





# Mobile Phone Policy

Chairperson of Board of Management .....

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph D. O'Brien', written over a dotted line.

Principal .....

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Coggins', written over a dotted line.

Date..... 28 / 09 / 2023 .....

Review Date ..... Sept 2024 .....

## Mobile Phone Policy



### **Ethos Statement**

Mayo, Sligo Leitrim ETB is a community of learners and its schools, colleges and centres of education and training have a historic and unique tradition as providers of education and training. In responding to the needs of the community it delivers the highest standards of teaching and learning.

Mayo, Sligo Leitrim ETB Colleges, Schools and Centres of Education are democratic, co-educational and multi-denominational in character where policies, practices and attitudes are underpinned by the core values of Respect, Equity and Fairness.

The Board of Management of Colaiste Iascaigh is publishing this document as the official Internet Safety Acceptable Usage Policy. Mayo, Sligo Leitrim ETB as patron of the school has approved this publication. Copies of the policy are available at the school and on the school website and are furnished to each person who applies to be admitted to the school.

### **Link to Mission statement**

*Colaiste Iascaigh* in conjunction with its education partners is committed to providing an environment where each student is cherished equally and is nurtured to a personal, intellectual and moral maturity.

### **Rationale for Mobile Phone Policy**

The use of Mobile phones has increased among post primary students in recent years. When used appropriately mobile phones can support student learning, however they distract greatly from teaching and learning if used inappropriately in school i.e.(anything other than teacher lead mobile phone use). Mobile phones in general distract from teaching and learning if

### **Aims:**

To support student wellbeing,

To encourage social interaction among students,

To enhance teaching and learning,

To support appropriate teacher led mobile phone use,

To discourage inappropriate mobile phone use.

**Mobile phone use in school:**

Students are permitted to have mobile phones in school once they adhere to the following conditions:

- Junior students (First, Second and Third Year students) must store their mobile phone, turned off, in their locker all day unless advised by a class teacher that it will be required in class for work. If a teacher requires a student/s to bring / use their phone in class, the teacher will bring the students to their locker to collect their phone/s and will supervise the students return their phone to their locker before the end of class.
- Junior students found with phone on their person will face sanctions as per the school policy;
- Junior students will not be permitted to bring their mobile phones on school outings / extra curricular trips,
- Senior students (Transition, Fifth and Sixth Year, Leaving Certificate Applied 1&2 students) are encouraged to leave their mobile phone in their locker. They are allowed to have their mobile phone on their person, but it must be switched off during the school day and only used as an educational means as lead by a class teacher,
- Any smart devices on student's person (i.e. smart watch must have notifications turned off),
- Photographs or recordings may not be taken unless permission is granted by a teacher,
- In supporting this policy parents are asked not to contact their child at any time during the school day on their mobile phone but instead to ring the school office,
- Students may contact a parent / guardian from the school office with the permission of senior school management if they need to,
- Students must follow teacher direction regarding mobile phone use on extracurricular activities / trips. If a student needs to contact a Parent / Guardian, they must first ask permission from the teacher accompanying them to do so.
- Students are not permitted to wear headphones/ earphones / earpods, unless they have permission from their teacher. If students are seen with such devices, they will have them confiscated and sanctions – same as mobile phone use will be implemented
- Mobile phones must be left face down on their table when leaving room / going to bathroom

## **Sanctions for inappropriate mobile phone use**

Students seen with, or using a mobile phone, or where a mobile phone alerts and is heard by a member of staff will have the mobile phone confiscated and handed into the Deputy Principals office. The student will be asked to turn off the mobile phone and it will be placed in an envelope with their name on it. The mobile phone will be held in the office and may be collected by a parent / guardian only, by appointment with the school at the end of the school day. It will be recorded on the students' school profile by the Deputy Principal. A parent / guardian will be notified that their child's phone has been confiscated by the school via a personal notification on the School App.

### **Second Offence:**

Where a mobile phone has been confiscated from a student for the second time, the mobile phone will be left into the Deputy Principal and held for one night and may then be collected by a parent / guardian only, by appointment with the school. It will be recorded on the student's school profile by the Deputy Principal. A parent / guardian will be notified that their child's phone has been confiscated by the school via a personal notification on the School App.

### **Additional Offences:**

Any additional offences will result in the phone being confiscated for two nights and must be collected by a parent / guardian only, by appointment with the school. It will be recorded on the student's school profile by the Deputy Principal. A parent / guardian will be notified that their child's phone has been confiscated by the school via a personal notification on the School App.

Failure to hand up a mobile phone to any member of staff or adhere to any part of this policy will be a breach of the school's Code of Behaviour and the student must go to the Deputy / Principal's office. In the event where the student does not hand up the phone to the member of staff, parents / guardians will be contacted and asked to collect their child from school. Parents/ Guardians and the student will be asked to meet with senior school management on the following day.

Where students use their mobile phone to cause upset, harass, bully etc. other students during school hours will be investigated in line with the Anti Bullying, ICT AUP and Code of Behaviour Policy. Students should note that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to bully / harass another person and the school may need to contact the Gardai to deal with such incidents.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, damaged or stolen phones.