

Abbey Community College

Mobile Phone and Personal Electronic Device Acceptable Use Policy

While Abbey Community College accepts that it is a student's choice to have a mobile phone/personal electronic device (PED), 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 phone/PED at any time during the school day **(08.35 - 15.15/15.55)**. Contact with the school may be made through the office at (051) 832930 and where circumstances demand, students will be directed to use the office phone on the advice of the Year Head.

- a) Where a student brings a mobile phone/PED to school, the mobile phone/PED must be switched off and kept in a **locked** locker during the school day **(08.35 - 15.15/15.55)** and may not be used for **any purpose** on school premises or grounds except with the expressed prior permission, guidance and supervision of a teacher.
- b) The mobile phone/PED is the sole responsibility of the student and the school does **not** accept responsibility if the mobile phone/PED is damaged, lost or stolen. Students bring mobiles phone/PED to school at their own risk.
- c) Students found in contravention of a) will have the device confiscated, including the SIM card until the **next school day**, at which time it may be collected by a parent/guardian from the school office. Confiscation of a device will also attract a 'M1 (device use)' which is 10 points on the school's 'Points System'.

A subsequent offence will result in the mobile phone/PED being confiscated for **two school days** and will also attract a 'M1 (device use)' and collection by a parent/guardian from the school office.

Failure to hand over a mobile phone/PED including the SIM card when requested will result in 1) an automatic detention (M2), 2) confiscation of the device for **two school days** and 3) collection by a parent/guardian from the school office. Refusal to hand over the mobile

phone/PED including the SIM card to the Deputy Principal/Principal will result in an automatic suspension.

Incidents where students use electronic devices to bully other students/staff or send offensive messages or calls will be investigated under the Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Behaviour and associated policies whilst complying with our statutory commitments.

Where unauthorised content is taken in School* and subsequently uploaded/shared, or where an individual knowingly participates with/contributes to unauthorised content taken in school*, which is uploaded/shared an automatic suspension will apply.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use an electronic device to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardai in such incidents and/or increase sanctions.

(School* in this context refers to during school time/school activities both on and off site at any time.)