

Dominican College Policy on Mobile Phones

This policy is one of a number of inter-related policies concerned with student welfare, including the Child Protection Policy, the Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy and the Code of Conduct. The policy draws upon advice published by relevant bodies and sources. This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies such as:

Pastoral Care Policy and Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy
Pupil Code of Conduct and Staff Code of Conduct
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
Anti-Bullying Policy
Special Educational Needs Policy
Attendance Policy
Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

Students are not permitted to have mobile phones in school for various reasons including the possibility of loss, theft or damage, the possible disruption of teaching and learning, for reasons of individual health and safety and because of issues relating to child protection and bullying.

We would also impress upon parents and students the need to consider the implications for their own health and well-being and that of others when using these devices and to use mobile phones in a safe and responsible manner.

Students of Dominican College, Portstewart must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Mobile phones are the responsibility of the owner and the school will not accept responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen.
- Mobile phones must be switched off and may not be used, for any purpose, on school premises, grounds or during off-site school activities during the school day. **In particular, mobile phones must not be used to contact parents during the college day.** If it is necessary to contact parents e.g. if a student is unwell, this must be done in the usual manner through the school office.(See Appendix)
- Mobile phones are strictly forbidden in examination rooms. **All Examination Boards' penalty for use is disqualification from the exam and possibly subsequent exams and loss of all marks.**
- **It is strictly forbidden** to record images of or the voice of any pupil, teacher or other member of staff without their prior knowledge and consent or to communicate these to another phone or computer or upload or stream these to the internet. This may constitute a criminal offence and will be dealt with in an appropriate manner. The school may investigate this with the parent and student present or it may be referred to the PSNI. Where an offence or suspected offence has occurred, the phone may be retained and used in evidence in any ensuing investigation.

The school will assess and review the use of technological devices on a regular basis and will base policy on such assessment and review.

Appendix A

Consequences of using mobile phones in school

1. If a phone is switched on or used in school during the school day it will be confiscated, sent to the office, placed in an envelope bearing the pupil's name and can be collected by the pupil at the end of the school day.
2. If a student uses a mobile phone in school on a second occasion 1 applies and the student will receive detention.
3. If a student uses a mobile phone for a third or subsequent time the phone will be confiscated, the student will receive a detention and the phone will have to be collected by a parent or person with parental responsibility. Any student who persistently breaches school rules will be suspended.