

Policy re: Use of Mobile Phones / Multimedia Players

Rationale:

- The misuse of mobile phones and digital electronic media has a disruptive effect on teaching and learning in the classroom.
- There are inherent dangers associated with the misuse of camera phones.
- Staff and pupils must be protected from any invasion of privacy or harassment associated with the misuse of mobile phones.

Policy Statement for Pupils:

- All mobile phones must be turned off and left out of sight during the school day including evening study. It is not acceptable to have a phone on silent during school time or evening study. (*Exemptions may exist, with prior consultation with the Principal, for medical reasons only*)
- The main office phone is available if you need to make an essential call or if your parents/guardians need to contact you during school hours.
- Students are not permitted to use digital electronic media (e.g., iPods, iPod Touch, MP3 players) in school.

Consequences:

Mobile phones

- In the event that a mobile phone is seen or heard in the school (*ringing, silent ringing, transmitting or receiving text messages, alarm signals, listening to radio or recording*), the phone and Sim card will be immediately confiscated and given to the Year Head.
- The phone will be held until the end of the school day and must be collected by the student at 3:30pm. The student will be placed in after-school Friday detention. Parents will be informed by letter.
- Any further transgression will be deemed as a serious breach of the Code of Behaviour and appropriate consequences will be applied.
- Refusal to hand over a mobile phone will be regarded as further breach of the Code of Behaviour and appropriate consequences will be applied.
- **The misuse of a camera phone, i.e., using the phone to *inter alia*,**
 - **take or send inappropriate images,**
 - **harass or bully****will be considered as a serious breach of the Code of Behaviour. School management will respond appropriately in such cases and will have the full range of consequences, outlined in the Code of Behaviour, open to them.**

Digital electronic media (e.g., iPods, iPod Touch, MP3 players)

- Digital electronic media (e.g., iPods, iPod Touch, MP3 players) seen by staff will be confiscated and held by the Year Head for 5 school days.
- The device must be collected at the end of the 5 days by a parent/guardian.
- For a second transgression, the device will be confiscated and held for one month.
- Refusal to hand over a digital electronic device will be regarded as further breach of the Code of Behaviour and appropriate consequences will be applied.

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NOTE:

Coláiste Mhuire accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage to mobile phones/digital electronic media.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 21/10/14

Signed: **Martin Hawkes**

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: **Norma O'Brien**

Principal