

Mobile device¹ policy – Secondary Cycle

Preamble

The Secondary school like the Primary attaches great importance to a learning-enhancing environment that enables students to develop and learn optimally. In order to reduce distractions, to promote social exchange and personal interaction between students, and to focus on teaching, the following mobile device policy has been developed and comes into effect on and February 24th 2025.

Guiding Principle

A mobile device may be used exclusively as a pedagogical device at the request of the subject teacher and solely during class time.

Teachers will give pupils advance warning when they need to bring a mobile device to class.

A pupil who does not have a mobile device may never be disadvantaged because he/she does not possess a mobile device to participate in a pedagogical activity. The onus to find a solution for such pupils falls to the subject teacher.

N.B. Pupils in the Bac cycle i.e. S6 and S7 are seen as a special case and are permitted to use mobile devices in the library; the Pupils' Committee office; the S6 and S7 seating area i.e. '*Chill zone*'; in the yard and the canteen outside of the morning break and lunch periods 4, 5 and 6. When doing so they must wear their pupil ID cards for ease of identification by supervising staff. It must be easily apparent that they belong to S6 and S7.

Logistics

Pupils may use their mobile devices before entering the school buildings and from 16h30. All other times the mobile devices must be stored in the pupil's school bag or locker on '*flight mode*'.

Pupils are reminded that if they choose to bring a device to school they are responsible for the safety of this device. They are asked to consider the lock used on their lockers, that is of a standard to protect their valuables. If they are in any doubt about the safety of their devices they are reminded that leaving the devices at home is the best option. Parents/legal guardians and pupils are also reminded that there is no camera surveillance within the school.

Non-compliance.

Pupils who do not respect the mobile device policy will be dealt with as follows and in this order:

1. Device is confiscated, delivered to A201 where it must be collected by the pupil between 16h30 and 17h00 or the following day.²

¹ Mobile devices are mobile phones, smartwatches, ear pods, iPads, etc.

² The advisor on duty signs the phone in when delivered by the staff member and out when returned to the pupil/parent/legal guardian.

2. Device is confiscated, delivered to A201 where it must be collected by the pupil's parents/legal guardians between 16h30 and 17h00 or the following day.
3. Detention.
4. Warning letter from the Director.
5. Discipline Council

Communication

If any pupil wishes to contact a parent/legal guardian urgently he/she presents at A201 where an educational advisor will consider the urgency of the need and arrange a phone call with the parent accordingly.

Any parent wishing to contact a pupil urgently may contact A201 @ (+352) 273 224 4222 and the educational advisor on duty will ensure that the message gets to the pupil as quickly as possible.

All parties are reminded that this system will be for urgent situations and is not to compensate for poor organisation on the part of pupils or their parents/legal guardians.

School Trips

School trips are considered as regular school activity and therefore the usual rule applies i.e. the phone may only be used at the teacher's request. The teacher may decide it is necessary to use a device for communication or for photos, but this is at the discretion of the teacher and dependent on their prior authorisation.

Exceptions

At present some ISA pupils have 'Special arrangements' that allow for the use of electronic devices regularly during class time without seeking permission from the subject teacher every time. ISA pupils may be given special permission to use a mobile device outside of the classroom. These special cases will be organised and facilitated by the Support Coordinators. They will be assessed on a case by case basis and the need for the device outside of the classroom will be established during the SAG meeting.

Certain other projects/activities may require the use of mobile devices and these will be considered by the Deputy Director/Assistant Deputy Director on a case by case basis following application by the relevant teacher or pupil.

Application

This policy is applicable from February 24th 2025.

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