

Mobile Phone Policy.

Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College

Doughiska,

Galway City.



**Ratified by the Board of
Management on 29th
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Introduction

Coláiste Mhuirlinne accepts that it is a student's right to have a mobile phone, the following Policy aims to maintain a safe, nurturing environment where the personal dignity and rights of all the members of the school community are preserved. In order to assist the school in implementing this policy, parents/guardians are asked not to arrange to contact students by mobile at any time during the school day. Contact with the school may be made through the office at 091-769000 and students are directed to use the office telephone in urgent cases.

Strategies

- Where a student brings a mobile to school, the phone must be switched off during the school day 8.40- 15.40 and may not be used for any purpose on the school premises.
- Mobile Phones must be stored in the pupil's locker, powered off for the duration of the school day. **Lockers must be locked.**
- Students found in breach of these rules will have their phone and sim card confiscated for one week. Phones will be returned to Parents/ guardians by prior arrangement. They must also sign a document which states that they have read and understand the ICT acceptable use/ Mobile Phone policy of the school.
- Students are advised to only bring **their own** mobile phones to school.
- Students participating in school related activities (e.g. Study, Extra Curricular Activities, School Trips, and Tours etc) must abide by the mobile phone rules governing these activities. Organising teacher will provide rules for each trip.
- No photographs may be taken or recordings, (video or audio) made with mobile phones. Using phones in such a way can seriously infringe on people's rights. Appropriate sanctions will be imposed. Use of phones to access internet is strictly forbidden as laid out in our ICT acceptable use policy.
- Incidents where students use mobile phone to bully other students will be treated as serious breaches of discipline. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardai in such incidents.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for students/parents.
- It is strongly advised that students mark their mobile phones (inside covers) with their names and use passwords to ensure phones are secure.