



HIGH CROSS
COLLEGE

Mobile Phone Policy

Introduction

This policy has been drafted in consultation with the school community including teachers, students and parents regarding the use of smart phones in High Cross College, Tuam. Surveys were carried out in September 2023.

“Research shows that digital technologies can play a positive role in supporting high quality teaching, learning and assessment. These technologies help promote student engagement and enhance the teaching and learning experience by opening new opportunities for learning, promoting independent learning and providing access to quality online resources. However, their use needs careful consideration and management if they are to have a positive educational impact.” (Circular 0038/2018)

This policy should be read with reference to the Code of Behaviour and the Anti-Bullying Policy.

To help us implement this policy, parents/guardians are asked not to arrange to contact students by mobile phone during class time. Contact may be made through the school office on the North or South Campus.

Students are asked not to contact parents/guardians via mobile phone during school hours and are advised to contact home by calling to the school office where a member of staff will contact a parent/guardian. A student who needs to go home during the school day must arrange to do so through the school office, not independently by mobile phone.

Context

High Cross College is keen to embrace new technologies and software for improving the provision of education and the skill level of its staff and students. It is with this in mind that a policy has been written that is both fair and progressive in allowing the teaching and learning environment every opportunity to advance the school in the 21st century. In accomplishing this, the school endeavours to provide opportunities for the incorporation of ICT into classroom practice.

The school sees protecting the teaching and learning environment as essential to achieving what is set out in our mission statement. Excellence, compassion, inclusion and respect are



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four key words within this mission. The school is mindful of the wellbeing of our students and seeks to promote positive mental and physical health. High Cross College, in consultation with staff, parents, students and in accordance with its intentions to implement the findings of published research, pursues policies that aim to implement a healthy approach to the many aspects of life and learning.

The Policy

- Where a student brings a mobile phone to school, the mobile phone must be switched off at all times other than nominated times or otherwise directed by teachers. If a mobile phone is visible, then it is considered to be in use.
- Students are permitted to use their mobile phone at breaktime and lunchtime only. Use of phones in the morning is not allowed. Students are encouraged to engage in conversation with each other at this time and prepare for lessons.
- Mobile phones are not allowed in the Changing Room during PE. Students will be required to place their phone in a box before changing and collect it after class. Phones will be kept in a secure place during PE class.
- Teachers may allow the appropriate use of mobile phones in pursuit of learning in classrooms and other learning settings within the school.
- No photographs or recording, either video or audio, can be made on the phone on school premises without permission from a member of staff. Using phones in such a way can seriously infringe on people's privacy and rights.
- The school also advises students not to lend any mobile phone to another person on the premises and all students should have a pin code on their mobile phone.
- Students are not allowed to recharge their mobile device on the premises as to do so may pose a serious risk to the health and safety of all people using the school.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is a matter for students and parents/guardians.
- Parents and students are encouraged to check out www.webwise.ie for "easy access to practical advice and information to help address their concerns about the various issues facing their children in the online environment". (Circular 0038/2018)



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Sanctions

- The school assumes that this policy will be adhered to by all students at all times. However, in the rare event where this is not the case, the mobile phone will be confiscated until the end of the school day. It will be given to the Deputy on duty. It will be noted on compass as a confiscation by the teacher. Student may collect from member of Senior Management.
- In the event that there is a second breach of this policy during the same academic year then the parents/guardians of the student must collect the mobile phone. They will be informed of this by email.
- In the event that there is a third breach of the Policy then the student's parent/guardian will have to collect the phone again and a Yellow Card will also be issued to the student.
- In all incidents where a phone is confiscated from a student then the student's Year Head will be informed via Compass.

Date of Ratification: _____

Date of Review: _____