school authorities so relies on a very clear message of encouragement and trust) Students may need to use their phones to pay for food electronically but are encouraged to turn their phone off immediately after.
- If going to the toilet during class time, students submit their phone on the teachers desk and take back on their return to class.

Educational Use:

Teachers may allow the use of mobile phones as learning tools at their discretion. Students must follow teacher instructions during these times and ensure the phone is used strictly for educational purposes.

Emergency Situations:

In case of emergencies, students may request to use a phone in the school office or in the photocopying room by dialling "9" and ringing the number required.

Parents/guardians should communicate necessary messages through the school office to ensure students are appropriately informed.

Responsibilities

Students:

Students are responsible for the security of their devices and must refrain from engaging in activities that may lead to the misuse of mobile technology.

Students should respect the privacy of themselves and their peers by not using mobile phones to record, photograph, or share content without consent.

Staff:

Staff must lead by example by helping students adhere to the policy and creating a supportive environment that encourages appropriate use of technology.

Parents/Guardians:

Parents are encouraged to lead by example by helping students adhere to the policy and not depend on contacting students to arrange plans during school hours.

Consequences of Misuse

Violations of the Mobile Phone Use Policy will be addressed in accordance with the school code of behaviour. Sanctions, if needed may include, but are not limited to:

- Confiscation of the device until a parent/guardian retrieves it.
- Disciplinary action, in adherence with our overall code of behaviour may apply depending on the severity of the violation.

Review and Amendments

This policy is subject to review and amendments to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with evolving guidelines from the Department of Education and Youth.

Communication

This Mobile Phone Use Policy will be distributed to all students and parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year and will be available on the school's website.

This policy is designed to foster a positive learning environment while allowing for the responsible use of mobile phones within the school community.