COLÁISTE IASCAIGH

Mobile phone policy

Chairperson of Board of Management .....

Principal .....

Date 29th Sept 2026

Review Date Sept '27

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 Mobile Phone 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 on request from the school office.

Link to Mission statement

Coláiste 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). In 2024 Minister for Education Norma Foley stated that she wanted schools to become "phone free zones, giving students an opportunity to focus on their schoolwork, their face-to-face communication skills and their friendship building during school hours".

Aims of Mobile Phone Policy:

- To support teaching and learning by reducing distraction
- To support student wellbeing,
- To encourage social interaction among students.

Mobile phone use in school:

- On arriving to school students must place their mobile phone in their Zeeko Phone Blocking pouch. This will be checked by tutors each morning.

- Where a student does not have a mobile phone or a parent/guardian does not allow a child to bring their mobile phone to school they must have a no phone contract signed at the beginning of the school year.

- Where a student forgets their phone pouch at home, this will be recorded on Tyro. The student's phone will be confiscated and held in the Deputy Principal's office for the duration of the school day. Students who do not have their phone pouch will not have access to their phone at any time during the day, including for teaching and learning purposes.

- Where a mobile phone is required to support teaching and learning, the teacher will provide an unlocking station in the classroom to allow students to access their phone. Phones may only be used as directed by the teacher. At the end of the activity, all phones must be returned to the pouch and secured.

- Students may contact a parent / guardian from the school office with the permission of Year Head / Senior School Management if they need to.

- Mobile phones are not permitted on extra curricular day trips.

Sanctions for inappropriate mobile phone use

Any student found in possession of, or using, a mobile phone without it being secured in the phone pouch will have the phone confiscated and handed to the Deputy Principal's office. The phone will be placed in a labelled envelope with the student's name. It may only be collected by a parent/guardian, by appointment from the school. The Deputy Principal will record the incident on Tyro, and notify Parent / Guardian that their child's phone was confiscated.

If a student with a No Phone contract is found in the possession of a mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated and their parent / guardian will be advised that it must be collected by appointment from the school. The student will be required to purchase and use a Phone Pouch.

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. The Deputy Principal will record the incident on Tyro, and notify Parent / Guardian that their child's phone was confiscated.

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. The Deputy Principal will record the incident on Tyro, and notify Parent / Guardian that their child's phone was confiscated.

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 Bi Cineálta Policy, Acceptable Usage Policy and Code of Behaviour. 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.

Student Responsibilities
Students are responsible for the safe storage and maintenance of their phone and pouch. Any damage / loss of the pouch is at a student cost of €25.

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