

## **PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (INCLUDING MOBILE PHONES) POLICY**

<b>Version</b>	v1
<b>Date Ratified by Board of Management</b>	24th February 2021

## **Personal Electronic Devices including Mobile Phones Policy**

In the code of behaviour of Ennis Community College & Gaelcholáiste an Chláir 'Personal electronic devices' refer to: all phones, mp3/4 players and all other devices used to play music, to communicate with, record or film an individual.

Ennis Community College & Gaelcholáiste an Chláir acknowledge the usefulness of personal electronic devices in certain situations and the importance of parents maintaining contact with their children outside of school time.

Ennis Community College and Gaelcholáiste an Chláir will incorporate this policy in the school's code of behaviour policy and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of the school Code of Behaviour.

However, where a student brings a mobile phone or other electronic device to school, it must be kept out of sight and switched off during the school day and may not be used for any purpose, on school campus or off site during school activities (such as sport activities). The only exception to this is with the permission of a teacher during certain activities such as field studies etc to photograph research results for example.

The school mobile phone and personal devices motto Not Seen, Not Heard, Not Taken applies to all electronic devices including mobile phones. Students who ignore this policy and use a mobile phone during the school day will have their mobile phone confiscated by teachers or SNA's and given to the Deputy Principal or Principal for the remainder of the school day. Students with repeat offences will result in their parents being contacted to collect the electronic device from the school office and speak to senior management on arrival.

Phones are not to be used as calculators or watches. Students must be able to hear safety instructions when issued on the school grounds, corridors and classrooms. Therefore the use of personal electronic devices is not permitted in these areas during school hours, including break time and lunchtime.

Any parent/ guardian wishing to urgently contact their son/daughter may contact the school office to relay the message. Any student who needs to urgently contact their parents/ guardians may only do so through the school office.

Students of Ennis Community College / Gaelcholáiste an Chláir are absolutely prohibited to photograph/film/record another person without his/ her permission and approval, and/or for that material to be shared with other people either from one device to another or on the

internet. If a teacher has any suspicion that a camera on a mobile phone was used in school or has unsuitable material stored on it, pupils will be required to hand over their phone to the Principal and / or Deputy Principal and parents will be asked to collect it from the school. Where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile phone may be criminal in nature or provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be submitted to the Gardaí for further investigation and parents notified of this action.

Pupils using mobile phones to menace, harass, bully other pupils or send offensive messages / calls should note this is a criminal offense and can be dealt with by the Gardaí. However where necessary such behaviour will be dealt with as per the school Code of Behaviour.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged electronic devices including mobile phones. The safety and security of electronic devices is wholly a matter for pupils / parents.

Signed: ***Cllr Ann Norton***

Date: 24/02/2021

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: 

Date: 24/02/2021

Brian O'Donoghue, Principal

Date to Review: February 2023