

PRIMROSE HILL NATIONAL SCHOOL

MOBILE TELEPHONE POLICY

Where a pupil brings a mobile phone to school, the phone must be switched off and handed in to the office on arrival to school and must not be used for any purpose on school premises, grounds or during off-site school activities (such as swimming or sports activities). The only exception to this is in an emergency or with the approval of a teacher. For senior pupils, if the class teacher decides that it is appropriate, students may bring their phones on school outings but they must be switched off and remain in their bags and used for emergencies only.

Pupils who ignore this policy and use a mobile on school premises without permission will be required to hand over their phone to a member of staff and parents will be met and the matter discussed and an appropriate sanction given before the phone is returned to the pupil.

If a teacher has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, pupils will be required to hand over the phone to a teacher and parents will be invited to a meeting to discuss the issue. Where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the Gardaí for further investigation. In such circumstances parents will be informed immediately when a phone has been confiscated.

The school will incorporate this policy in the school's Code of Behaviour and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of school discipline. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for pupils/parents. The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.

Pupils should mark their mobile phone clearly with their name. Pupils should renew their Application to Carry a Mobile Phone Form if they update their phone.

Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to a member of staff.

It is strongly advised that pupils use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g. by other pupils, or if stolen). Pupils must keep their password/pin numbers confidential. Mobile phone and/or passwords should not be shared.

Pupils using mobile phones to bully other pupils or send offensive messages/calls will face disciplinary actions as per the School Code of Behaviour.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the School in this regard is deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí.

Signed

Signed

Chairperson, Board of Management

School Principal

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