

POLICY FOR STUDENT USE OF MOBILE PHONES – SCOIL RUÁIN KILLENAULE

1. Scope

The Acceptable Use Policy for students carrying mobile phones while in the school and while on the school grounds also applies to students during all school activities

2. Rationale

2.1 Personal safety and security

Scoil Ruáin acknowledges the importance of ensuring the privacy, safety and security of all individuals both students, staff and visitors on school grounds.

2.2 Responsibility

The management of Scoil Ruáin would expect the full co-operation of parents in ensuring that their children follow this policy.

Students who are in the possession of a mobile phone at school while under the school's supervision must adhere to this policy.

2.3 Acceptable Uses

Parents and Guardians are reminded that in **all cases** of emergency, the School Office remains the **only acceptable** point of contact, and can ensure your child is reached quickly, and assisted in any appropriate way.

2.4 Unacceptable Uses

Mobile phones are required to be switched off while the student is on school property **AT ALL TIMES**. ***This means phones may not be placed on "silent" or other similar modes.*** There will be no exceptions to this part of the policy.

Under NO circumstances should a parent contact a student or should a student contact a parent via phone call or text via a mobile phone while the student is on school grounds.

2.5 Theft or damage.

Students should not leave their phones in their school jacket unattended or in the changing rooms at any time.

Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to the front office.

The school will accept no responsibility for replacing mobile phones that are lost, stolen or damaged whilst on the school premises or on school sponsored functions.

The school accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.

2.6 Inappropriate conduct

Any student whose phone is seen by a staff member, whether or not the phone is switched on, is liable to have their phone confiscated.

Any student/s caught using a mobile phone during Scoil Ruáin exams or during Certificate examinations or assessments will face disciplinary actions.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. The Principal as with all such incidents may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí. Hence, students with mobile phones must not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person, via SMS messages/chat rooms/social network sites, taking/sending/uploading photos or video recording or phone calls. Circulating objectionable images will also be treated as a serious disciplinary issue.

Students using mobile phones to bully other students will face disciplinary actions.

2.7 Sanctions

Students in breach of the rules noted above will have their phone (including SIM card) confiscated.

Phones that are confiscated will be kept in a secure place within the school.

Students and parents/guardians are reminded that confiscation of a phone may result in very serious inconvenience for the student and parent/guardian.

The following guidelines shall be in place for breaches of the above rules on mobile phones:

First Offence: Mobile Phone will be confiscated and will be returned to the student after a period of 3 school days.

Second Offence: Mobile Phone will be confiscated for a period of **5 consecutive school days**, after which time parents will be asked to come into the school to collect the phone. The student must attend with the parent in order to collect the phone. ***Phones will not be returned until the period of 5 consecutive school days has expired and parent has attended.***

Third and Subsequent Offence: The Mobile Phone will be confiscated for **10 consecutive school days** and a **€20 fine will apply**. After the confiscation period has expired parents must attend an interview with the student to discuss a resolution to the persistent breach of the mobile phone policy. The phone will only be returned after the parent attends interview and the fine has been paid in full.

2.8 Failure to hand up a phone for confiscation, when asked by a staff member to do so will be treated as a serious offence. Any student refusing to hand up a phone will have an additional 10 school days added to the offence regardless whether it is First, Second or Third offence. A €20 fine will also apply. The phone will only be returned when a parent attends an interview with the student and the fine has been paid in full.

2.9 Note: Any student who is feeling unwell at school and needs to go home, must arrange this through the Main Office. Under no circumstances should students use their mobile phone to contact home via phone call or text and make arrangements to leave except through the Front Office.

3 Use of mobile phones on out-of-school activities.

3.1 Phones may only be used in a manner which has been permitted by the teacher-in-charge