

USE OF MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Summary:

Strangford College recommends that students do not bring mobile phones to school and if they do so they do at their own risk. The School operates this policy for the safety and well-being of everyone in the school community.

Policy Number: 2017/1

Revision: 1

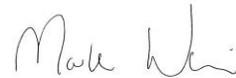
Board of Governors

Submission for Ratification:
May 2017.

Chairperson:



Principal:



This policy replaces any previous policies and is valid from:

To be reviewed & updated by:
September 2018



Policy for the Use of Mobile Phones

2017 -2019

Note: All policies are annually updated with minor reviews, but most updated bi-annually for major changes unless extraordinary circumstances dictate.

Strangford College recommends that students do not bring mobile phones to school and if they do so they do at their own risk. However, we acknowledge that some parents may wish their child to have a mobile phone for use in **cases of emergency**. Mobile phones and other similar devices have many benefits, but they can be used inappropriately and may be targets for theft, used for cyber bullying, or unfiltered access to the internet.

The School operates this policy for the safety and well-being of everyone in the school community.

NB: (Throughout this policy the term *mobile phone** will be used to mean 'mobile phone/other digital device e.g. tablet').

Policy

- Students are permitted to bring a mobile phone* into school.
- Whilst students are on school premises, (i.e. from arrival into school until dismissal at the end of the day's lessons, or extra- curricular activities), mobile phones* **should be turned off** (not just on silent mode) and **kept out of sight**.
- Use of mobile phones* is expressly for the purposes of contact with home in the event of **unforeseen urgent need, or emergency**, and they may only be used during break, or lunchtime with the permission of the Form Teacher, or Learning Coordinator, and then only in a classroom, or suitable space, by mutual agreement.

(Unforeseen urgent necessities might include a change to a travel arrangement, or cancellation of an event).

Students must never use their mobile phones in the Canteen, or the playground.

NB: It is important to note that if a student is unwell, he/she **must** report to the Form Tutor in the first instance, and he/she will contact parents if necessary.

- The making of any recordings, pictures, or images whatsoever, on school grounds is strictly prohibited. This includes recording images/sound of any person to include staff, students, or visitors, without the express permission, consent and knowledge of that person/s.
Any such recording i.e. a picture taken on a mobile phone of any other person without their permission, will lead to disciplinary procedures being brought against the maker of the recording, and or owner of the phone/recording equipment.

- The Office telephone is available for students' use but, should a parent need to contact their child as a matter of urgency, we request that it be done through the College Office, (tel no 028 91861199).

Exceptions

- Individual departments may permit some students to use their mobile phones* to support Controlled Assessment work in school but permission **must** be granted by the relevant member of staff e.g. in Art, or Technology.
- As a privilege, students in Sixth Form are granted limited use of mobile phones* **solely** for the purpose of listening to music through headphones and **only** in the 6th Form Common Room. They must not use them in the Sixth Form Study.

Sanctions

- Should a student ignore, or contravene this policy and he/she is found using his/her mobile phone*inappropriately, they will be asked to turn the device off; it will then be confiscated and placed in Reception for safe keeping to be collected in person at the end of the day.
- Should this occur a second time, the student will be required to attend a C3 focus time detention.
- The right to bring mobile phones onto school premises will be revoked if a pupil fails to adhere to school policy; in the event of this being disregarded, the school will act in accordance with the Behaviour for Learning Policy.