

St. Colman's
Community
College, Midleton.
Amended Mobile Phone
Policy



St Colmans' Community College

Mobile Devices Policy

St Colman's Community College: Our Mission Statement

- seeks to provide the best possible education for students, where the talents of each student are developed in a positive atmosphere of respect, effort and fairness.

Policy Links

This policy is informed by and informs other policies including:

- Code of Behaviour
- Anti Bullying Policy
- Acceptable Usage Policy
- Wellbeing Policy

Aims of this Policy:

- To detail our policy in relation to mobile phones and devices in our school
- To outline the sanctions that will be imposed if this policy is not adhered to by students.

What is the rationale for this policy?

This policy was created in response to circular 0038/2018 and updated in response to 0045/2025 from the DES which requests schools to consult with all stakeholders in education regarding the use of smartphones, tablets and video recording devices in their school community.

While we acknowledge the benefits of mobile devices we must also acknowledge that there are disadvantages to the overuse of mobile phones/devices including:

- ❖ Disruption to the learning and teaching environment
- ❖ Negative impacts on students' concentration and academic performance
- ❖ A lack of communication/social interaction at break times
- ❖ A tool for cyber bullying
- ❖ Potential for the invasion of privacy of members of the school community.

The Rule

This school is a phone free zone for students. This means that mobile phones/electronic devices and listening devices e.g earbuds/earphones etc (this list is not exhaustive) are forbidden and should not be switched on, visible or used at any time of the day in the school, on school grounds, or on school activities/excursions. Mobile Phones should be powered off and locked in the student's locker for the duration of the school day. Students are not permitted to carry phones on their person during the school day.

This rule is a 'no challenge' rule, if a student refuses a request to hand over a mobile phone/device to a teacher they will be suspended.

Sanctions

Any breach of the above guidelines will result in the confiscation of the phone/electronic device.

- ❖ Sanction 1
 - On the first occasion the phone will be taken to the main office by the teacher and will be placed in an envelope.
 - Parents/Guardians will be informed by text that this has occurred.
 - The phone may be signed for and collected by the student from the main office after school that day.
- ❖ Sanction 2
 - On the second occasion a parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to collect the phone from the main office after school.
- ❖ Sanction 3
 - A repeated breach of the mobile phone policy will result in suspension.

Please note:

- ❖ For all emergencies, students will be facilitated to phone parents or guardians from the office.
- ❖ Similarly, parents/guardians can contact the school in case of an emergency.
- ❖ If a parent wishes to collect a child for an appointment this request should be made on the school app before 8.30 in the morning.
- ❖ The school cannot be responsible for mobile devices brought to school or left in lockers etc. It is the responsibility of the student to lock their lockers. They should create a locker code specific to them and should not share this with other students. If a student brings a device to school then it is their responsibility to look after it.

- ❖ The thrust of this policy is to support teaching and learning, our anti bullying policy, our code of behaviour and our student wellbeing programme.
- ❖ The mobile phone policy applies on school outings and trips, exceptions to this may be made as required at the teachers discretion
- ❖ For longer or overnight excursions exceptions may be made at the discretion of the teacher
- ❖ Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis for medical reasons as per circular 0045/2025

Policy Adoption

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on

Dissemination and Publication

This policy has been made available to school personnel, published on the school website or is otherwise available to parents and students on request. A copy will be provided to the Parents' Association and made available to parents if requested.

Review and Ratification

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year. Written notification that the review has been completed will be made available to school personnel, published on the school website or is otherwise available to parents and pupils on request. This review will also be provided to the Parents' Association
A record of the review and its outcome will be made available

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management.

Implementation Date

This policy is in effect after being signed by the Board of Management

Signed Denis O' Shea

Date 16/06/25

Acting Chairperson of Board of Management